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magazine

WINTER 2025/2026
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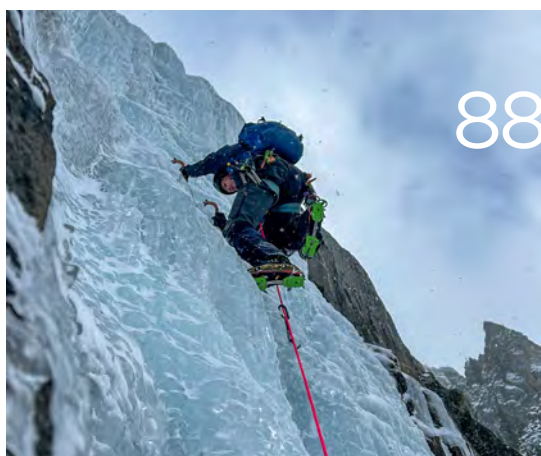


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ON THE COVER Lantz Hartley, executive director of Aska's Animals Foundation, snuggles a trio of puppies staying in one of three "puppy palaces."

PHOTO BY Lara Agnew



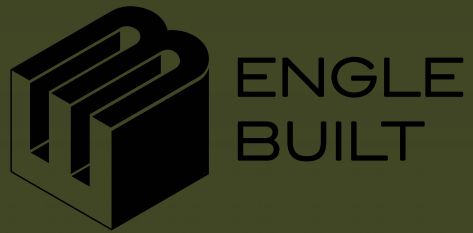
Good Luck Jaelin Kauf!

From the Tetons to the world stage—Keller Williams Jackson Hole and Teton Valley proudly congratulate Jaelin, part of the KW family, on heading to the 2026 Winter Games in moguls and dual moguls.

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Publishers Kate Hull and Sage Hibberd with their families.

No matter the season, my little boy Nate often requests that we read *Over and Under the Snow* before bedtime. In Kate Messner's book, a girl heads out on a cross-country skiing adventure and discovers the intricate, lively world that exists underneath (and sometimes on top of) a thick blanket of snow. There are hibernating bears, secret tunnels harboring rabbits and voles, and foxes waiting to snatch anyone who scurries to the top. With each page, Nate talks about all the things he loves about winter. "Can we go skiing soon?" "I saw moose tracks at Wild School today." I love to hear his deep appreciation of snow. When we last read the book, I was in the thick of editing stories for this issue of *Teton Valley Magazine*. The story reminded me that life in Teton Valley continues—and even accelerates—in the midst of winter.

For some folks, like the team at Pine Needle Embroidery, work kicks into high gear. Inside their Driggs shop, they rush to fill order after order of expertly embroidered ski jackets heading to resorts across the West, as well as Christmas stockings, hats, and beanies galore for local customers. Kristen Pope explores their work on page 46.

In Christina Shepherd McGuire's "Kindness Unleashed," (page 80), advocates like the team at Aska's Animals provide sanctuary for animals, helping mama dogs and their new puppies grow in a safe space before moving on to a receiving shelter. In the winter, the tasks amplify to keep every animal, from chickens to pigs, warm, safe, and cared for. Then there are Emily Sustick and Katie Knipe, partners and flower growers at Red House Flowers. It might be surprising to learn the pair are busy in the cold months, but it's true. Judy Allen explores their budding romance with winter-grown tulips on page 92. Read about the process and then snag a winter (or spring or summer) flower share.

Ryan Ariano deep-dives into the big, bold career of award-winning videographer and photographer Mark Fisher (page 60), and writer and avid ice climber Brandon Wanthall shares why he seeks out the magnificent frigid ice routes winter after winter (page 88). Closer to home is the quiet, subtle splendor of Trail Creek. Beginning on page 74, photographer Linda M Swope covers this valley lifeline in all seasons, from its months blanketed in frost to the spring sun thaw.

May your winter be brimming with fun—be it big days skiing powder at Grand Targhee Resort, a quiet walk searching for tracks ... or anything in between.

Kate Hull

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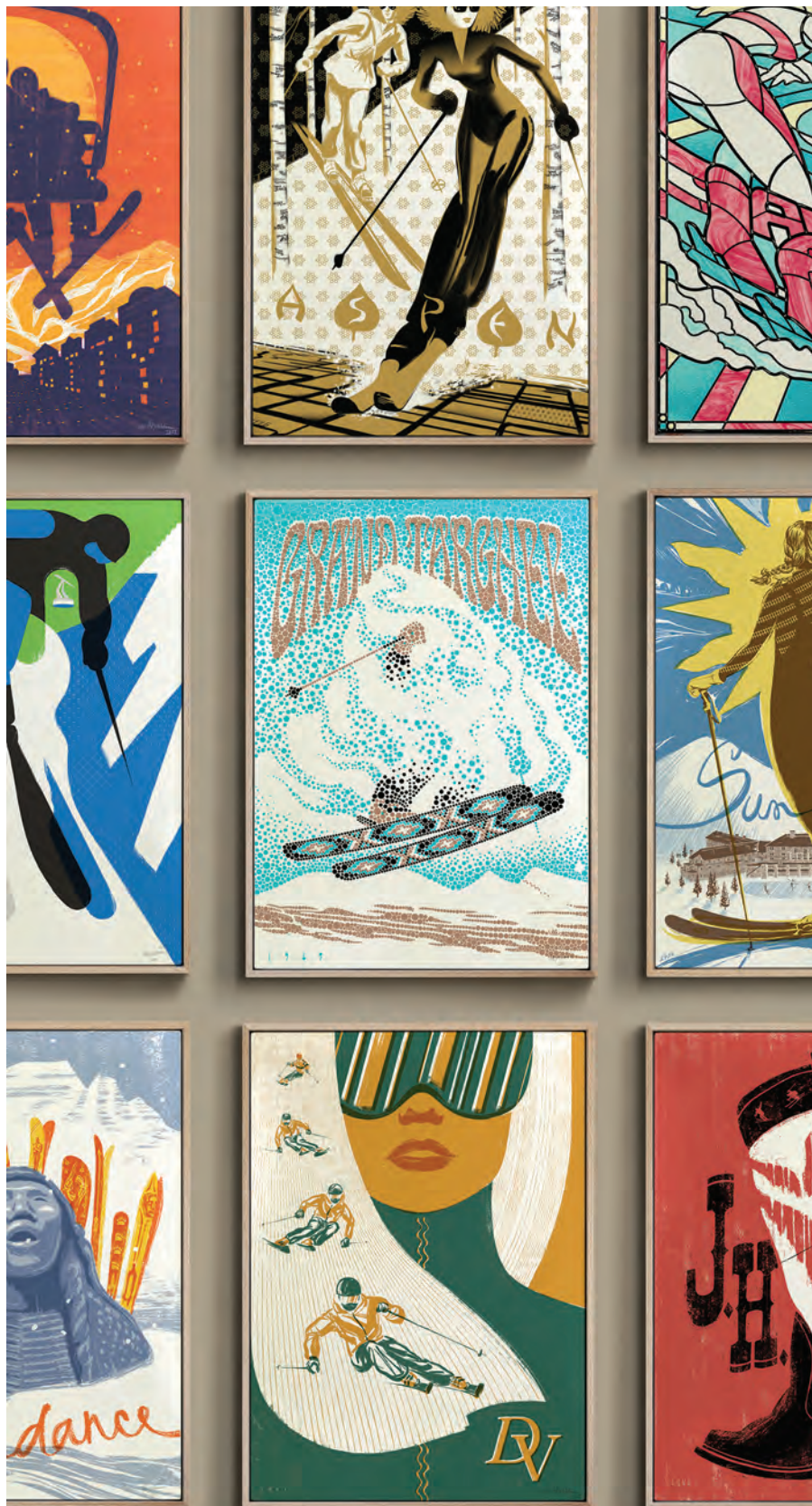


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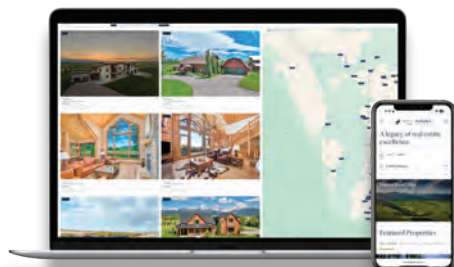
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EXPLORE FEATURED LISTINGS IN
**Teton Valley, Idaho
& Alta, Wyoming**



Lara Agnew

Lara Agnew (Kindness Unleashed, page 80 and Mark Fisher, page 60) is a photographer drawn to people, wild places, and the connections between them. Her work reflects a curiosity about how life and landscape shape one another. When she's not taking photos, she's likely in the mountains, planning a trip, or listening to music while cooking. She lives in Teton Valley with her family.



Hannah Hardaway

Olympic mogul skier-turned-professional photographer Hannah Hardaway (Shelf Life, page 96) has lived in the Tetons since 2006. Her favorite photography subjects are people, and her work primarily focuses on weddings, families, kids, artists, and entrepreneurs. Having gone to school for documentary photography, she is sought after for her style, which is both candid and natural, yet elegant and refined. Hannah is passionate about clean food, health and wellness, getting outside as much as possible, and seeing the world with her family. To date, she has traveled to more than fifty-five countries, camera in tow, and her list keeps getting longer.



Carol Lichti

Carol Lichti's (From Camp Kettles to Cocktail Glasses, page 50) favorite sound on Fridays after work was the clatter of ice in a shaker at a nice restaurant. Now retired in Teton Valley, she can hear that sound any day her husband decides to whip up a cocktail. She discovered there was life after almost thirty-two years in journalism by volunteering and serving on the board of Seniors West of the Tetons (SWOT). She and husband, Jim Haag, are co-editors of SWOT's monthly newsletter. She loves nature and living close to two national parks, as well as reading, streaming TV series, and cooking.



Christina Shepherd McGuire

When Christina (Kindness Unleashed, page 80) is not whittling away at words, she's helping her daughter plan her summer abroad or biting her nails on the sidelines of her son's IFSA freeride ski competitions.



She's the managing editor of *Teton Family Magazine* and *A Grand Wedding* magazine, where she aims to help people live a slower, healthier, and more fulfilling life. Check out your news feed to read her digital works on *Real Simple* and *Food & Wine*, or catch up with her at christinashepherdmcguire.com.

Brandon Wanthall

Brandon (Walking on Thick Ice, page 88) is a ski mountaineer, alpine climber, writer, photographer, and resident of Teton Valley for the past eleven years. Known in the community for working at Grand Targhee, and spending eight



years at Barrels & Bins Community Market deeply entrenched in the local food scene, he recently began a career in biology, working with endangered animal species and native plants in the Mojave Desert. His mission in life is exploring personal limits and manifesting powerful experiences with partners in the high mountains, and sharing his passion through the written word and photography. Brandon's adventures are thoroughly documented on his website, tenthousandtoofar.com. He is happiest thousands of feet above the valley floor.



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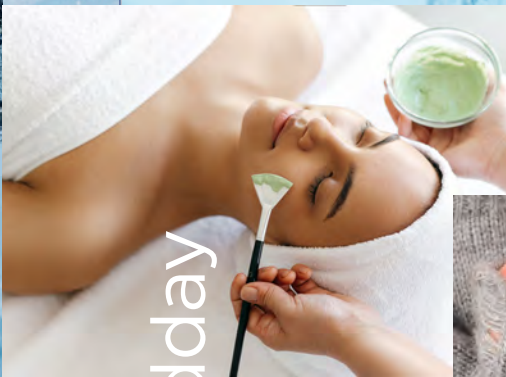
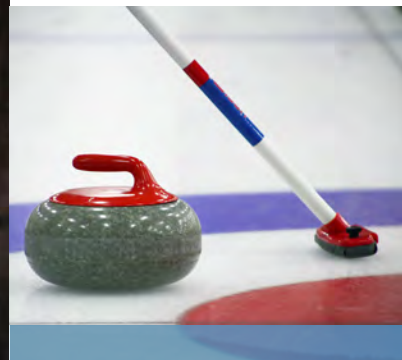
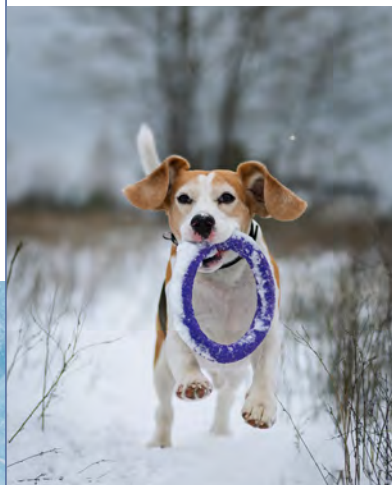
Morning



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Ways to Play

- 01 **SAMPLE CROISSANTS** over a cup of Joe at Wydaho Roasters—and come back later in the day for a scoop or two of ice cream
- 02 **BOOK A YURT** excursion and ski or ride with Teton Backcountry Guides
- 03 **SKI GRAND TARGHEE'S** run Silver Jae, named after Olympian Jaelin Kauf, and cheer her on at during the Winter Olympics in February
- 04 **TAKE TO THE SNOW** on two wheels! Rent a fat bike at Habitat and explore the groomed trails
- 05 **EXPLORE THE TETON OUTBACK** with the savvy guides at Yöstmark Backcountry Tours
- 06 **REFUEL WITH A SMOOTHIE** or freshly squeezed juice at the Barrels & Bins Smoothie Bar
- 07 **FIND YOUR NEXT GREAT READ** at Victor's Violet Volumes bookstore—don't miss the book clubs!
- 08 **STRENGTHEN FROM YOUR CORE** in a Pilates class at Victor's studioCORE Teton Valley
- 09 **ENJOY LOCALLY ROASTED BREW** at Victor's Alpine Air, paired with delicious toast offerings
- 10 **SKATE OR CLASSIC SKI** on the groomed tracks maintained by Teton Valley Trails and Pathways



Midday

- 11 **VISIT NEW WEST KNIFEWORKS'** Victor storefront for locally made, handcrafted artisan knives
- 12 **PAMPER YOURSELF** with a manicure and facial at Victor's Renew Salon & Spa
- 13 **MAKE IT A LUNCH DATE** at Forage Bistro, now at Driggs-Reed Memorial Airport, then visit the Warbirds Museum
- 14 **FIND A TREAT FOR FIDO** inside Furry Bellies Pet Boutique before a snowy Main Street dog walk
- 15 **ENJOY A COZY RESPITE** with avocado toast and a sweet treat inside Driggs' Rise Coffee House
- 16 **MELT YOUR WORRIES AWAY** with a snowy soak at Astoria Hot Springs south of Jackson Hole
- 17 **TAKE IN THE SPECTACLE AT** Teton Valley Skijoring in February for thrilling high-speed action
- 18 **SAVE THE DATE** for Downtown Driggs Association's stellar snow-sculpting festivities in January
- 19 **PERUSE GOURMET GOODS** and plan a meal with unexpected finds at Victor's Food Shed Idaho
- 20 **POP INTO THE RUSTY NAIL** in Driggs or Victor's Festive Living or In Place Home for fine décor and home goods

Evening

- 21 **EVER HEARD OF A BONSPIEL?** Catch a curling tournament at Kotler Ice Arena in Victor
- 22 **KICK OFF APRÉS** with a slice or two of Pinky G's Pizzeria's delicious New York-style pizza
- 23 **SIP A SAMPLE** at Victor's craft cidery, Highpoint Cider, then stick around for bingo or trivia night
- 24 **PLAN A DATE NIGHT** with sushi and sashimi at the cozy King Sushi in Driggs
- 25 **CATCH LAST CHAIR** at Grand Targhee Resort then nosh on the famous Wydaho nachos in the Trap Bar and Grill
- 26 **SAVOR DELICIOUS ITALIAN FARE** at Pizzeria Alpino in Driggs—and save room for cheesecake!
- 27 **SPEND A MEMORABLE NIGHT** out at Linn Canyon Ranch with a rustic, elegant four-course dinner
- 28 **HANG WITH THE LOCALS** at the Royal Wolf where "snow sagas and fish tales are told nightly"
- 29 **SAMPLE FLAVORFUL CUISINE** with a cocktail at Teton Thai in Driggs or its sister restaurant, Mama Su
- 30 **CATCH A LIVE PLAY,** event, or movie night with a twist at Victor's historic Pierre's Theatre

Harmonizing with Henry

WORDS BY CAROL LICHT

HENRY PEPIN turns, smiles, and nods approval as drumbeats join his song “Teton Valley.” The 36-year-old singer-songwriter often performs with local artists but usually provides his own rhythm on a foot drum. On this cold, snowy night at Victor’s West Side Yard, his band has a drummer whose improvisation skills elicit his happy response.

“So, when I die, bury me in Teton Valley,” Henry sings as he strums guitar. “Down by the river where you taught this heart to swim.”

Henry lives in Driggs, performs regularly—some weeks every day—and hosts open mic nights, where he harmonizes with whomever shows up. He plays solo or with his band, Henry & the Moguls, and books gigs all across western ski country. The Thomasville, Georgia, native learned to ski just last winter.

Henry has recorded two independent albums and has written ten songs for a planned new one. He was first runner-up in the 2023 Wyoming Singer-Songwriter Competition and a 2024 finalist at the Rocky Mountain Songwriter Contest in Red Lodge, Montana, with his song “Teton Valley.”

That’s where Nashville singer-songwriter Erin Enderlin heard the tune. Erin, who has toured with Trisha Yearwood and co-wrote Alan Jackson’s hit “Monday Morning Church,” loved it, bought the rights, and recorded it for an upcoming album. “I am obsessed with this song,” she wrote on a social media post that featured Henry singing his song.

“You know this restless soul won’t know which way to go,” the melody continues. “So, bury me as close to heaven as I’ve been.”

Go, Jaelin! Go!



TETON VALLEY’S OWN JAE LIN KAUF is heading to the Olympic Winter Games this February in Milan Cortina. This will be Jaelin’s third Olympic appearance. In 2022, she won the silver medal in the women’s moguls in Beijing. “It’s always such an honor to be able to represent Team USA and my home this way, and I couldn’t be more excited for this season!” Jaelin says. She will be competing in both moguls and dual moguls, the latter a new event for this year’s games.

During dual moguls, two athletes compete side-by-side, skiing down the bump-filled course and performing freestyle aerial tricks from two different jumps. “I am most excited for dual moguls coming to the Olympic stage for the first time,” Jaelin says. “It’s super exciting to have two medal events and opportunities this time around, and I also just love dual moguls as an event so much. It will be really amazing to be a part of the debut of this sport on the Olympic stage.”

Okay, Teton Valley. Get ready to cheer on Jaelin! Visit [@tetonvalleymagazine](https://www.tetonvalleymagazine.com) on Instagram for updates on watch parties and all the ways to celebrate. “I truly couldn’t do what I do without all the love and support from this valley,” she says. To learn more about Jaelin’s career and roots in the valley, check out the feature profile in last winter’s edition of *Teton Valley Magazine* available at [tetonvalleymagazine.com](https://www.tetonvalleymagazine.com).

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Festive Living



IT'S BEEN TWO DECADES since Hayden Jones first opened the doors of Festive Living in Victor. Now home to two businesses under its Main Street roof—a full-service interior design firm and a welcoming retail shop filled with beautiful pieces and décor at every turn—Hayden credits their longevity to dedication, enthusiasm, and a passion for curating unique spaces while building lasting relationships with customers.

“We have many clients whose families we’ve come to know across three generations—and for whom we’ve decorated numerous homes,” Hayden says. “These are meaningful, special connections, and ones that we don’t take for granted. We feel privileged to serve this beautiful area and the people who choose to live in it.”

Hayden (at left in photo), alongside store manager and

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design assistant Laura Rutter, has watched the style of the valley ebb and flow, from a predominantly western and rustic look (which remains influential) to one that now embraces more traditional and contemporary aesthetics. But no matter the shift in style, Hayden and Laura are rooted in a deep love of designing and curating for Teton Valley living.

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HELPING HANDS, a nonprofit within Fall River Rural Electric, provides emergency energy assistance when immediate needs strike, like injury or job loss. Support can be financial or material, such as providing propane and even firewood. Applications are available on the Fall River website. Co-op members can donate to Helping Hands for as little as rounding your bill payment up to the nearest dollar, or contributing a donation of your choice. A little extra makes a big impact! Learn more: fallriverelec-tric.com.



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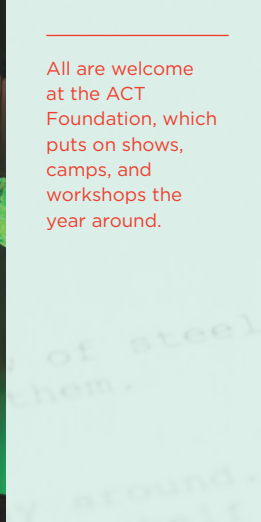
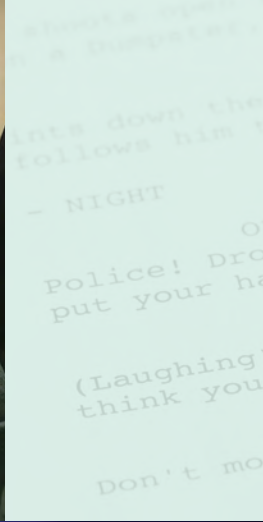
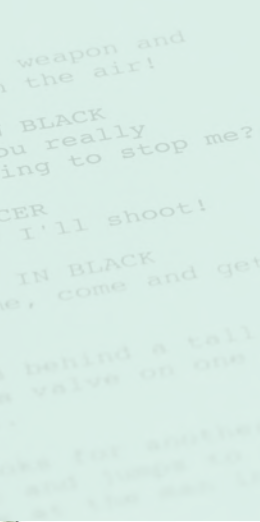
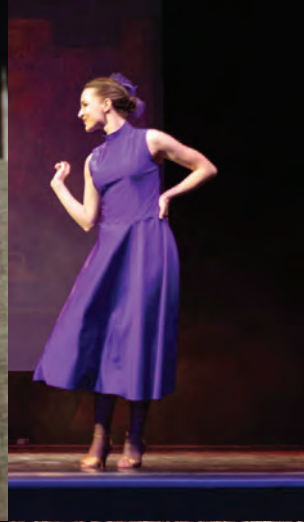
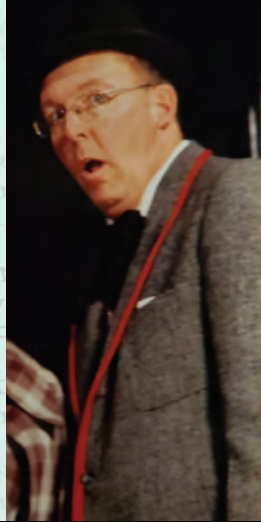
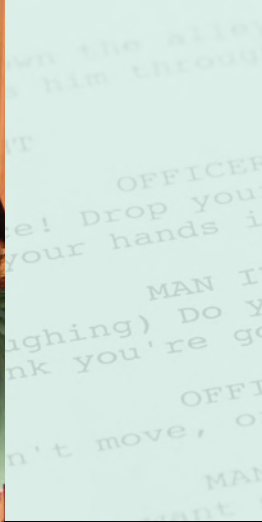
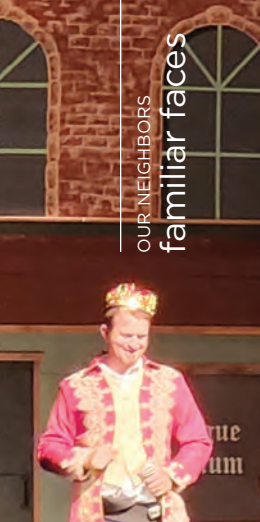
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Acting with Heart

ACT Foundation and 2nd Act Thrift Store promote local theater with Milissa West at the helm

BY MOLLY ABSOLON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRADLY J. BONER

Milissa West's first acting role was at Pierre's Theatre (formerly Pierre's Playhouse) in Victor when she was sixteen years old. She had one line—"Pocket watch"—which she said every night in a thick Southern accent. She clearly remembers the part.

Milissa's family, the Parsons, moved to Teton Valley in the 1990s, when she was in high school. Her father grew up here and, as a kid, saw the benefits of the burgeoning theater scene centered around Teton Valley's talented Egbert family and Pierre's Playhouse. Although he never acted as a kid, he built sets and helped where he could. When he returned to the area with his own young family, they quickly fell back into the theater community. Milissa, her brothers, and her parents all performed in Pierre's summer melodramas, as well as in its annual *A Christmas Carol* production. Her mother also helped prepare the chicken dinners that were served on the patio prior to performances.

It's a family tradition the Wests carry on today. Two of Milissa's sons, Gage and Emmett, are actors, while her husband Mike and their third son Brenden provide support backstage.

"Live theater is so important for communities," Milissa says. "It's just as important as sports. Not everyone is athletic, so a lot of voices don't get heard and personalities are never shared unless they have another place to shine."

In 1963, Tom and Margaret Egbert purchased Victor's 1950s movie house.

They transformed the place into an old-fashioned melodrama theater and christened it Pierre's Playhouse, in honor of an early name for the valley, Pierre's Hole. For the next forty-plus years, they hosted chicken dinners and melodramas for audiences. It was participatory theater, the traditional melodrama style: the audience was encouraged to boo and cheer for the actors throughout the performance, making the experience more personal and fun.

But in 2006, Pierre's stopped offering its live shows—although it did continue operating as a small movie theater until 2020—and the tradition of community theater in Teton Valley ended.



For Milissa West, live theater is an essential creative outlet for voices that might otherwise never be heard.



“It doesn’t matter how young or old you are. Theater is an outlet. You get to play dress up. You get to pretend to be someone else. You become part of a new community.”

Milissa West
founder, ACT Foundation

results from adults as well. She says one woman in her seventies had always had acting on her bucket list, but it wasn’t until she retired that she took a chance and tried out for a play with ACT.

“It doesn’t matter how young or old you are,” Milissa says. “Theater is an outlet. You get to play dress up. You get to pretend to be someone else. You become part of a new community.”

Zinnia Saxer, who turned twelve in September, started acting at age seven. Her mother Iris says Zinnia had never expressed much interest in theater until she decided she wanted to audition for *A Christmas Carol* five years ago.

“Zinnia whipped out a British accent from nowhere,” her mother says. “She was cast as Ellen that year.”

“It snowballed from there,” Zinnia chimes in.

Since that show, Zinnia has participated in theater camps with 2nd Act, and acted in other local plays, like *Alice in Wonderland*, in which she played the Mock Turtle. Her mother says Zinnia is a bit of a smart aleck and likes comedy, and Milissa will often tailor Zinnia’s roles to her strengths.

Zinnia was able to find a social circle and a new passion through theater. Some days, she even goes to rehearsal when she isn’t actually performing—she’s just so happy to be there.

“We’ve lost so many community icons,” Milissa says. “We used to have a bowling alley, a dance hall, two movie theaters. It’s hard to see the valley change—to lose its history. We have a lot of places here where people are in and out quickly. We don’t have a lot of gathering places where you can see friends and share a laugh or a memory. Theater offers history and a place for people to come together.”

Milissa says that the theater community was scarce when *Pierres* stopped staging plays beyond the annual *A Christmas Carol* production that did persevere. The high school still offered plays, but most roles were reserved for students. Milissa longed to fill the gap—to provide opportunities for everyone, young and old, to get involved in acting or production work—but it wasn’t until her kids started expressing an interest that she decided to take things into her own hands.

In 2021, she established the ACT Foundation, which stands for Arts, Cinema, and Theater, with the mission of “supporting, developing, and promoting creative programs and cultivating new

artistic avenues” in Teton Valley. To support the foundation, Milissa, who managed Teton Valley Hospital’s See-N-Save Thrift Store for fourteen years, opened the 2nd Act Thrift Store in Victor.

“Because I ran the hospital thrift store, I had a lot of experience and I knew that a thrift store supporting a nonprofit has a lot more heart than a for-profit one,” Milissa says. “People are more willing to give when they know it’s for a good cause. I opened 2nd Act to support the foundation, but it also provides props and costumes for our plays. Things like someone’s great aunt’s fur coat—they bring it in because they never wear it, but it can be a great costume for one of our productions.”

The foundation’s work is thriving. Milissa says she’ll have fifty kids show up to audition for three or four children’s roles, so she’s always looking for different ways to keep them involved. And it’s not just children; Milissa has had amazing

The 2nd Act Thrift Store also provides costumes and props for ACT’s local productions.

“Milissa tries to get everyone involved,” Iris says. “She took her knowledge from the thrift store and her own theater background and channeled it to create theater opportunities in the valley. Her family members all pitch in. She’s amazing, super-human, generous, creative, and a happy person.”

“Maybe the only thing she’s not that good at is asking for money and help,” Iris adds.

Anne Fish, a real estate agent with Engel & Völkers who has her own background in the performing arts, bought Pierre’s in 2021. She’d heard rumors that someone was thinking of buying the space for a laundromat, which she thought would be a travesty. She asked a few of her friends—musicians, an opera singer, as well as Milissa—if they thought she could make a go of the place as a community theater.

“Towns with theaters thrive,” Anne says. “People go out to dinner before or after they go to a show. They walk around downtown. I talked to the owner of the Brakeman [American Grill] restaurant, and he said one evening he had forty kids come in for dinner after a kid-friendly show. It was crazy busy, but he wasn’t complaining.”

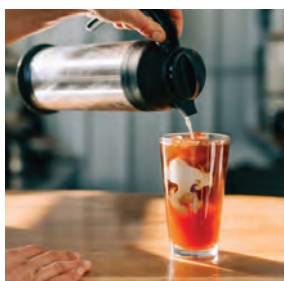
Her idea was well-received, and since her purchase, Pierre’s has hosted plays, movies, improv comedy, renowned musicians, and more to sold-out audiences. Anne recently passed the torch of Pierre’s to Heather Mortensen, who is committed to keeping it a theater.

“I am thrilled to take on the operations of this wonderful asset to Teton Valley,” Heather says. “We look forward to working with the ACT Foundation and carrying on what Anne started.”

“Milissa has been critical to [Pierre’s] success,” Anne says. “The ACT Foundation has been very instrumental in keeping the arts vibrant in Teton Valley.”

“Really, it goes back to the kids,” she continues. “Milissa’s work is teaching kids values. It gives them confidence and perspective about a larger world beyond Teton Valley. Even if they don’t pursue acting, they learn important life skills that they will have forever.”

A standing ovation is due for Milissa West and her work to keep the arts thriving in Teton Valley. To learn more, get involved, or see a show, visit actfoundationtvi.org. **tv**



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In Teton Valley, the affordable housing gap is growing wider every day. Through his position as executive director of Teton Valley Housing, Jerod Pfeffer is working to keep home ownership attainable and neighborhoods whole.



Teton Valley Housing

Builder, baker, and belayer
Jerod Pfeffer looks to
the valley's future housing
needs

BY MOLLY ABSOLON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CAMRIN DENGEL

The last time I wrote about Jerod Pfeffer for *Teton Valley Magazine* was to feature his trip to the 2020 *Coupe du Monde de la Boulangerie* in Paris, where he represented the United States in the baking equivalent of the Olympics. Now, five years later, he's in these pages again, this time because of his position as the executive director of Teton Valley Housing, a job he accepted in 2024. Teton Valley Housing is the joint powers housing authority for Teton County, Idaho, and Victor, Driggs, and Teton.

At first glance, there appears to be little connection between these two roles, but Jerod sees the thread. He grew up working construction, and when he moved to Teton Valley in 1999 he built a timber-frame, straw-clay, off-the-grid home for his family in Felt. His detour into baking with the start of 460 Bread, a wholesale artisan bread bakery he founded with Ty Mack in 2010, seemed like a move away from thinking about where and how people lived, but he soon realized that becoming a business owner also meant managing twenty employees. And those employees needed homes.

"Initially, with 460 Bread, my biggest concern was how to make the perfect baguette," Jerod says. "But quickly it shifted to how to house our staff.

"Everyone here has the same story," Jerod continues. "The first question an employer asks a prospective hire is, 'Do you have a place to live?' Housing affects all business owners and all government

agencies. You can't hire workers if they don't have a home."

Jerod believes communities are broken when the people who provide essential services—teachers, first responders, civil servants—can't live in the place where they work. Teton Valley is rapidly approaching that threshold. A Housing Needs Assessment conducted in 2022 predicted that by 2027, Teton Valley will require 1,580 additional units to meet its employee housing needs. Sixty percent of those units have to be priced below market value to accommodate workers. Finding ways to fill that void is what Teton Valley Housing is all about.

"We are an incredibly good tool [for fostering housing], but we're just one tool," Jerod says. "You need a saw to build a house, but that can't be the only tool



you have. To actually build projects we need other tools in the form of support from the federal government, the state, the municipalities, philanthropists, and developers."

The biggest gap in housing in Teton Valley affects people in the 80 to 150 percent Area Median Income (AMI) range. For Teton Valley, that range represents annual incomes for three person households that earn between \$78,000 and \$146,000. Below 80 percent AMI, federal funding is available to help pay for housing development; above 150 percent AMI, the free market kicks in. Develop-



The 175 Front Street Project in Driggs (rendering pictured above, left) will provide twenty-three affordable apartments. Signal West (rendering and location pictured above) is in the conceptual stages, and is slated to address workforce housing needs.





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ers make money—often a lot of money—building multi-million-dollar single-family homes for people who can afford them. In between these two extremes, the cost of construction makes it too expensive to build new housing without some kind of subsidy.

“The reason developers aren’t building housing that is affordable is that it



Driggs' Depot Square, completed in 2023, includes thirty deed-restricted affordable apartments, as well as retail and business incubator spaces.

doesn’t make economic sense,” Jerod says. “It’s tricky. How do you provide houses for rent or sale below the cost of construction? We’re talking really big numbers—millions of dollars. This is where Teton Valley Housing can step in.”

However, the challenges are huge. Created under regulations set out by Idaho statute, it is a joint-powers organization, meaning it is one of the few institutions that pulls the entire county together to work toward the singular mission of creating “diverse, permanently affordable housing opportunities in Teton Valley.” The cities of Victor, Driggs, and Teton, as well as the county, all have a stake. But their budgets are tight, and the housing authority isn’t always prioritized. Currently, a grant is paying for the executive director position.

“[The thought of] finding funds is what keeps me up at night,” Jerod says. “But I’m convinced this valley attracts people who want to make the world a better place and have the capacity to help. So, I’m optimistic.”

Nan Pugh, the housing authority’s commission chair, says a big part of their

job to date has been figuring out a structural and financial road map that will see the organization into the future. She says there is no real model for what they are trying to do as a governmental body that also relies on philanthropic dollars and private partnerships, and has no clearly defined place in local governing structure.

To help define that future, last summer the housing authority finalized an action plan for the next two years. Among its strategies, Jerod and the housing com-

“We’re trying to build bridges. It’s not a case of us versus them. We need to make sure there’s space for the people who work here. That makes for a better community.”

Jerod Pfeffer
executive director,
Teton Valley Housing

missioners have prioritized building public-private partnerships, developing a land bank, building up organizational capacity, and creating a below-market rate housing stewardship program to educate and support qualified recipients.

Currently, Jerod is the housing authority’s only paid employee. He is overseen by the seven-member commission.

“I’m really excited for the team we have with Jerod as the leader, coupled with the expertise we have on the commission,” Nan says. “We have people with significant development experience ... we have someone who understands governmental process really well. We have a banker and a philanthropist, so our commission is balanced and knowledgeable.”

Jerod has a lot on his plate, but he is known for the way he throws himself full-throttle into every endeavor he attempts. He didn’t just become a baker; he represented the United States in an international baking competition. He didn’t just build a timber-frame house; he co-authored a book about the construction method. He doesn’t just belay his daughter as she trains to be a competitive



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climber; he is working to get endorsed as a belayer for climbing competitions. He and his daughter even joke about who will get to the Climbing World Cup first—her as a climber or him as a belayer.

In some ways, Teton Valley is lucky. Currently, 70 percent of its housing stock is occupied year-round, as opposed to a place like Vail, Colorado, which has a 25



“I’m really excited for the team we have with Jerod as the leader, coupled with the expertise we have on the commission.”

Nan Pugh
*commission chair,
Teton Valley Housing*

percent year-round occupancy rate. Jerod sees this as a positive; that Teton Valley is not beyond solving its housing challenges. Yet, while most people pay lip service to the need, meaningful action is much rarer.

The 2022 projections for Teton Valley showed a population increase of thousands in just five years. Not everyone is excited about that. The county’s population has already increased by 24 percent since 2010, and the effects of that growth can be felt in more traffic, crowded trails, and busy downtowns. Sometimes the reality of congestion undermines people’s willingness to support new affordable housing projects.

“Some people don’t want to see change, but change is happening already,” Jerod says. “We’re trying to build bridges. It’s not a case of us versus them. We need to make sure there’s space for the people who work here. That makes for a better community.” **tv**

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Grand Targhee Resort's Gheeville Adventure Zone is a little shredder's paradise. This newly redesigned kids' area near the Shoshone Lift is meant to help new and young skiers and snowboarders build skills and a lifelong love of snow.



Little Shredders, Big Smiles

The ins and outs of snow-sport lessons for the youngest powder pups

BY DEVIN DWYER

Our family (but really, my husband) lives for the winter season. And that's a good thing, since we usually have more than six months of it here in the Tetons. Naturally, as soon as our kids were big enough and showed interest, we started bringing them up to the mountain.

Teaching our girls to ski and snowboard has been incredibly rewarding. As parents, we get to witness their hard work and persistence lead to growth in a sport we all love.

While my husband (a snowboarder) and I (a skier) are proficient at our snow sport of choice, we realized we'd reached a point with our oldest daughter where some peer camaraderie and outside instruction would serve her well. Teton Valley kiddos have access to some of the country's most renowned ski terrain just a short drive from their houses. Grand Targhee Resort, Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, and Snow King Mountain Resort all offer excellent programs for children who are three and over and potty-trained.

Watching your kid take off on snow is unbelievably exciting. Not to mention, seeing them head up the Dreamcatcher lift for the first time, and taking turns with them at the end of the day, are testaments to the value of getting your kiddos in ski school. No matter the route, it is money and time well spent!

Here is a summary of the offerings found on both sides of Teton Pass:



Season-Long Programs

Lil' Gremlins

AGES 3-6

Half days are from 9:45am to 12:15pm or 1pm to 3:30pm. Skiers and snowboarders can sign up for Fridays, Saturdays, or Sundays. This lesson package is offered as a full twelve-week session (\$900) or as a six-week session (\$450). You can choose either the first or second half-session.

Gremlin Squad

AGES 6-12

Full days are from 9:45am to 3:30pm on Fridays, Saturdays, or Sundays. Lessons are offered as a full twelve-week session (\$1,300) or as a six-week session (\$650). You can choose either the first or second half-session.

Tiny Turns

PRIVATE LESSONS FOR AGES 3-5

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Huckleberry Patch Daycare

AGES 1-5

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Youth Season Leases

AGES 12 AND UNDER

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Grand Targhee has spent the past two years working to complete a build-out of the Gheeville Adventure Zone, a robust kid-friendly area located near the Shoshone Lift and launching this winter. Gheeville is complete with "characters," bus stops, and buildings where kids and beginners can learn and have fun.

"We did this because our learning area is special at Grand Targhee," says Jill Gaylord, director of brand, strategy, and guest experience at the resort. "It's rare that a beginner zone is so dedicated to learning and not an area where [skier] traffic filters out to the base."

The Ski School uses each element as a teaching opportunity. Young skiers and boarders try to spot the eyes in the Eyeball Forest to learn to navigate trees. "Other elements are just for fun to keep people engaged," Jill says. Learn more: grandtarghee.com.

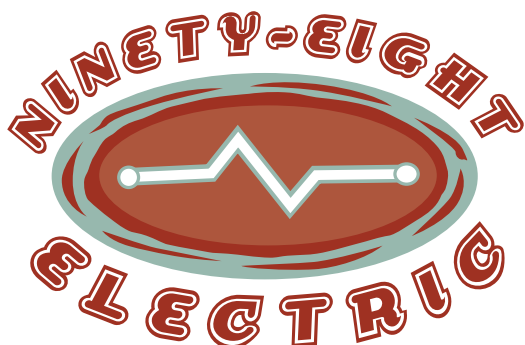


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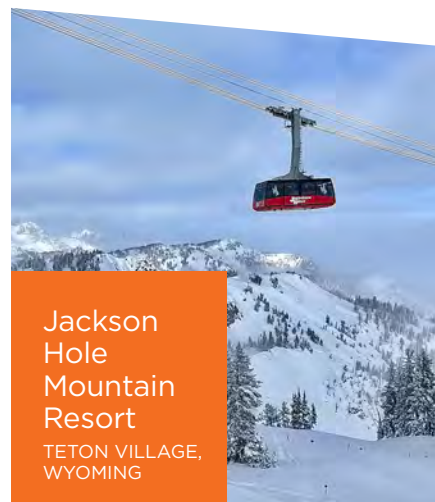
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AGES 3-4

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Rangers Ski & Snowboard

AGES 5-7

Full day (9am to 3pm). Offered as a nine-week program (\$1,500) on Fridays (ski only), Saturdays, or Sundays.

December Youth Kick Off Camps

AGES 5-14

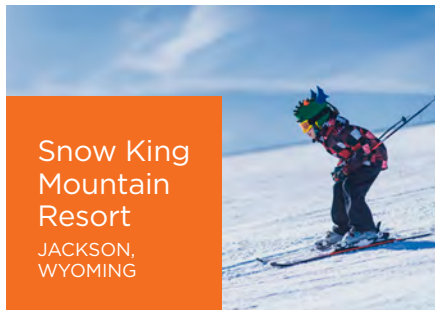
Full day (9am to 3pm). Offered as a three-week program (\$525) held Saturdays or Sundays. This program is a great way to reacquaint kids to the snow at the beginning of the season.

Teton Village Racers & Riders

AGES 8-14

Full day (9am to 3pm). Offered as a nine-week program (\$1,500) on Fridays (ski only), Saturdays, or Sundays.

JHMR offers a beginner area that includes the Teewinot Lift and Sweetwater Gondola. The Kids' Adventure Map is designed especially for little ones, outlining a scavenger hunt and highlighting entry-level runs. When kids complete these runs during lessons, they receive a sticker to put on their helmet that sparks extra stoke and encouragement to collect them all. Lunch and snacks are provided for full day lessons. Learn more: jacksonhole.com.



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fling around. As silly as it may sound, I have found that the comfort and familiarity they gain with the equipment makes it easier once they're back on the snow.

Invest In A Car Potty

Okay, hear me out. This was huge, especially at the three-to-five-year-old stage. Head up to the resort, and give your kids a chance to use the potty before getting their snowsuits on. An accident in a one-piece snowsuit is no fun; nor is having to take everything off again once they make it to the base area.

Buy a Giant Sled

Last winter, we bought a large double-wide jet sled that fit both kids and gear. Game changer! No one was complaining about carrying their stuff or needing to be carried themselves. It set the tone for the day—there was way less stress getting everyone to drop-off. Plus, their tired little legs were very happy to hitch a ride back to the car at the end of the afternoon.

Always Keep Pocket Snacks

Every morning before drop-off, I tuck a small bag of gummies or a lollipop or two into my daughter's ski suit pocket. She loves surprising her friends with a little treat on the lift.



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These are superior for kids (and maybe even adults!). There are no forgotten jackets or pants and no snow sneaking down collars or into waistbands. They're warm, easy, and kids can zip them up and down themselves. I especially love Reima and Burton suits.

Warm Mittens

A must-have! We avoid hand warmers for many reasons—they're distracting, wasteful, and unnecessary if your gear is warm and dry. I swear by long-cuffed mittens that go over the snowsuit, so no snow sneaks up sleeves.

Balaclava

Essential for keeping your head, ears, and neck covered and warm. Iksplor, a Jackson Hole-based company, makes a merino wool balaclava with a ponytail hole that we love. If your kid is allergic to wool, Skida makes adorable patterned options made of shearling polyester fleece.

Base layers

Moisture-wicking, snug-fitting base layers keep kids comfortable and dry. We love Iksplor's merino wool layers in lots of vibrant colors. For non-wool choices, Patagonia's Capilene base layers are excellent.

Midlayer

It gets cold in the Tetons—sometimes sub-zero at ski school drop-off. A wool or synthetic midlayer is the best defense against the winter chill.

Helmet

All three resorts require helmets for kids' programming. Whether you buy new or used, make sure the helmet fits snugly and doesn't have dents or cracks. Safety first! Plus, a good fit keeps their heads warmer than a loose one.



No matter the snow sport or winter activity, getting your kids outside during the colder months is a wonderful way to spark a lifelong love for the outdoors and a deeper connection to the place we call home. Whether you're heading to the resort or simply exploring your own backyard, every snowy day is a new adventure. **tv**

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Whether it's a single monogrammed stocking or a bulk order of ski jackets with company logos, Pine Needle Embroidery handles it all right from their Driggs shop.

Threads of Teton Valley

Stitching through legacy and loss to a vibrant future at Pine Needle Embroidery

BY KRISTEN POPE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CAMRIN DENGEL

Upon walking into Pine Needle Embroidery on Driggs' West Little Avenue, visitors see cubbies filled with colorful ball caps in a variety of styles and brands, reaching high up the wall. Racks of clothing fill the front room, which serves as a retail space.

But the main buzz of activity is just beyond the retail space. Here, surrounded by a rainbow of brightly-hued thread spools, a team of seven work with their machines humming: designing and digitizing logos, sewing or printing them onto an array of products, then trimming and packaging orders to ship around the world.

Gore-Tex jackets awaiting logos, backpacks with students' names embroidered in bright pink and purple thread, monogrammed stockings for locals, branded gear for businesses, and custom orders for big-name clients across the globe—the products run the gamut.

Pine Needle Embroidery works with clients in places like London, Mumbai, Luxembourg, and New York City, as well as outdoor outfitters like the Jackson Hole-based technical apparel company Stio, and plenty of regional organizations, from Grand Targhee Resort to the U.S. Forest Service.

"I love the creativeness of it; that's really fun," says owner Lisa Foster. "And I love working with the people. That's really the fun part because I love my crew."

Pine Needle Embroidery was opened by Linda Naef in 2004, and Lisa found herself working there in 2014, albeit a bit unexpectedly. Lisa's husband was EMS director for Fremont County at the time,



Lisa Foster, owner of Pine Needle Embroidery, says her favorite part of the job is getting to be creative and working with so many different people. Her client list spans the globe from Idaho to India.

and he had ordered some customized work items from the shop. Lisa swung by to collect them and serendipity struck.

"I went in to pick up the order and we started to talk," Lisa says. "Linda was not looking for help at the time, but she said she just had a good feeling, so she hired me."

Lisa says her role was originally intended to be part-time, but they were gaining more clients, and orders kept coming in rapidly, so she began working more and more. Soon, she had learned how to do everything, from using all the machines to getting to know the clientele. In 2020, Lisa purchased Pine Needle Embroidery from Linda, who passed away in 2022.

Business kept growing, and Lisa was on track for a record year in 2023 when

she faced a devastating setback. Late one night that July, a fire engulfed the embroidery shop, which was then tucked away in a Victor neighborhood on Aspen Street. Thankfully, no one was injured, but the shop suffered a total loss.

"After the fire, we thought maybe some of it would survive, but no," Lisa says, explaining that it took more than a month to even be able to access the building, which had amassed substantial damage. The roof had to be shored up before anyone could go inside, so the wait-

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ing time compounded the destruction. “What we didn’t lose to fire, we lost to smoke damage. And what we didn’t lose to smoke damage, we lost to water damage,” she says.



“I love my clients, and I really like establishing personal friendships with them.”

Lisa Foster
 owner, *Pine Needle Embroidery*

After the fire, Lisa needed to find a new space for Pine Needle Embroidery. Initially, she wanted to stay in Victor for its proximity to Jackson and her clients there, but she ended up finding a space in Driggs’ Depot Square. This new mixed-use building is just off the main intersection, affording greater visibility than the business had before. They moved into the new location in late 2023.

The business is still growing at speed. When Linda founded the company more than twenty years ago, she started with one single-head sewing machine (a head refers to the components of the sewing machine responsible for the stitching). Over the years, the company slowly acquired additional machines with up to six heads each, and had a total of fifteen heads by the time of the fire. Now, they have sixteen heads, and Lisa is looking to eventually add more.

Lisa also plans to expand the shop’s retail space, but the volume of custom orders they receive is keeping her team very busy for now. She tries to do everything she can for her customers, who quickly become her friends, and she finds that personal touch to be key.

“I love my clients,” Lisa says, “and I really like establishing personal friendships with them.” **tv**

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The local bar scene in Driggs and Victor is blowing up, with the number of legal liquor licenses more than doubling—to a whopping five per town, thanks to the new resort city designation.

From Camp Kettles to Cocktail Glasses

Grabbin' a drink in Teton Valley has come a long way

BY CAROL LICHTI
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOTT FOREMAN

When fur trappers arrived in Teton Valley in 1832 to sell pelts to trading companies, their first demand was no surprise: alcohol. Camp kettles were filled with liquor and passed around, and the trappers became “crazy drunk,” as one participant noted in his journal. Debauchery ensued, and one unfortunate fellow was doused with alcohol and lit on fire.

Times have, thankfully, changed.

Today, valley residents and visitors can enjoy alcoholic beverages without risking that they'll go up in a blaze of infamy. Thanks to recent revisions in Idaho's liquor laws, more cocktails than ever before are being created at local establishments. Before the change, full-strength alcoholic drinks could be served at airports, golf courses, and ski resorts, but the number of liquor licenses awarded to restaurants was based on a town's population. Driggs and Victor, with a little over 2,000 residents apiece, each were limited to two such establishments despite being part of a tourist community that annually entertains thousands of visitors. The new law allowed both municipalities to be designated as “resort cities,” which meant alcohol could be poured at three additional businesses in each town.

On a recent Saturday night at Teton Thai in Driggs, bartender Kit Pickard was busy adding chili-infused tequila, simple syrup, grapefruit juice, and Aperol to an

ice-filled shaker. She gave it a good tumble and poured the Hot Panther drink into a Tajín-rimmed glass. Upstairs, at Tatanka Tavern, guests ordered Missy Elliotts, Tupacs, and other notably named cocktails. Down the street, Agave Family Mexican Restaurant served margaritas and more. These lucky three have joined in the serving of spirits with The Royal Wolf and O'Rourke's Sports Bar and Grill, which long had held the only liquor licenses allowed within the city limits.

Down the road in Victor, cocktails were being consumed at Big Hole BBQ, Guidepost Brewing Company, and the Mess Hall at Teton Valley Resort. Previously, only the Knotty Pine Supper Club and Westside Yard had been sanctioned to serve full-strength alcohol. Farther north, the Tetonia Club and Dave's Pub, both licensed before, offered alcoholic treats, but no other restaurants will be joining them soon as Tetonia hasn't been awarded resort-city status.



From bootleggers to rowdy saloons, liquor consumption in Teton Valley has a storied past. William Raum's brief ownership of the first saloon in Victor around 1890 ended abruptly after a deadly fight with a customer.

Drinking Up the Past

The history of alcoholic usage in Teton Valley is a sobering tale. After the fur trade died out in the mid-1800s, cattle rustlers and horse thieves found the valley to be a good place to hide out and, no doubt, enjoy libations. In the 1880s, settlers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints followed the fur trappers' old trails and built homes in the area. They were bound by the teachings of their religion's founder, Joseph Smith, who had banned the consumption of alcohol.

Of course, that didn't stop others from partaking. William Raum opened

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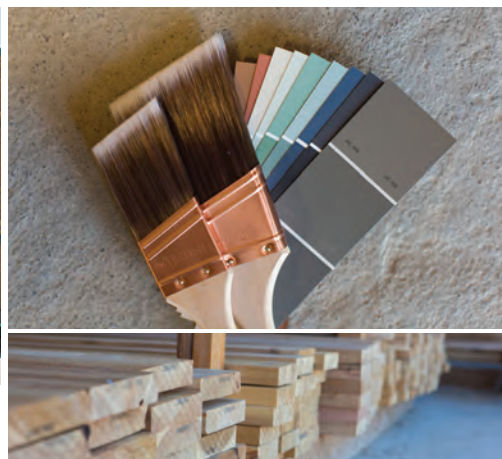
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Mayor August Christensen advocated at the state level for Driggs and Victor to receive a resort city designation, helping local restaurants retain customers who might otherwise head to Jackson for a drink. Today, options for *après* or a specialty cocktail with dinner are plentiful.

the first saloon in Victor around 1890, according to B. W. Driggs' *History of Teton Valley*. But Raum's ownership would end after a customer he hit with a bottle over an unpaid bill died; the saloon was taken over in 1902 by Columbus “Lum” Nickerson. Across the valley, bars, dance halls, and billiard parlors thrived until liquor was outlawed by the State of Idaho in 1916 and national Prohibition followed four years later. Bootleggers took the business of booze underground.

Prohibition ended in 1933, but the anti-drinking sentiment persisted. Around that time, the Union Pacific Railroad was scouting locations for a ski resort in



Idaho, and its representative, Count Felix Schaffgotsch of Austria, rode the rails into Victor to check out potential sites. He wasn't impressed, according to Thornton Waite, who chronicled the railroad's local branch. "One legend has it," the author wrote, "that Victor was considered to be too strait-laced for the Count."

Over the years, Idaho's restrictive liquor laws were enough to drive a restaurateur to drink. Beer and wine could be sold in restaurants, but hard liquor licenses were limited. To offer cocktail-like beverages, many eateries turned to lower-proof drinks allowed by the state.

Ryan Haworth, owner of Teton Thai, worked with local mayors and city council members to try to change the law, but they met opposition from establishments that were already allowed to sell alcohol. Liquor licenses greatly enhanced a restaurant's sale price, and licenses were sometimes sold separately for hundreds of thousands of dollars.

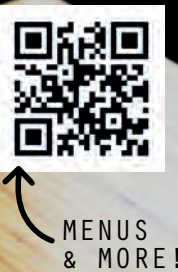
Proponents advocated for the economic benefits the communities would enjoy by bringing in more visitors.

Ralph Mossman, a glassblower and former council member in Driggs, real-



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ized how inequitable the laws were when a group of visiting artists traveled every night to Teton Springs because they wanted cocktails with dinner. Mossman and others who sought change banded together with residents in other parts of the state that were dependent on tourism. They hired lobbyists and backed legislation, but nothing happened.

When August Christensen became mayor of Driggs, she took up the fight. “We needed a change to support locally owned restaurants,” says the mayor, who had watched tourists travel to Jackson “because they can’t get a cocktail here.”

She worked with state senator Jim Guthrie of McCammon, who introduced a bill to prohibit the resale of new liquor licenses, which would make the issuance of those new licenses more palatable to existing holders. No laws regulating alcohol had been enacted in decades, but his legislation gained approval. The mayor and lawmaker decided to seize the mo-



Liquor License Changes

- To be designated a “resort city,” a town must be at least fifteen miles from the nearest city of 50,000 or more and have seasonal sewage flows that exceed low-season flows by twenty percent or more.
- In each designated resort city, three additional liquor licenses can be issued. Licenses are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, and the mayor and city council must approve.
- To be eligible, restaurants must earn at least sixty percent of gross sales from food. Liquor can be sold only during hours when food is being served.
- Newly issued liquor licenses cannot be sold, leased, or transferred, and licenses issued before 2023 can be sold, leased, or transferred only once.



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January 2-4
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Jamboree

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Cutthroats
Bantams 14U
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February 20-22
Cutthroats
Squirts 10U
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March 6-8
Women's
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Teton Valley is also home to some incredible spots to have a glass of *vino* paired with an *aperitivo*. Maison in Driggs offers bottles, bites, and a comfortable atmosphere to sit and savor the day.

mentum and pursued a bill to allow additional licenses in resort cities. That passed and finally became law in July 2024.

“The addition of restaurant liquor licenses in resort cities, specifically Driggs, supports our locally owned and operated restaurants by allowing them to serve the customers or visitors instead of turning them away, bringing in more money through sales, and keeping everyone in our valley and increasing our economic development,” Mayor Christensen says.

As a result of their persistence, on a busy night last November, Guidepost Brewing co-owner Chris Macchietto opened a bottle of tequila and poured three shots. He had applied for a liquor license so long ago that when he learned he finally had received one, it was a welcome surprise. He handed the drinks to two regulars, then lifted one up for himself. Cheers! **tv**



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CAPTURING THE ADVENTURE

BY RYAN ARIANO
PHOTOS BY LARA AGNEW & FISHER CREATIVE



ON LOCATION FILMING
with Paul Oakenfold for
Soundtrek Everest.



UPPER LEFT Filming in the Gobi Desert with the Explorers Club, 2018; **TOP RIGHT** Mark and Scott Rogers filming for iFIT in Bhutan; **YELLOW JACKET** On location filming with *National Geographic's* 2019 *Perpetual Planet* Life at the Extremes Everest Expedition; **RED JACKET** Nearing the summit of Gamlang Razi during a 2013 expedition; **BOTTOM** Hanging with villagers in Myanmar on the 175-mile trek to the Gamlang Razi basecamp in 2013.

“Historically, I haven’t slept that much,” Mark Fisher says, “and I’m trying to get better at that.” Indeed, finding time to sleep would be an impressive feat for the professional image creator. It’s hard to see where he’d fit it in.

Mark is an internationally active cinematographer, photographer, and director with countless expeditions and several historic accomplishments under his belt. He’s a father and long-time Teton Valley skier, climber, and recovered dirtbag.

He’s also a small business owner whose company, Fisher Creative, is perhaps the least-assuming enterprise on Victor’s Main Street. You might not notice it except for the Fisher logo hanging over a balcony that provides views of Teton Valley’s unbeatable sunsets. Inside, however, is a production house that wouldn’t look out of place in Hollywood. Soft wood accents and a grand central table lend a peaceful aura to the busy editing stations and bags of camera gear piled by the door. As I get there, a few of Mark’s staff photographers are about to head out for an afternoon shoot.

“Peace amid chaos” feels like it could be one of many unofficial Fisher mottos.

Mark has organized and captured footage around the world, from a DJ set at one of Mount Everest’s base camps to an arduous trek through the jungles of Myanmar. He’s filmed a team digging for dinosaur bones in the Gobi desert, shot fitness videos in Thailand, and chronicled ski expeditions in the Himalayas. On a 2024 trip up Mount Everest led by Teton-area Oscar-winner Jimmy Chin, Mark’s group found the foot of Sandy Irvine, George Mallory’s climbing partner on his ill-fated, possibly first-ever summit of the mountain. Mark’s career is best summed up in one actual Fisher Creative motto: “We’ll meet you where you are and take you somewhere you’ve never been.”

An Ode to Relationships

Mark is a master of capturing bold people achieving huge feats in wild places. Yet, he insists his success isn’t due to his own skill: “Relationships have been the key to Fisher Creative,” he says.

Mark’s own origin story would make a good film. Born in Maryland, he spent his childhood living all over the map, from Dubai to Texas to Korea and beyond. As a young man, Mark was a “van life” climbing bum before becoming a mountain guide with Alpine Ascents on Denali, in the Pacific Northwest, and eventually on Kilimanjaro. He captured images of his personal adventures, usually piggybacked on his guided trips, and sold them. The stories he tells, though, center on his friends.

“The first photo I sold to Patagonia was from the General Store at Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming,” Mark says. “It was a photo of my friend Ben Krasnow on a mechanical rocking horse.” That was in 2001, the year he moved to Driggs.

“Moving to Teton Valley happened organically,” he recalls. “I had some friends who mentioned it and it sounded cool, so I moved to Driggs.” He worked at Grand Targhee Resort as a server and as a cashier at Wild Bill’s, and skied every day. Rent was cheap. In 2004, he started guiding on the Grand Teton for what is now Teton Mountain Guides. Once he started earning a year’s wages in a few months on Kilimanjaro, Mark dropped everything else to make a go at photography as a career, shooting everything from weddings to products to portraits.

Mark’s love of portraiture, he explains, comes from his anchoring principal that photography is about human connection. His most celebrated photos aren’t landscapes like those of his first inspiration, Ansel Adams, but shots of people exploring them. He landed a photo in Gail Buckland’s 2016 photography book, *Who Shot Sports: A Photographic History, 1843 to the Present*, alongside pics from such luminaries as Richard Avedon, Stanley Kubrick, Neil Leifer, and Catherine Opie. Mark’s photo was of Teton Valley athlete and Teton Gravity Research (TGR) star Sage Cattabriga-Alosa skiing a heavy line in Alaska’s Neacola range. Which led to what Mark considers a career milestone: working with local ski film powerhouse TGR.

“Todd and Steve [Jones, co-owners of TGR] are dear friends of mine and Dirk Collins [another co-founder] gave me my first start with TGR,” Mark says about his long relationship with the region’s best-known studio. TGR first hired him to shoot a heliskiing trip in Alaska in 2008.

“The thing I say about filmers and photographers is you pretty quickly see who has ‘It,’” says Todd Jones. “The intangible thing where someone has an eye and a vision to capture the sport and environment in a very artistic way. Fisher has always had that ‘It’ or X-factor. That is the thing you can’t train for.”

While Mark’s name is on the office door and his career is a testament to his skill and drive, he’s quick to add that for many years his counterpart at Fisher Creative was another friend, local videographer Eric Daft.

When the Canon 5D Mark II came out in 2008, the first full-frame DSLR that could also shoot Full HD video, clients started expecting more and more videography in addition to still photography.

“That was a turning point,” Mark says. He would hire Eric to take video while Mark shot stills. “In 2010 I got a grant from Eddie Bauer to ski China’s Shishapangma Peak, and it was like full-speed ahead,” Mark says of skiing the fourteenth-highest mountain in the world. “I built my home studio, then went to Shishapangma and kind of created my first standalone short film from that trip.” Mark and team didn’t reach the summit, but managed to ski without oxygen from 7,600 meters. It was Mark’s first 8,000-meter peak expedition.

“I came back and Eric edited the piece. And then I was like, ‘Eric, I want to blow this up, what do you think about full-time? I want to launch this new business and I want to work with you.’ And that winter was when we started Fisher Creative.”

“Mark has this insane drive to get the shot,” Eric says. “At the time, he was experimenting with lighting and flashes. He gets up early, stays late, and takes it super serious. Mark knows what he’s out to get and doesn’t relent until he gets it.”

Mark attributes that trait to his mentors.

“In like the tenth grade, I had an awesome instructor, Jeff Grimm, who really believed in me,” Mark says. “He would take me out through Texas taking pictures of cowboys and all around Fort Worth.”



"I fell in love with people. It's this merging of different worlds—loving people, loving travel, loving adventure, and loving capturing it with photos. It's more photojournalism than commercial photography." Mark Fisher

Then Mark's family moved to Korea, where he finished high school. His parents moved to Malaysia after Mark left for college in Wisconsin in 1994. Post-grad, he went to Germany on a Fulbright Scholarship, where he cut his teeth under German photographer Ramesh Amruth. Ramesh told him, "You'll be a really good photographer because you're good with people."

"I really got a lot of exposure to travel and different cultures and different people," Mark says. "I fell in love with people. It's this merging of different worlds—loving people, loving travel, loving adventure, and loving capturing it with photos. It's more photojournalism than commercial photography."

Open to Adventure

As a young man Mark wanted to climb and shoot pictures, but there was no dream of being an outdoor photographer. Connections made it happen. "I've been fortunate to have some really good chance encounters ... all of these things that have happened over my life and over the life of Fisher Creative have happened because of my relationships with people," Mark says.

Here's how it works: Todd Jones introduced Mark to producer Jon Seidman. Jon hired Mark for a shoot on a cruise ship. It goes well and a few years later, in 2015, Jon connects the Fisher team with a project called the King's Challenge, a super highend guided trip through the Kingdom of Bhutan led by the Prince of Bhutan. The celebrity guide on the King's Challenge was British super-athlete Kenton Cool; he and Mark hit it off. Two years later, when global DJ icon and "god-father of trance music" Paul Oakenfold said, 'Hey, Kenton! I want to go to Everest Base Camp and do the highest DJ set,' Kenton said, 'Well, you have to talk to Mark.' So, Fisher Creative put together a team and captured the world's highest-ever DJ set and created the film: *Soundtrek Everest*.

In 2018, Kenton called Mark again, this time about a trip he was guiding to the summit of Mount Everest for CNN with Olympic cyclist Victoria Pendleton and writer/TV star Ben Fogle. With only two weeks' notice (most Everest trips take a year to plan), he pulled together the shoot. That ended up being his first Everest summit and a three-part TV series for CNN.

"This world is also about hustle," Todd says. "People don't wake up every day looking to give us work. You have to go seek that out and get it and bring it to yourself. Mark has been extremely motivated to do that."

One of the projects Mark is proudest of was when Fisher Creative crossed the lines of safety in 2022 to travel to Ukraine to film the documentary *Human Unity*. "Ukraine was kind of a self-funded effort because we were moved to try and have a positive impact," Mark says. He wanted to make a film, with revenue going to the Ukrainian people fighting the Russian incursion. "Let's highlight this amazing groundswell of support for Ukraine globally and try to make a difference," he says. "It's at the heart of what we've always wanted to do; we want to create these transformational experiences."

So, what was the wildest trip? Eric immediately brings up their 2013 voyage to Myanmar to make a first ascent of Gamlang Razi and get the peak's first exact altitude measurement. Over the 175-mile trip through the jungle, Eric says, he "lost 35 pounds and got trench foot; there were snakes [Mark mentions cobras and vipers], spiders. We had no real satellite phone and the last expedition was between eight and ten years before us and the

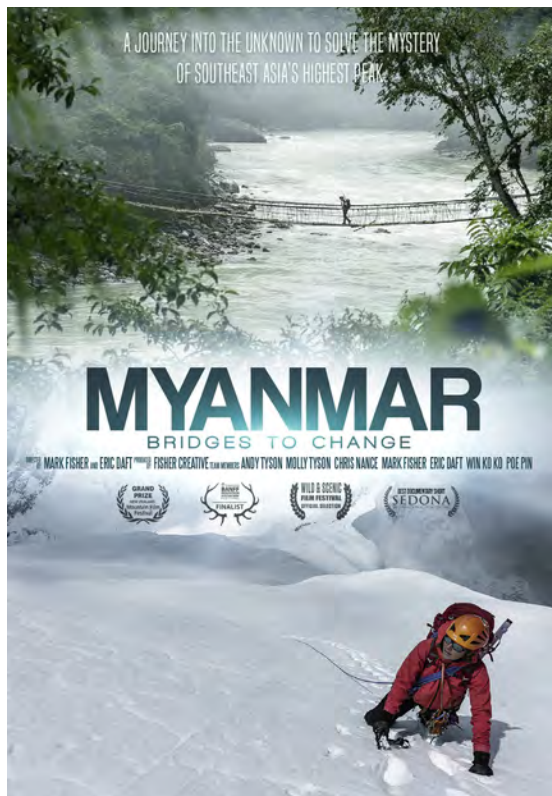


SKIER SAGE CATTABRIGA-ALOSA
in Alaska during a 2010 filming
trip with Teton Gravity Research.
This image was selected for
Gail Buckland's book *Who Shot
Sports: A Photographic History,
1843 to the Present* and opened
at the Brooklyn Museum.



TOP Mark and Eric and their kids, Owen, Zoe, Kai, and Logan, during their trek to Everest Base Camp; **BOTTOM** On location in Canada filming a Canadian National Parks fitness series for iFit.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF FISHER CREATIVE



TOP In 2013, Fisher Creative made the first ascent of Myanmar's Gamlang Razi, documenting the journey in the acclaimed short film *Myanmar: Bridges to Change*, which premiered at the Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival.

BOTTOM Mark and team captured the highest DJ set on Earth at Everest Base Camp with global DJ icon Paul Oakenfold, creating the documentary *Soundtrek Everest*.

trip leader died of a snake bite." Mark points out that a trip the next year ended up bailing because of the challenges. But Fisher Creative did it.

That trip to Myanmar was originally the idea of two Teton Valley mountaineers, the late Andy Tyson and his wife Molly. Mark explains, "Andy reached out to me and invited me to come and I was like, 'We got to make a film on it.' So I got sponsorship from Sony and Patagonia." It became the acclaimed short film *Myanmar: Bridges to Change* and premiered at the Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival.

Fisher's team accomplished their mission, but their best memories are of the people they met along the way. One night they were sitting around camp with a group of locals who started taking turns singing folk songs. "Then it came around to Mark and me," Eric says. "And we were stuck for a few seconds before we started singing a Grateful Dead song." Mark chuckles at that story, one of countless tales about the connections they've made. The Myanmar media termed it the Myanmar American Friendship Expedition. "It was this awesome, once-in-a-lifetime bonding experience," Mark says.

It should be noted that the prep time for Myanmar was also only a few weeks; they were on a shoot on an Alaskan cruise ship when they found out it was a go. "That's the thing with Mark," Eric says. "One month we're out shooting in the canals of Venice and the next we're on the summit of Everest."

When asked what the toughest moment of his career has been, Mark pauses. "I think that's an ongoing thing," he says. "There's been so many times where I'm like, 'How am I going to pull this off?' And that's where the grit comes in. I've taken a lot of risk ... because of that belief that we'll make it happen."

Finding Balance

Another thing that happened after Mark founded Fisher Creative was he became a parent. With the birth of his son, Owen, and his daughter, Zoe, his balancing act took on a whole other dimension. He learned to manage a staff, like the videographers I saw heading out as I arrived at the office. When he's in town, family is king. He shows up for his kids' lacrosse and hockey games, and skis with them as much as he can. For the ten-year anniversary of Fisher Creative, he and Eric took their kids to Everest Base Camp. In 2024, he and Owen went to Japan on a ski trip, and at the time of this interview Mark was about to take Zoe to London.

Asked about the balance of being a business owner, an international photographer and adventurer, and a father, he admits: "It's been hard. Every single year Fisher Creative has grown ... and then your kids get older. It's really hard to be away from my kids."

When asked about his local go-to spots, he doesn't hesitate. "My favorite is Taylor." In the summer he hikes Taylor Mountain daily in preparation for his next trip. All winter, he skis Mount Glory. "It's part of the dad thing. I can be up there and back in an hour and a half." The proximity to great training grounds is just one of many things Mark loves about living in Teton Valley.

For a person who has been to so many different places, you have to wonder how he's managed to call the same small Idaho community home for over two decades. But Mark doesn't just live here; he *chooses* to live here.

"When you travel and you've been to some of the most amazing places, and you come home and you're like, 'This is one of the best places on Earth,' it's a pretty good feeling." **tv**

Ready, Set, Recreate

*Teton Valley's recreation district is here,
and the possibilities are astounding*

BY TOM HALLBERG





Teton County's new recreation district is an opportunity to support activities that bolster physical and mental health for all valley residents. So, what might it become?

Megan LaTorre has big plans. As in, changing the lives of hundreds of Teton Valley athletes—kids *and* adults.

As executive director of Teton Valley Foundation, Megan oversees the Kotler Ice Arena, a behemoth building (for this area) in Victor's Sherman Park. Most nights from October through March, its open-air walls spill the sounds of scraping skates, loud cheering, and bodies clattering against boards into the soft, snowy surroundings.

But what happens at the Kotler in the summer? Not much.

After the bustle of hockey and skating season, the rink goes dormant, as it isn't set up for other athletic pursuits. It's a reality Megan wants to see change. "I've got big goals about what I want to do for our community in terms of creating a year-round, weather-protected space for youth and adults to practice and play," she says.

Her vision: Once the ice melts, replace it with turf or a court material that would allow baseball, soccer, lacrosse, and other warm-weather sports teams to practice and play. Then Megan wants to build walls around the facility to enclose the space and add three new locker rooms, including a girls' locker room. Summer is fleeting around here, but unless you're the parent of an aspiring athlete, it's hard to grasp the impact of that. "It's so weird to say our children are losing their edge," Megan says. "But because of not having access to field space, people are losing their edge compared to other teams that are building fieldhouses and things like that."

Teton Valley Foundation is one of the largest purveyors of community recreation in this area, serving 1,500 local users weekly through programming like youth and adult hockey and figure skating lessons. But it is just one of many organizations that enable our community to be active and outside, despite limited budgets and volunteer time.

To support this multitude of nonprofits and government agencies, Teton County voters created Teton Valley Parks and Recreation District in November 2024, building an entirely new governmental body and instating a permanent property tax levy to fund it.



The district was given the power to own and operate facilities for virtually everything people come to Teton Valley to do, from ice rinks to snowmobile trails. Basically, if it's recreational, the district could, in theory, support it.

Volunteers for the nonprofit Friends of Teton Valley Sports and Wellness spent months collecting signatures to get the rec district on that 2024 ballot. Their argument was that, despite Teton Valley's reputation as a recreational hub, the low-cost community offerings—soccer fields, trailheads, city parks—were struggling, shortchanging those who depend on them. “These kinds of things just lead to a better quality of life,”

says Nate Carey, who sat on the Friends' board and is also the executive director of Valley Adaptive Sports, a nonprofit that provides sports-related opportunities for people with disabilities. “I believe that the lowest income brackets are the ones that are going to benefit from this the most.”

Voters were amenable to that argument, passing it with 55.3 percent in support and 44.7 percent opposed. In a county where local control often swings between parties and most political races are within one or two percentage points, a margin of over ten points represents broad support. “The turnout was astronomical this last election,” Nate says.

Still, 2,976 residents said no, so the idea has its detractors. “It's a tax, that's how people view it,” rec district director Sara Warhol says. “That's why people voted no—it was another tax.”

Nate, who talked with many of the naysayers during his signature collection, backed up Sara's thoughts, saying most who were opposed didn't want a higher property tax burden. His rebuttal is that a property tax, which hits second-home owners with high-value homes as well as year-round residents, “is a great resource,” one that allows full-time residents to reap benefits above what they put into the district's coffers.

Boiled down, the new 0.028 percent tax for recreation costs homeowners \$28 per \$100,000 of assessed value. (Multiply the property assessment you get from the county by 0.00028 to figure out your cost.) It will certainly add to bills, though Teton County is one of Idaho's lowest-taxed counties by tax rate, coming in at seventh lowest among Idaho's forty-four counties in 2024.

Now that the rec district is in place and those bills will start to hit in January 2026, the question is: What can it do?

TETON VALLEY FOUNDATION serves 1,500 local users weekly through programming like youth and adult hockey and figure skating lessons. Executive director Megan LaTorre hopes the new rec district can help the nonprofit's ice rink become a year-round facility.

LOOKING AT BLAINE'S RECREATION DOMAIN

We pull into Galena Lodge, twenty miles north of Ketchum, Idaho. Dogs and mountain bikers zoom around the parking lot. A pair of retired-age men sit in folding chairs, feet bared to the October sun; in their hands, dripping, brown bottles of beer fresh out of the cooler. My wife Ellen and I are on a savor-the-last-of-fall trip with her sister Angela and brother-in-law Miles. Our dogs, Huck and Addie, add to the chaos as we grease bike chains and pump up tires.

At the top of the Rip and Tear trail, we drop into a series of immaculately built jumps and berms, the dogs launching off the lips right behind us. Later, when I speak with Morgan Buckert, director of communications and development at the Blaine County Recreation District (BCRD), I'm surprised to learn the rec district owns the lodge, which a concessionaire operates. “In 1994, the community fundraised \$500,000 for BCRD to purchase Galena Lodge, and that was our big entrée into Nor-

dic skiing,” Morgan says, alluding to its wintertime draw.

If Teton County is in the larval stage of recreation district development, Blaine County emerged from its cocoon long ago. Approaching its fiftieth year, Blaine County’s district seems to do everything: It built the community’s aquatic center and the Wood River Trail, a paved, multi-use, year-round path that connects the entire Wood River Valley along the old Union Pacific Sun Valley railroad line. It runs all kinds of traditional sports and summer camp programs, and it built a pump track and other bike trails at Quigley Park near Hailey.

All that on a \$5.2 million annual budget that includes roughly \$1.7 million from taxpayers, a similar amount to what Teton County stands to collect. Philanthropy makes up about 25 percent of the revenue, while program fees are the biggest bucket at 40 percent. “A lot of people don’t realize that we are a taxing district, because our tax rate is the equivalent of the cemetery districts,” Morgan says. “So, it’s a really small number on your property tax bill.”

Hearing about BCRD’s breadth of programming might raise some hackles among detractors in Teton County. In the 1970s, Blaine voters approved their rec district with the express purposes of building the aquatic center and the Wood River Trail, capital campaigns that took at least a decade each.

Some Teton Valley residents have advocated for an aquatic center, with Teton Valley Aquatics helping facilitate the donation of a seven-acre parcel to the city of Driggs. The parallels concern Driggs resident Robert Boyles. “I worry that they’re going to try to build a pool, rec center, those type of things, things that have both large capital expenditures and large amounts of ongoing and continuous expenses,” he says.

Members of Teton County’s inaugural rec district board say it’s unlikely district funds would go toward a pool. “\$1.9 million sounds like a lot, but it will go really fast,” rec district director Olivia Goodale says. Her term ends in January 2026. “I don’t know if the community would want to see that entire budget focused on one specific thing when there are so many different user groups.”

LAYING THE FOUNDATION

On August 12, a handful of members of the public and a few county staffers sat in the commissioners’ chambers at the Teton County Courthouse. At the staid affair, the rec district board approved its first budget, a \$1.9 million plan that includes tax revenue to be collected next year and a loan of roughly \$175,000 the board took out to get up and running.

That loan, permitted only in its first year, allowed the board to hire lawyers and an executive director, build a website, and take care of administrative pieces that are “not sexy,” as several board members put it, but *are* necessary.

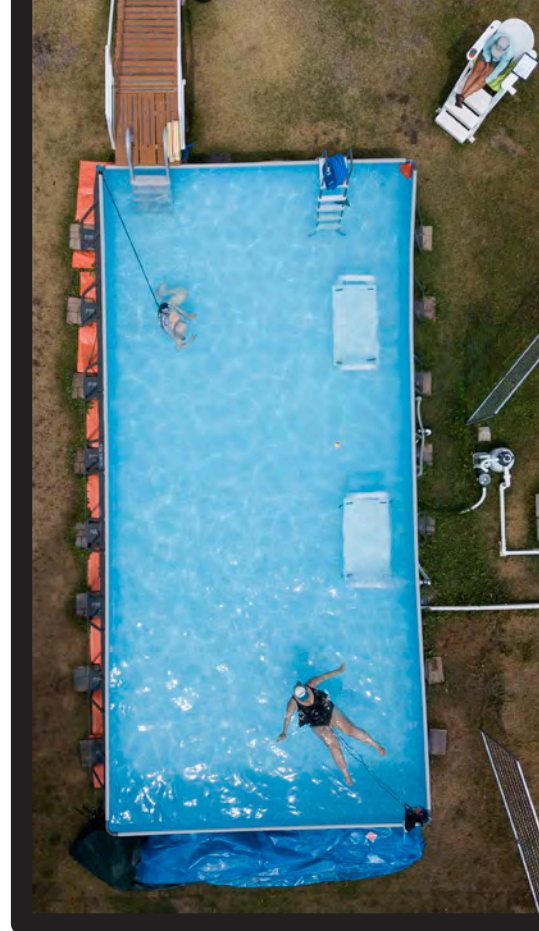
Katie Bradbury began her role as the inaugural executive director in late October. She previously served as the recreation services superintendent for Sandpoint, Idaho.

The directors explained that the first-year expenditures make them ready to serve the community the day they start collecting taxes. Their idea is to have the infrastructure in place to offer recreation right away when they have revenue.

“These kinds of things just lead to a better quality of life. I believe that the lowest income brackets are the ones that are going to benefit from this the most.”

“Our first priority is the backlog, things that have been neglected and need to be brought up to speed,” director John Beller says. Mending soccer fields that have ankle-breaking holes, making bathrooms at trailheads accessible, and improving heavily used paths and trails in need of maintenance are all projects that continually float up in conversations with rec district board members. “It’s not an inexpensive effort,” John says, “but that’s a pretty simple request.”

Other immediate priorities include supporting small nonprofits that offer specific sports, like baseball, softball, and lacrosse. Right now, each of these groups runs its own registration system and has its own director and admin. John hopes the rec district can take on some of that load. “Some of these organizations pay \$3,000, \$4,000 a year for a sign-up software,” he says. That’s money they could direct toward equipment or scholarships if it were freed up.



NATE CAREY
executive director
Valley Adaptive Sports





FROM IMPROVING CITY PARKS and making trailhead bathrooms accessible to helping local students access winter sports, the new recreation district has the potential for wide-ranging impact.

Mostly, these ideas are still just that: ideas. It may take years to move through the maintenance backlog, but the district already has money set aside in its budget to support both nonprofits and city governments through a contract system. Then comes the fun part—finding creative ways to build new infrastructure and programming. For instance, Sara lives in Teton; many of her constituents value the Teton County Fairgrounds, which could be a candidate for funds. “It’s an existing multi-use facility, and they have a clear vision for the improvements they want to do there,” she says. “It’s also a way to help preserve and celebrate our Western heritage.”

Mountain Bike The Tetons could use rec district funds, executive director Chris Brule says, to help with the growing trail network it maintains. Grand Targhee Ski and Snowboard Foundation executive director Gary Mackenzie says money to support the return of the Winter Sports Program, in which schoolkids ski, sled, Nordic ski, and otherwise play in the snow, would be a great way to level the playing field in the expensive winter activities Teton Valley boasts. “I know for a fact that when I was a kid, had the winter sports opportunity not been available, the majority of my school peers would have never been able to experience any of that,” says Gary, who grew up in Teton.

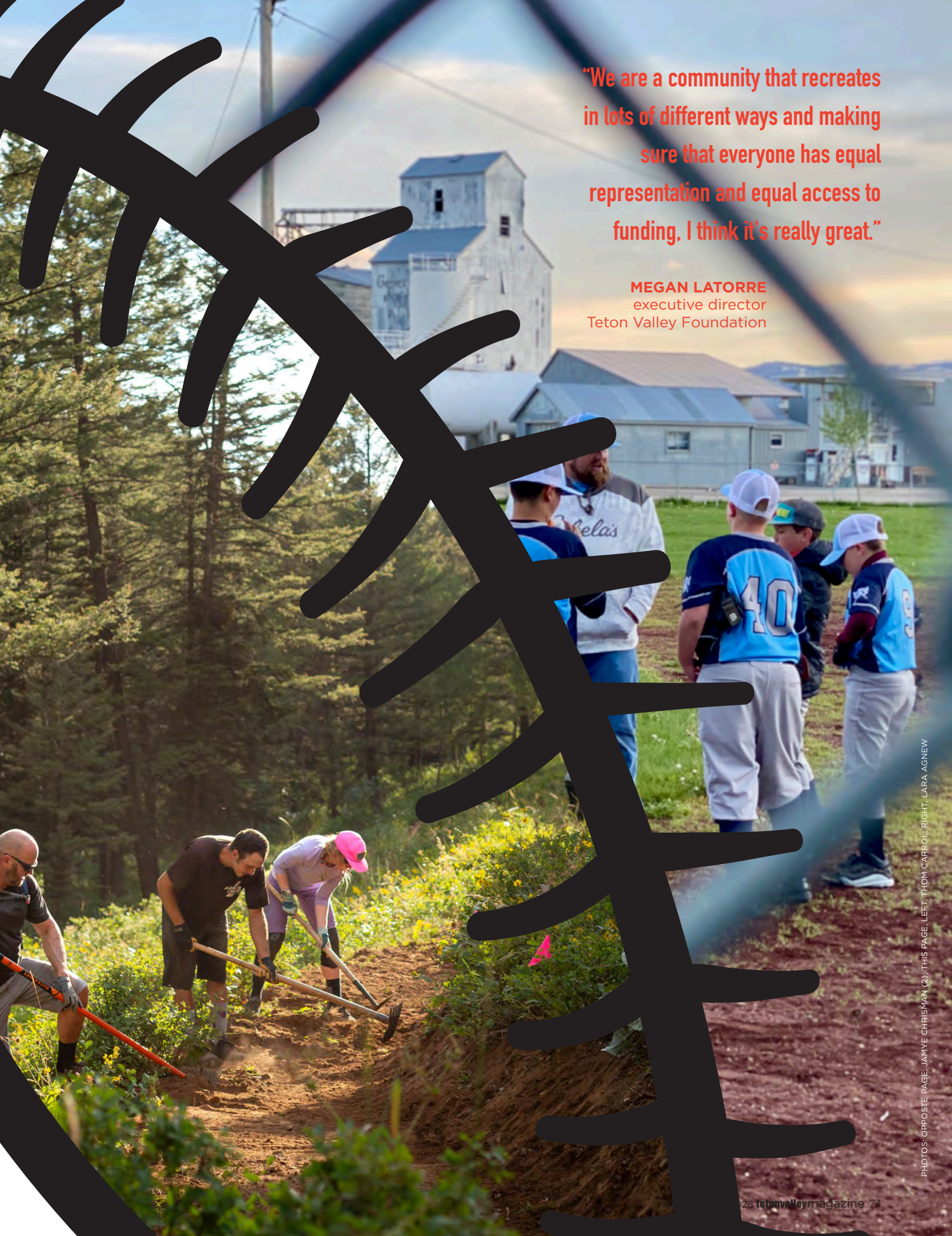
Nate sees an opportunity to build accessible bathrooms at trailheads so athletes with disabilities can use public facilities. And Megan at Teton Valley Foundation has those big plans for the Kotler Ice Arena. Still, she sees the new district not just as a resource for her organization, but as an advocate for recreation throughout the valley. “We are a community that recreates in lots of different ways and making sure that everyone has equal representation and equal access to funding, I think it’s really great,” she says.

All this is to say, the possibilities are endless. If Blaine County is an example, it’s hard to know what Teton County’s rec district may offer in twenty years, let alone fifty. But one thing’s for sure: it will be community-guided. Board members are elected officials, so if members of the public aren’t satisfied with the direction it takes, they can run for office to help steer the ship themselves. This November, Matt Thackray was elected to fill Olivia Goodale’s open seat and John Beller was elected for a second term. Each director serves a four-year term, and Sara’s seat will be up for election in 2027.

John, who helped the push to form the district, notes one interaction he had while signature-gathering that encapsulates the need for this funding and gargantuan effort. He was sitting at the Teton Valley Aquatics seasonal pool last summer, and a pair of young mothers who had grown up in the valley approached him.

“They said, ‘We really need something for our kids that is better than just going partying in the hills.’ There’s not a lot of opportunity for kids to do things if they don’t have money,” John says. “So if the rec district can help make those things happen, I think that might be pretty cool.” **tv**





"We are a community that recreates in lots of different ways and making sure that everyone has equal representation and equal access to funding, I think it's really great."

MEGAN LATORRE
executive director
Teton Valley Foundation





Turbulent Flow

A photographer's fascination with Trail Creek

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY LINDA M SWOPE

My captivation with Trail Creek began in January 2024. I was looking for action. Anything moving interests me, and Trail Creek, despite the frigid winter temperatures, was still in constant motion, surging within its icy edges.

This small but mighty channel begins high above Wyoming's Teton Pass. Trail Creek then accompanies and welcomes you across the Idaho state line and into Teton Valley. From there, it journeys on to join the Teton River.

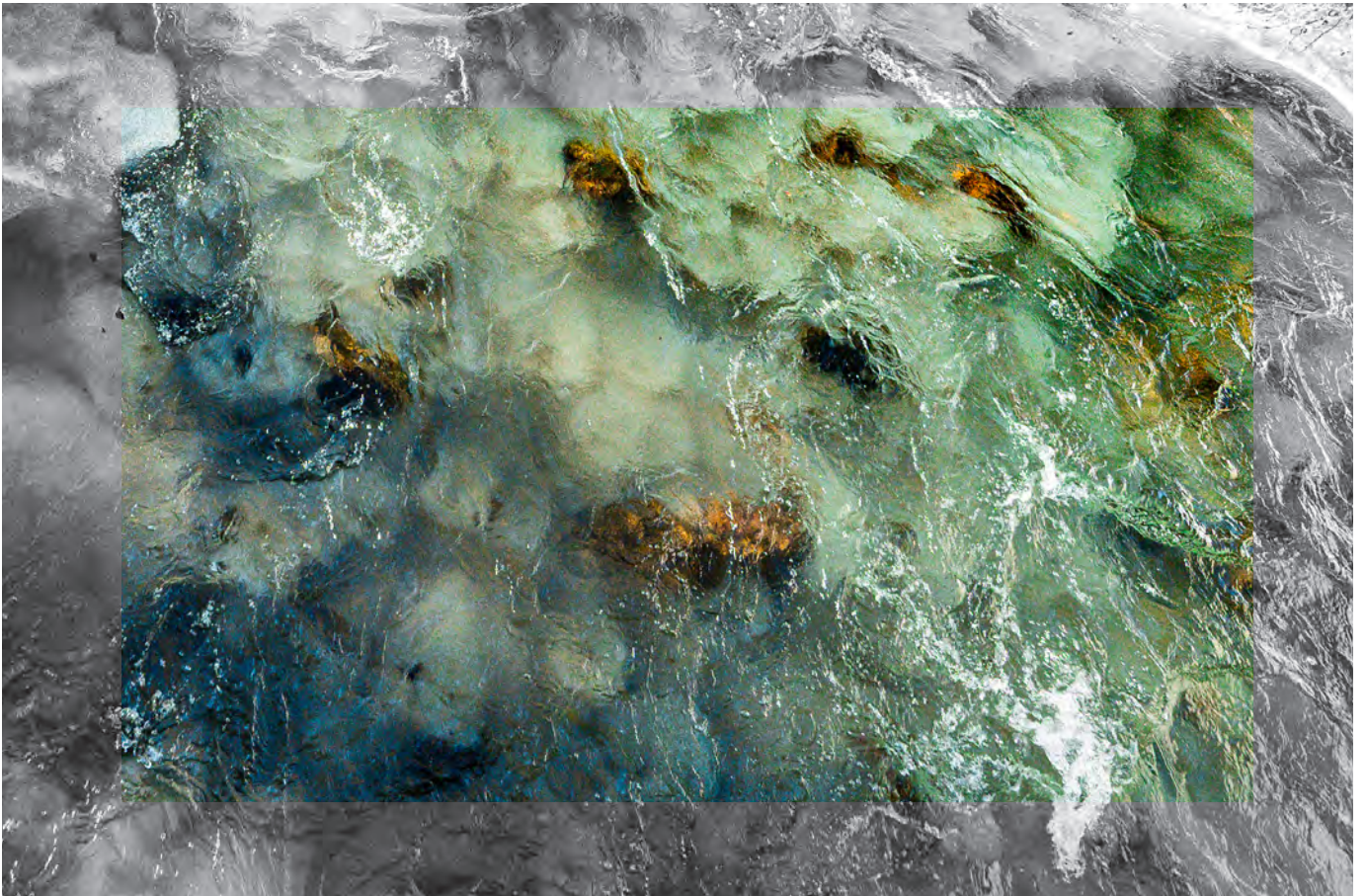
As Trail Creek wends its way through Victor, life abounds. I found eighteen bird species feeding and mating to the music of moving water. In spring, the creek roared to life with blooming flowers and shrubs sipping from the banks. Autumn showed off red and golden leaves reflected in the blue stream. There is an allure in every season, but winter's delicate, lacy ice might suit it best.

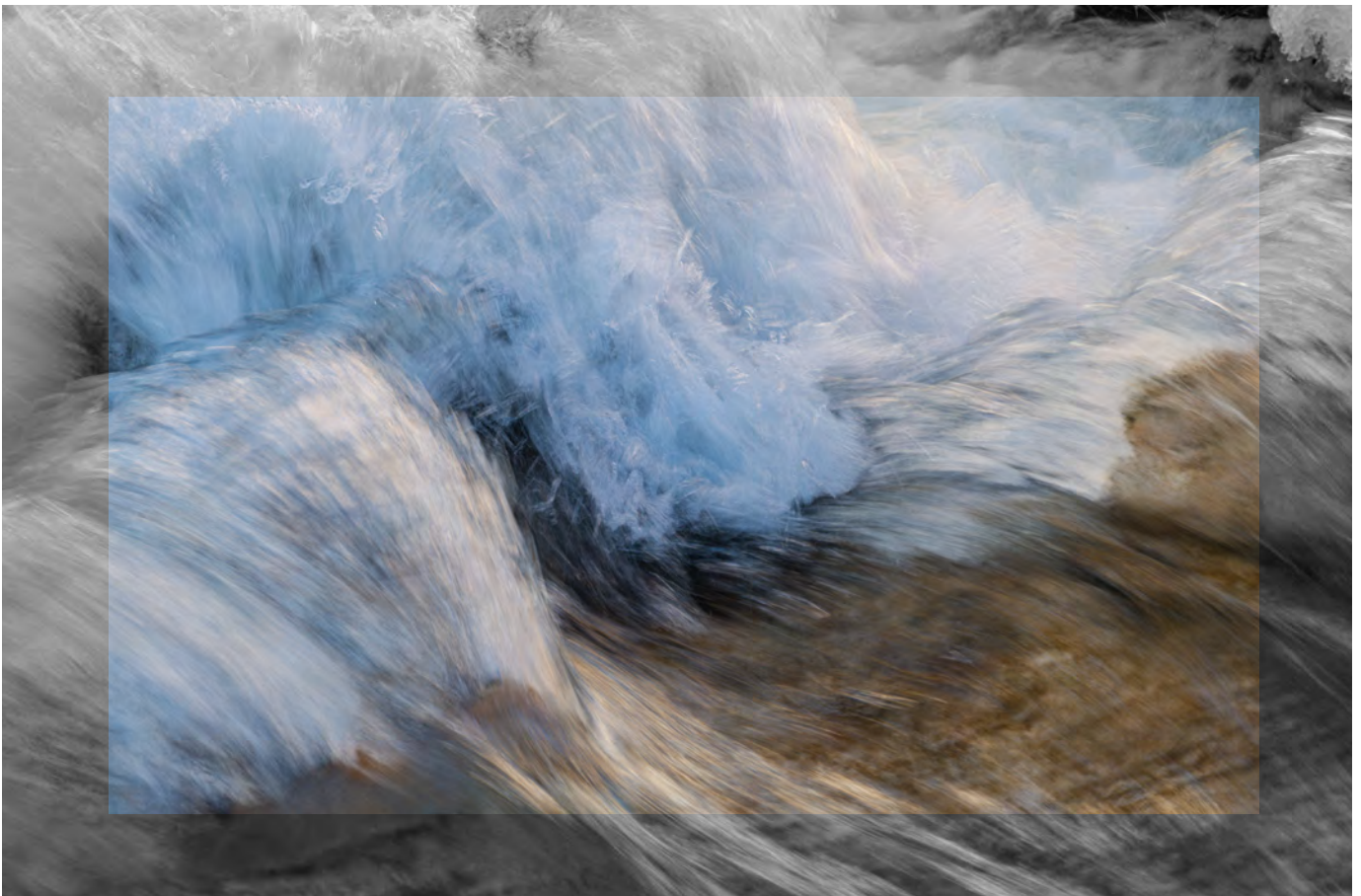
The beauty is unmistakable. Trail Creek and her constancy deserve a closer look.

The motion of the water can be described as *turbulent flow*. This phenomenon occurs when a fluid moves irregularly and chaotically. Rather than a calm waterway flowing in one direction, the fluid particles collide and mix, creating eddies and vortices within the streambanks.



I soon became hooked on looking for it. An art example of turbulent flow is Van Gogh's painting *Starry Night*. The iconic painting is celebrated for depicting Kolmogorov's theory of turbulence in the swirls of the sky lines. The flowing water of Trail Creek is a real life example. See for yourself.









Kindness Unleashed

Aska's Animals and other advocates
change the trajectory of lives in peril

BY CHRISTINA SHEPHERD MCGUIRE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LARA AGNEW





When I first visited Aska's Animals Foundation in Victor, I had a loose idea of the organization's mission. I remember when Aska, a self-proclaimed "cat lady," would rescue stray kittens back in the day from places like underneath the Knotty Pine restaurant, nurture them back to health, and then find them good homes. So, I knew what I was getting into. But as I stepped through the farm's gate and was greeted by Papa and Wally, two of the sixteen rescue pigs who live there, I knew this wasn't just your typical animal rescue operation.



Aska Langman, founder and board member of Aska's Animals, and Lantz Hartley, executive director, ushered me in among free-range chickens and more pigs. Aska explained that some of the pigs arrived from shelters, while others came from individuals surrendering pets for a variety of reasons.

First, we visited the three "puppy palaces," as they call them, which are tiny home-style structures. The first was built in collaboration with Jackson's Animal Adoption Center and constructed by Aska's husband, Will Haywood, the most unwilling, willing volunteer. (This means being the unofficial full-time farm handyman and snow remover.) The other two modular palaces were procured from Canada with fundraising dollars. Aska explained the purpose of the temporary shelters.

"The idea behind the puppy palaces is to provide a place where the moms

and puppies get to grow up apart from the stressful shelter environment," she says. "We keep them until they are eight weeks old, and then they go off to our partners for adoption."

Contrary to my assumption, Aska's Animals does not handle adoption. Rather, they provide an environment for rehabilitation, animal education, and community outreach.

"We have about 200 to 250 [rescue] puppies in our program a year, and adoption is just not where our strength is," Aska continues. "Our strength is in dog behavior and providing great care for the animals while they are here." She stressed that dog behavior, like human behavior, starts during early development.

Sometimes the puppies' receiving organization is a shelter that has a municipal contact, like the Idaho Humane Society in Boise or the Snake River Animal



Shelter in Idaho Falls. In other cases, it may be a rescue facility, like the Animal Adoption Center in Jackson, depending on who has capacity. Farm space is prioritized for moms with puppies that have already been born into the sheltering system, and for every litter housed at Aska's, the organization is turning down another three to five litters.

"It's a first-come, first-served type of basis," she says. "One dog isn't more deserving because it's coming from Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Texas ... If we have room, it's like, 'Who needs help?'"

After their eight weeks at Aska's, the dogs must be sent to receiving shelters in larger cities, where their chances of being adopted are greater. The logistics of moving the dogs around is no easy task and involves a lot of text and Facebook messages, in addition to providing their care.

"There's a lot of work that happens behind each puppy, like vaccines, spay/neuter, transport, treating them for illnesses if they have one," Aska says. "So, they are really cute, but it's a lot of work."

Next, Aska and Lantz took me to the second palace, where a puppy family was in quarantine. (Aska advised me not to touch.) The farm instates a two-week quarantine for every litter that comes in, which involves special clothing for caretakers when they enter the palace. The laundry won't leave the premises until the sanctuary is sure the dogs are free of any communicable sickness.

The third puppy palace housed dogs that were found in New Mexico and taped up in a cardboard box. Originally, Aska noted, there were eleven puppies. The New Mexico shelter kept two, two died on the way to Utah because they were in such bad shape, and seven in addition to the mom arrived at the farm.

"They were matted in feces and so sick," Aska says. "One passed away after the first forty-eight hours—his little body couldn't go on—but the rest have survived."

These littermates were named after sandwiches from Figgie's Deli in Driggs: Tuna, Meatball, Po Boy, Hamburger, Cheese, and Bologna. Each palace has a theme to help the staff and volunteers know who's being referred to.

Just then, we were greeted by Stella, a pig with a funny walk, who escorted us into the barn. Aska explained that the barn was originally built for personal use, and its infrastructure needs upgrad-

ing. The sink drain doesn't empty into a septic system, but rather into a French drain, something that will need to be remedied long-term. Still, the heat in the barn is working and functional, allowing the pigs to nest alongside Aska's childhood horse and several chickens during the winter.

The organization's office is housed in Aska's old residence, and this is where we got down to the nitty-gritty of their mission. I met Ali Anderson, the animal care coordinator, and got a peek inside the office of Sam Diaz, canine behavior and enrichment manager. Lantz, who just started as executive director in August, says that he observed the farm's operation for a year before officially starting in a leadership position.

"I fell in love with the program because it's not a conventional way to tackle animal rescue. It was a cool thing to get swept away by."

LANTZ HARTLEY
executive director
Aska's Animals

"I fell in love with the program because it's not a conventional way to tackle animal rescue. It was a cool thing to get swept away by," he says.

Currently, Lantz's duties involve an interesting combination of day-to-day animal care, the shuffle of event communications, and visibility in the community. The elevator pitch version involves what he calls "three pillars": provide a sanctuary for farm animals; rescue dogs from programs and people who can't accommodate them; and offer a behavioral program for the dogs they rescue as well as other community dogs.

That behavior program operates on a sliding scale and is available to all. Pet owners can buy a single lesson or a four-pack. For people who can't afford it, it's free.

"The idea behind the behavior program is to be able to help people so that they are not surrendering their dogs to the animal shelter," Lantz says. "Sam's work is to help train dogs that are potentially chasing wildlife, biting someone as they enter the house, or having a hard

time with kids." He notes it's not a "teach my dog to sit, stay, lie down" type of curriculum.

Part of Aska's behavioral program involves community outreach. Young dogs are transported to events like Puppies and Puppicious at Alpine Air Cafe in Victor. These planned "puppy outings" assure that the dogs see the world before they are adopted. This helps with socialization while also getting the puppies comfortable with transport, should they need to go to Boise or another faraway shelter to be adopted.

"By growing up here, it really does change the fate of their entire lives," Lantz says. "It gives puppies the tools to be adoptable and find perfect homes, rather than going to owners that need to work with them further in order to make them good pets."

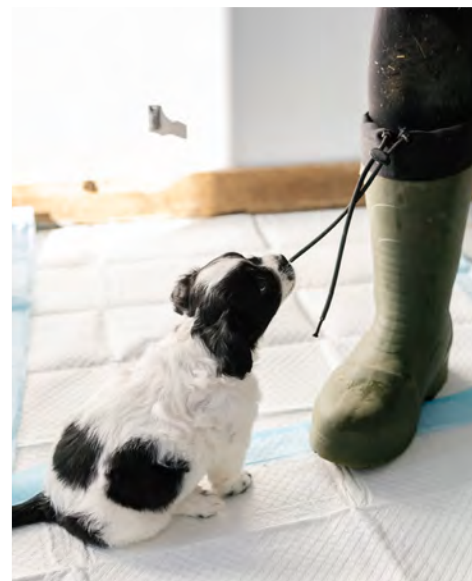
When asked about future plans, the team says facility expansion tops the list. In order to take on more moms and pups, they need better wintertime resources, like more outdoor coverings, and basic things like a septic tank.

"We want to make sure the growth we have is sustainable," Aska says. "The reality is we are not going to save all the animals out there, but we can have a big impact on the ones we can save."

Aska's Animals currently operates with five board members, three staff members, and approximately fifty to seventy-five volunteers. They also offer two children's books, *Aska's Animals: Where Puppies Play and Pigs Fly* and *Stewie's Story*, both written by Hope Nartonis and illustrated by Grace Peck with a third in the works. *Stewie's Story*, which came out this fall, tells the story of Billie the bunny arriving to the farm and his new friend, Stewie, who shows him around. The books, an idea hatched by former employee Jenna Martin, are meant to inspire young minds to be captivated by animals in hopes of instilling a generation of future animal advocates.

Aska says the whole thing is "just a wild ride."

"Twenty years ago, this is what I wanted to do and now I'm doing it," she says. "Did I know what it would become? No. The whole idea of starting the nonprofit is so that we could do more than what I was accomplishing on my own, and it's really cool."



BEHIND EACH PUPPY
at Aska's Animals Foundation is a team working on medical care, transport, and behavioral lessons.

“Twenty years ago, this is what I wanted to do and now I’m doing it. Did I know what it would become? No. The whole idea of starting the nonprofit is so that we could do more than what I was accomplishing on my own, and it’s really cool.”

ASKA LANGMAN

founder and board member, Aska’s Animals



PAWS Animal Shelter

PAWS (Providing Animal Welfare Services) acquired the Teton Valley Community Animal Shelter in January 2022. They already operated an existing facility in Jackson that was (and still is) exclusively funded by donations and grants.

According to Ann Loyola, director of shelter operations in Driggs, “We are now operating the only open-admission animal shelter in the Teton Valley area, accepting all stray, lost, abandoned, and owner-relinquished pets in Teton County, Idaho.”

While the shelter primarily cares for cats and dogs, with a “wildly fluctuating population,” they have also taken in rabbits, guinea pigs, and a parrot. At full capacity, PAWS of Teton Valley can house twenty-four cats and twenty-one dogs. But at one point in 2024, they had forty-two cats, mostly kittens.

“Our facility needs more than a facelift,” says Ann. “Essential upgrades are needed for systems including electrical wiring and capacity, plumbing, roof repair, kennel reconstruction—you name it, we need it.” The organization has drafted an architectural plan for a new, more efficient shelter and hopes to begin raising funds sometime in 2026.

Still, PAWS’ programs run strong. The nonprofit shelter provides veterinary care for its animals in the form of vaccinations, deworming, and sterilization. They also offer spay/neuter vouchers to help defray veterinary costs.

PAWS walks potential pet owners all the way through the adoption process and educates the new owners on this lifelong commitment.

Ann stressed that the facility is “way more than just a shelter.

“We know that when a pet is suffering, there is usually a person on the other end of the leash who needs help, too,” she says. “That’s why our social services have always been at the core of our work.”

Ann said PAWS is a touchpoint for pet owners seeking nonjudgmental support and connections with services that will help them and their furry family members. They offer social services like financial assistance, access to veterinary care, and community resources to help prevent pet surrender. This holistic approach to animal welfare “offers a nurturing environment where both the well-being of animals and their human companions are intertwined.”

“We know that when a pet is suffering, there is usually a person on the other end of the leash who needs help, too. That’s why our social services have always been at the core of our work.”

ANN LOYOLA
executive director
PAWS of Teton Valley



Animal Adoption Center

The Animal Adoption Center (AAC) in Jackson works closely with Aska’s Animals, as well as with other regional and national shelters, to welcome animals from overcrowded situations into its rescue and adoption program. Since the organization’s inception in 2004, the AAC has positively impacted the lives of more than 30,000 animals, typically caring for eighteen to thirty-five cats and fifteen to thirty-five dogs at any given time. All of the dogs and puppies in this program spend their nights and weekends in foster care, and the number of animals they serve is directly proportionate to the number of human fosters on hand.

“We are always looking for new people and families to work with,” says AAC’s executive director Carrie Boynton. “Our team provides everything needed for a doggie sleepover, including food, leash, bowls, kennel, and medications.”

The mission of the AAC is to save the lives of homeless animals through

rescue, adoption, education, and spay/neuter services. This is accomplished through low-income vouchers with partner vets, as well as sterilization clinics, specifically one hosted annually on the Wind River Indian Reservation in western Wyoming. The center works with nine vets across the state to provide essential medical care, both in the field and in-house.

“Most recently, we added a medical suite to our facility [in Jackson] and are now able to provide spay/neuter services to the animals in our adoption program, as well as to pets in our partnering shelters,” Carrie says.

The AAC’s adoption process requires a mandatory foster period for approved families and individuals. Once everyone determines it’s a good fit, the team works to process the adoption, which involves signing papers and paying a fee (\$250 for dogs, \$100 for cats). The organization also offers post-adoption training support through its friends at Aska’s Animals.



I must admit, before I visited Aska’s farm and chatted with other local organizations, I thought I had an idea of how animal rescues worked. What I didn’t know was the behind-the-scenes dedication of every person involved in our region’s animal advocacies. From countless hours spent on the computer, to selfless time caring for even the sickest of residents, these crusaders offer far more than a voice for the voiceless stray. It was eye-opening to get a peek into a perfectly calculated system—one that involves changing the fate of one dog, cat, or pig at a time. **tv**

BOTH JACKSON HOLE’S Animal Adoption Center and Teton Valley’s PAWS Animal Shelter work to find homes for the dogs and cats housed at each shelter.





Dog Is My Copilot

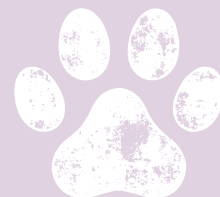
Speaking of unconventional animal advocacy programs ... the Jackson organization Dog Is My Copilot is the brainchild of orthopedic surgeon Dr. Peter Rork. Highly regarded, Dr. Rork's encore career merges his love for pets with his passion for flying airplanes.

In 2012, Dr. Rork combined forces with Judy Zimet, a Scottsdale, Arizona real estate attorney and animal lover, to start this nonprofit with a mission to transport animals from overcrowded shelters to adoption centers by airplane. Using two planes, the team works with municipal shelters in California, Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma—where stray pets are at the highest risk for euthanasia—and flies them to adoption partners. In 2021, Dog Is My Copilot saved forty-five dogs in a Texas facility from euthanasia by flying them to the West Coast for adoption. They partnered with China Rescue Dogs to save thirty-one dogs from the meat trade industry in 2022, and in 2023, with the help of Austin Pets Alive!, spared a “shy” eight-month-old golden retriever named Darla by flying her from a kill shelter in Texas to Mile High Lab Mission in Colorado, where her *forever* family was waiting.

Check out the organization's “Happy Tails” website that highlights many of the pets that have landed safely into a new future.

For more information, or to get involved, visit:

- askasanimals.org
- pawshelpspets.org/animal-shelter-driggs-idaho
- animaladoptioncenter.org
- dogcopilot.org





An ice climber scales the Eagle Scout Pillar on the western slope of Teton Canyon—one of dozens of sought-after routes tackled when conditions allow.

Walking on Thick Ice

A look into the niche world of ice climbing in the Tetons

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY
BY BRANDON WANTHAL

Teton Valley is world-renowned for its winter recreation. Skiing and snowboarding dominate the scene, with snowmobiling, snowshoeing, fishing, and hunting filling out the margins. But deep within the vast Teton Range, one overlooked group hides in the shadows ... literally.

From November to April, the Teton climate is consistently cold enough to bond water with rock, freezing perennial waterfalls and seasonal seeps into magnificent ice climbs. Some, like Prospector Falls in Grand Teton National Park, can tower upwards of five hundred vertical feet.

Decades ago, ice climbing was ultra-niche, relegated to a fringe collection of self-proclaimed masochists with an abnormally high tolerance for risk and suffering. Information on climbs was sparse, weather forecasts were less reliable than today's, and equipment was primitive. Fortunately, times have changed. In 2025, propelled by exponential advancements in gear, meteorology, and public information, ice climbing has entered the mainstream.

Sort of. According to the Outdoor Industry Association, approximately three million Americans participate in ice climbing each year, up from a mere 50,000 in the early 2000s.

As an avid ice climber for the past six years, I've seen the number of locals interested in the sport grow substantially every season. And while the concentration of Teton ice climbs pales in com-

parison to North American destinations like Cody, Wyoming; Bozeman, Montana; and Salt Lake City, Utah; there's still ample frozen water to go around in the greater Teton region.

So, how does it work? Climbers use specialized ice tools and crampons to ascend frozen waterfalls, implementing ropes and ice screws to protect against a fall. An "ice tool" is an ice axe with a curved shaft for enhanced ergonomics, and a thin pick designed for puncturing, but not fracturing, hard ice. Crampons resemble a downward-pointed steel crown that fits to the bottom of a rigid-soled boot, with one or two points extending outward from the toe. With all appendages clad in sharp steel, climbers can swing, kick, step, and pull their way toward the sky. An "ice screw" is a hollow metal screw with an extendable handle that easily bores into ice by hand. Climbers periodically install ice screws and clip their rope to them with a carabiner to guard against falls. In solid ice, an ice screw can hold upwards of 4,000 pounds.



With the right gear, ice climbers in the Tetons can experience readily accessible winter mountaineering that few places on Earth offer.

RIGHT: The author leading the Eagle Scout Pillar in Teton Canyon. This 140-foot-tall route is visible from the groomed Nordic cross-country ski track. Look for it on your next visit to the canyon.

BELOW: The author leading the Right Ghost Pillar in Teton Canyon.



According to Garrick Hart's *Teton Ice* guidebook, the first guidebook exclusive to ice climbing in the Teton Range, there are more than three hundred ice climbs in our home mountains. The majority of these climbs are relatively small—less than fifty feet—but a few prominent players stand out. Prospector Falls is the tallest reliable ice climb in Grand Teton National Park. In the summer, this perennial waterfall is visible on the southern wall of Death Canyon from the popular Phelps Lake Overlook. By winter it is a terraced, 500-foot wall of ice, up to twenty feet thick and a hundred feet wide. On the lauded 13,775-foot Grand Teton, a 1,000-foot, 60-to-70-degree ice vein con-

nects the snowfields of Teepe Glacier to the impressive Ford Couloir. This miraculous hallway is a vital component of the Grand's standard winter climbing and skiing route, providing reasonable passage over what would otherwise be very difficult and loose rock climbing.

On the western slope, Teton Canyon reigns supreme, boasting dozens of stellar ice climbs, including the venerable 140-foot-tall Eagle Scout Pillar, visible from the groomed Nordic cross-country ski track. Have you noticed it? If not, look for an incredible and prominent monolith of baby blue ice pouring over the first cliff band above the Treasure Mountain Boy Scout Camp. The magnitude of this natural wonder is impossible to comprehend from the road. Even if you're not a climber, I suggest visiting the base.

With all the many winter activities at our fingertips in the Tetons, ice climbing

may not soar to the top of the "must-do" list. So, why do we do it? As a serial ice climber, I can attest we are built differently. But contrary to popular opinion, neither adrenaline nor thrill-seeking plays a role in my draw to ice climbing. Instead, I am attracted to the physical challenge and building intimate personal connections with partners through trust, all while experiencing deep immersion into the natural world through a unique, ephemeral medium.

It is also a sport that is all about timing, and knowing exactly when to go, with safety at the forefront. While some ice climbs form in early winter and remain scalable through April, others can form and disappear within a week. Two winters ago, I climbed a brilliant 750-foot route on the north face of Sphinx Mountain near Ennis, Montana. According to local guidebook author Joe Josephson, that climb, named Styrofoam Boots, is only known to form about "every decade or so." Nine out of ten winters the face is a mostly dry, unclimbable mess of rot-

"I am attracted to the physical challenge... all while experiencing deep immersion into the natural world through a unique, ephemeral medium."

Brandon Wanthal

ten, weather-worn conglomerate rock. But in December 2023, the perfect recipe of early winter snowfall, warm days for melting, and cold nights for freezing created a mythical passage of climbable ice. In this way, the sport is like a treasure hunt. You never know exactly what you'll get—and as the time-honored adage goes: There's only one way to find out!

Ice climbing is highly specialized and dangerous. If you're interested in trying the sport, it's best to go with an experienced friend, or hire a professional guide. Exum Mountain Guides is the premier service in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, with headquarters in Jackson, Wyoming. They have access to every nook and cranny of the Teton Range, and guides capable of facilitating a safe and magical ice climbing experience. **tv**



Every skyline in Teton Valley tells a story.

Manuel “Manny” Garcia began writing his with a hammer in hand as a laborer in 1997. Through dedication and skill, he rose to become a lead carpenter and a respected framing contractor, building a reputation for integrity and quality that would become the foundation of his future.

In 2014, he launched his own company, 307 Builders. Named for the local area code, the company is a testament to Manny’s deep commitment to this community. His vision, however, stretched beyond building structures to building neighborhoods. He strategically transitioned from contractor to developer, successfully completing projects like a sixteen-unit apartment complex and several single-family homes, reinvesting every success back into the valley he calls home.

This brings us to his latest legacy-in-the-making: Lucy Meadows Subdivision.

Lucy Meadows is the culmination of Manny’s decades of experience—a thoughtfully planned community on 80 acres of pristine land, where the infrastructure is complete and the vision is clear. It represents the 307 Builders philosophy: to create beautiful, valuable spaces that enhance our community.

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Red House Flowers' tulips are planted in soil-filled crates each October, then chilled to mimic winter before moving under LED lights to imitate spring. Flower lovers can purchase winter and spring shares for weekly bouquets.

Winter Blooms

Red House Flowers cultivates fresh tulips from farm to vase while the snow flies outside

BY JUDY ALLEN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CAMRIN DENGEL

Last year on Valentine's Day, I lovingly gave my husband these instructions: Go to Rise Coffee House in Driggs. Get there early. Come home immediately.

The goal of this errand for love was singular and specific: to snag a bouquet of fresh, limited-edition tulips from Red House Flowers, delivered early that morning, before they sold out. While chocolate is always yummy, and a greeting card is nice, that year I coveted the red blooms, made all the more luscious by several feet of snow on the ground outside. And, all the more remarkable, they were grown just down the highway in Victor.

Wait, what? Locally grown flowers in mid-winter? The Teton Valley iteration of this phenomenal feat is the brainchild of Emily Sustick and Katie Knipe, partners since 2019 at Red House Flowers. Based in Victor, Emily and Katie grow cut-flowers, design arrangements and bouquets utilizing exclusively local blooms, and teach workshops on flower arranging and wreath-making. They also offer spring and summer flower shares, which are a weekly subscription of in-season blooms.

While growing almost anything is a precarious endeavor in Teton Valley, the two women have expanded their gardens and flower varieties gradually. In 2021, Red House offered their first spring flower share.

"I fell in love with tulips," Emily says. "Discovering the diversity of tulips that don't even actually look like tulips was what hooked me."

Then, the share was just greenhouse-grown tulips. That fall, to improve both volume and success of their new-found tulip romance, the partners attended a workshop detailing methods for growing them indoors.

While producing more stems earlier certainly increases their business's viability, Emily and Katie have another, loftier goal: contributing to sustainable flower production worldwide. As Emily explains, Valentine's Day is the biggest flower holiday of the year. Roses, especially red ones, are the most desired bouquet, and they're an international business. Flowers are brought into the United States from Ecuador and Colombia on up to twenty temperature-controlled flights per day for the three weeks leading up to February 14, totaling a billion stems. "The

environmental cost of flowers is often overlooked, and that is a big motivation for growing flowers locally," Katie says.

The Red House journey to local Valentine's Day blooms continued with the knowledge Emily and Katie gained from Emily von Trapp and Linda D'Arco's program, "The Tulip Workshop." Tulips are grown from bulbs, a compact package of nutrients designed by nature to feed the plant and put forth the spring blossom. To get cut tulips any earlier than an outside, soil-grown bulb would yield, growers must "force" or coax the bulb to bloom.

"When forcing a bulb, we're think-



Katie Knipe (left) and Emily Sustick, the duo behind Red House Flowers, force-grow vibrant tulips in winter.

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ing about providing conditions it would need in nature,” Emily says.

In 2022, Red House offered their second spring tulip share in March and April, this time with blooms grown hydroponically under LED lights. Knowing they were onto something, they pushed the bloom schedule even earlier the next year to offer their first Valentine’s bouquets at valley coffee shops. In 2024 they added a Valentine’s bouquet preorder option to their online store. By fall 2024, Emily and Katie felt ready to commit to a larger scale of forced tulip cultivation. Armed with new experience, they placed an order for 10,000 tulip bulbs.

Emily and Katie have a lofty goal: contributing to sustainable flower production worldwide.

When bulbs arrive in October, they’re planted immediately in soil in crates. Because tulips need a chilling period (as would happen outdoors in winter), they start their life in cold storage, where they experience “winter.” About a month before bloom, Emily and Katie bring the planted bulbs into the growing area, where they are treated to “spring” under timed, temperature-controlled LED lights. This is the final step to bringing forth those gorgeous blooms.

Varieties far surpass what you might picture when you think of a traditional tulip: double tulips with indigo and violet; fringe tulips with eye-catching edging; and even parrot tulips that are a kaleidoscope of vibrant patterns.

“My favorites are the peony-style and French tulips,” Emily says. “These are called doubles because of their multiple layers of petals.”

Brought out one variety at a time, each features its own type of artistry, unveiled week after week.

Fast-forward to February 2025, and those red tulips are ready to be cut for Valentine’s bouquets. Red House has also added two winter tulip shares before Mother’s Day, featuring stunning colors and blooms with fringed and frilly petals, as well as classic tulips. Looking forward, Emily and Katie are experimenting with forcing other bulbs, including lilies, early daffodils, and grape hyacinth.



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From deep purples to rich reds, tulips come in a variety of styles and colors. Emily Sustick's favorite varieties are the peony-style and French tulips, called doubles thanks to their multiple layers of petals.



The partners articulate a greater vision: encouraging awareness of the diversity of flowers in the natural world.

"What you see in the grocery store is only a small part of what's out there," Katie says.

No matter what they grow next, the pair will continue to play, learn, and experiment. "We have to love what we're doing," Emily says.

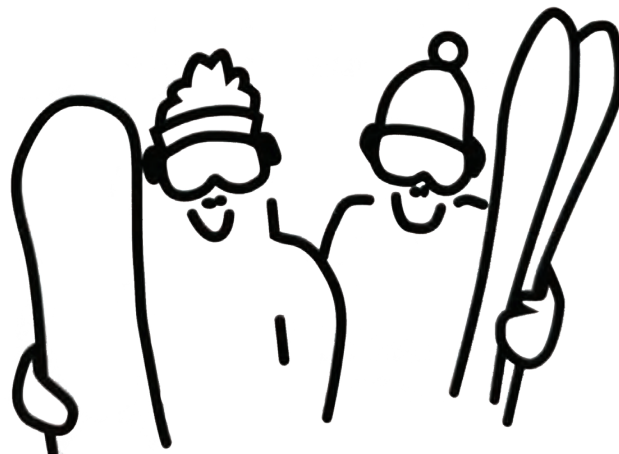
Always conscious of their environmental footprint, Emily notes that Red House composts spent tulip bulbs with foliage and discarded soil. Their growing space is so tight and well-insulated that heating requirements are minimal, and when tulips are done, the space doubles as both cold storage for summer flowers and as a studio for Katie's designs.

This Valentine's Day, I'm conflicted. Should I go for the husband-delivered bouquet again? Maybe give the web pre-order a try? Or indulge in a winter tulip share? Thanks to Red House Flowers, I have many local choices, all of which are a treat to behold—particularly while the snow continues to pile high. **tv**

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Building a home library is part curation, part organization. Christy Smirl works as much to arrange the display of her clients' collections as she does to put them together.

Shelf Life

Christy Smirl created her dream job of designing custom libraries

BY KATE READY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY HANNAH HARDAWAY

There is something special about a home library. From the smell of the pages to the surprises that each spine discloses about its owner, looking at someone's bookshelves is like a peek inside their mind: a Russian nesting doll containing worlds within worlds.

Jackson resident and book-lover Christy Smirl has made a calling out of creating these worlds around the globe. She's a professional librarian who specializes in unearthing each client's curiosities to create their own *Architectural Digest*-level personal library.

Christy's interests in bespoke libraries started with her mother.

"My mom was really intentional about having a bunch of books around, and reading books with my brother and me before bed," Christy says. "When I got my driver's license, the first place I went by myself was the library. It was that place of curiosity and refuge. I was very into medieval history and castles," she adds with a self-deprecating laugh.

When her mother tried to steer her toward library sciences, Christy rebelled. But an off-the-cuff conversation with an actual student lit a spark.

"She was explaining to me the types of [college] classes she was taking, and it sounded right up my alley: order, systems, helping people, curiosity, and problem-solving."

After receiving her master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Denver, Christy stayed in Colorado and worked in a series of libraries. She later landed at the Teton County Library in Jackson, Wyoming,

where she worked her way up to manager of the collection.

Just as Christy began craving her next chapter, another chance encounter unfolded.

"Someone had come into the public library and asked if anyone around here created custom libraries, and I volunteered," Christy says. "It got me thinking that there's probably more people [wanting the same thing] out there."

With that first project in 2016, in which she created a personal library in a home on Snow King Mountain overlooking Jackson Hole, two words entered her mind: "Dream job."

With a giant mess of stacked books around her, Foxtail Books was born. The name speaks to Christy's comfort in being an elusive presence behind the scenes, and the ability for ideas to stick, like foxtail grass seeds. From curating personal home libraries and hunting for a rare first edition volume to cataloging expansive collections and hosting private showings of rare and unique fine bindings, Foxtail Books covers the gamut for book connoisseurs.

Since then, Christy remains mum on her roster of high-octane clientele. But certain periodicals, like *Oprah Daily*, aren't so modest: "Christy Smirl Designs Private Libraries for the Stars" goes the title of their story about her uncommon career.

"I've always been kind of a neurotic organizer," Christy says. "I think even as a teenager I organized a couple rooms in one of our neighbor's houses." She ad-

mits that she doesn't recall being asked to perform the task.

"I like to figure out the puzzle. It came very naturally."

While she doesn't have formal training in it, Christy has an innate gift for design. She says corralling someone's personal collection of five hundred to one thousand books is easier than managing the 100,000-book collection at the Teton County Library, which she needed to move multiple times due to building additions.

Christy says she enjoys making a client's collected pages flow, letting them shine and tell a story about the owner. It's a process not only about what people are connected to now, but who they're growing into.

"It's an interesting way to look at your life: Who do I want to be? What will the six-year-old want to read when he's sixteen?"



Christy has worked with collections large and small. "I like to figure out the puzzle," she says.



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Sourcing rare and out-of-print books is an unexpected perk of the job.

Books are also a way to communicate with visitors.

"People are always curious about bookshelves when they walk into a home," Christy says. "It says how your brain works, how you see the world. It's a fun way to get to know someone, [revealing] things they may not necessarily tell you."

Christy works on about a dozen personal libraries a year. For some clients it involves shaping the tomes they already have and displaying them in an inviting way; for others, it's building a collection from scratch based on their interests.

Almost a decade in, the patchwork of human curiosities continues to keep Christy on her toes. One project this winter had a hodgepodge of titles devoted to alchemy—the mythological science of making gold out of other metals—as well as magic. Another home library focused on menswear fashion, and still another dove deep into heraldry and flag history.

Of course, locally, there's a lot of shelf space devoted to outdoor pursuits such as skiing and fly fishing.

Whether it's working with a rare book seller or tracking down out-of-print editions, Christy enjoys the hunt and aims to create libraries that dig ever deeper. If one client in Malibu is super stoked on surfing, Christy wants to find the moment surfing was first photographed.

"It's fun to take a specific topic and think, how can I go about finding the thing that they will pull off the shelf and say: 'This is delightful,'" Christy says.

One home library she curated sought to speak to the generations to come.

"I had one client who really wanted a collection for his children to grow into,"

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she says. "So, there was a wonderful fiction section containing classics and modern classics. He also really focused on the life well lived in the non-fiction with philosophy, psychology, individuals with great memoirs. This library wanted to answer: What is a great life?"

She remembers another client in Moran, Wyoming, whose collection of first-

"People are always curious about bookshelves when they walk into a home. It says how your brain works, how you see the world."

Christy Smirl
owner, *Foxtail Books*

edition Audubon, Thoreau, and Darwin titles made her gasp.

"That was before I had as much access to rare books [as I do now], and it opened my eyes to what's out there."

Christy also takes on smaller projects, like sourcing that perfect Christmas present for a bibliophile tech billionaire.

(For those wondering, the tech founder loved the poet Rainer Maria Rilke and, in the end, Christy found something called an artist's book—a work of art in book form—that contained a beautifully illustrated Rilke poem. Many of these artist's books live in the Smithsonian Museum.)

The story doesn't end when the books are placed on the shelves. Libraries are always evolving.

"I have been hunting for several years for the right copy of a Dashiell Hammett, an American noir mystery writer," Christy says. "My client is collecting his books. We have all of the top books except for one. It's my white whale."

For the average person looking to spruce up their book collection without the help of a personal librarian, Christy recommends being intentional with their choices: amass books one by one, waiting until you find something that really speaks to you.

"Curate for yourself a specific mix that feels right for your space," Christy says. "Look at your family's interests: a book on my husband's hobby or my son's favorite subject. A library should push everyone forward." **tv**



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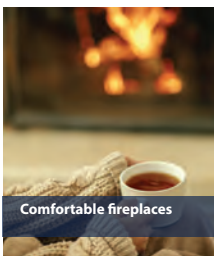


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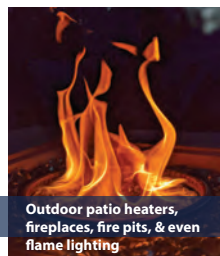


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PIZZA

New York-style in the Tetons

Pinky G's serves up (and delivers!) top-notch pizza



Tom Fay and the pizza pros at Pinky G's Pizzeria serve up mouthwatering New York-style slices and pies. The delicious pizza has attracted fans from all over, including *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives* host Guy Fieri. Don't miss the Guy's Pie, a local favorite created by Guy himself.



BY KATE HULL
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LARA AGNEW

New York-style pizza is a beloved pie variation that riles up some very strong opinions. New Yorkers may say you can only find it in the Big Apple, but we'd disagree. Tucked off Main Street in Victor, owner Tom Fay and his team at Pinky G's Pizzeria are serving up—and delivering to your door in Victor and Driggs—New York-style favorites that have garnered fans all over. Guy Fieri, an American restaurateur and host of the show *Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives*, visited the flagship Jackson Hole location not once but twice. And the menu features a pie made by the TV legend himself: Guy's Pie, with shredded mozzarella, ricotta, blue cheese crumbles, roasted chicken, shredded pepperoni, blue cheese dressing, and Franks RedHot Sauce.

"We hand-toss everything, which leaves a nice thin, crispy, and flat base paired with a delicious, chewy, golden crust on the outside," Tom says. "The New Yorkers say true New York-style crust is due to the water, but we have managed



Teton High School's Aviation STEM Program propels students **into the world of aeronautics, preparing them for futures in science, advanced technology, and even careers in the cockpit.** Through hands-on experiences, like flight simulators, drone operations, and small aircraft flights, students explore aviation history, engineering concepts, and advanced education pathways.



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Valley OF THE Tetons Library
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valleyofthetonslibrary.org

to make it happen at high elevation. I think it is all about the recipe and how we make our dough."

Beyond the style, Pinky G's offers a wide array of flavorful pizzas with all the fixings, from the meat-lovers' Godzilla to the customer favorite, Abe Froman. That's a delicious mix of buffalo mozzarella, Italian sausage, and fresh basil on top. Add a drizzle of balsamic glaze for



"We hand-toss everything, which leaves a nice thin, crispy, and flat base paired with a delicious, chewy, golden crust on the outside."

Tom Fay
owner, Pinky G's Pizzeria

an extra punch. But ask him for his go-to pizza and Tom is all about the tried-and-true pepperoni. Pinky G's uses cupping pepperoni, which is just what it sounds like: the pepperoni puckers when baked, leaving crispy edges that give an extra crunch with every bite. "There are twenty different types of pepperonis out there," Tom says. "And our pepperoni is just so good."

Stop by to dine inside the quaint Main Street white house for pizza by the slice—and those slices are big! Or order a duo of pies to go. The Powder Hound features garlic oil, shredded mozzarella, parmesan, and ricotta topped with basil, and the Flyin' Hawaiian checks the box of sweet and spicy with pineapple, ham, and fresh jalapeño.

Pinky G's is open daily in the winter from noon to 9pm. "And sometimes later on the weekends," Tom says. Expect great customer service, vibes worthy of a Food Network spotlight, and delicious pizza. **tv**



Teton Valley — BIBLE CHURCH —

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Alpine Air Coffee Roasting & Cafe
175 West Center Street, Victor
Open Tues–Sun 7am–1pm
alpineaircoffee.com

Alpine Air Coffee Roasting was born from a long-time passion for coffee, an eco-conscious drive to provide packaging that won't stay on Earth forever, and a desire to share just how great one of the most consumed beverages in the world can be. Stop by our café and roastery for fresh coffee drinks, bagged coffee roasted in-house, and gourmet toasts, burritos, and baked goods. All Alpine Air coffee is sourced responsibly. Online ordering now available through our website! [p. 33]



Barrels & Bins Natural Market
36 South Main Street, Driggs
208-354-2307
Open Daily 8am–7pm
barrelsandbins.market

Teton Valley's source for all-natural and organic products including local and organic produce, meats, cheeses, and bulk food; 460 Bread baked fresh daily; beer and wine; nutritional supplements; health and beauty products; all-natural pet foods; and much more! Juice & Smoothie Bar is open 9:30am to 1:30pm daily. Check in for sandwiches, soups, and salads, as well as other grab-and-go takeout options. [p. 36]



Butter Cafe
57 South Main Street, Victor
208-399-2872
Visit website for menus, hours, and online ordering
butterinvictor.com

Butter Cafe in Victor, Idaho, offers a brunch experience that blends traditional comfort food with globally inspired flavors. With a diverse menu and warm atmosphere, Butter Cafe is a must-visit for those seeking a unique and flavorful brunch. Whether you're a local food enthusiast or a curious traveler, stay connected with us on Instagram for the latest updates on hours, specials, and menus, and embark on a flavorful journey with Butter Cafe. [p. 100]



Citizen 33 Brewery & Restaurant
364 North Main Street, Driggs
208-354-2073
Open Daily 4pm–9pm
citizen33.com

From the team behind Forage Bistro and Tatanka Tavern, Citizen 33 in Driggs is your go-to spot for fresh, locally sourced food and beer in the heart of Teton Valley. Brew Master John Able keeps the taps rotating with creative craft brews, while our Chef serves up a delicious menu featuring elevated bar bites—like local fried cheese curds and crave-worthy smashburgers—and hearty, flavorful entrées. Built for both locals and visitors, Citizen 33 is a place to gather, share a meal, and raise a glass to life on Route 33. Cheers to the citizens! [p. 38]



Figgie's Deli & Market
528 Valley Centre Drive, Driggs
307-284-9577
Open Mon–Sat 11am–4pm
figgiesdeli.com

Fuel up for your winter adventures at Figgie's Deli, serving gourmet sandwiches, salads, homemade soups, and fresh baked cookies. Stop by for lunch inside or grab a mouthwatering sandwich to go with a side of house-made chips. Try a favorite like the Stallion, featuring pepperoni, salami, ham, pickled red onion, pepperoncini, mayo, provolone, shaved parm, tomato, lettuce, and Italian vinaigrette stacked on a 460 ciabatta. We even have vegan options, such as the Faux Bear with tofu bacon, arugula, caramelized onions, roasted tomatoes, and vegan smoked pepper aioli on 460 multigrain bread. Enjoy daily specials or build your own sandwich. Online ordering now available!



The Fluffy Cow
At The Rustic Pine Tavern
123 East Ramshorn Street, Dubois, WY
307-455-3000
Open Tues–Sat, 11am–2pm, 5pm–8pm
fluffycow.com

The Fluffy Cow is a hidden gem, tucked inside the historic Rustic Pine Tavern. We're a small, family-owned restaurant serving food with soul: classics done right, inventive twists you won't find anywhere else, and sauces made fresh in-house every day. For two decades, Chef Whitney Hall defined Wyoming resort fine dining at Brooks Lake Lodge. In a very short time, she's leveraged skill to create one of Dubois' favorite dining spots. [p. 44]



Food Shed Idaho
139 West Center Street, Victor
208-787-7695
Open Thurs–Mon, 12pm–6pm
Online ordering 24/7 @
foodshedidaho.com

Featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, March 2025. Unique chef-curated specialty grocer featuring local grass-fed meats, charcuterie, and the best imported pasta, olive oil, vinegar, tinned fish, chocolates, and more. House-made cookies and brittle. Gift baskets, mail order, and local delivery available. [p. 24]



Forage Bistro & Lounge
253 Warbird Lane, Driggs
208-354-2858
Open Daily 12pm–8pm
Reservations Recommended
forageandlounge.com

Located at the Driggs Airport, Forage Bistro offers a unique dining experience with views of the Tetons and a front-row seat to arriving and departing planes. Enjoy a tour of historic Warbird aircraft before settling in for seasonal mountain comfort food and expertly crafted cocktails. Whether you're stopping in for lunch, happy hour, or dinner, Forage blends cozy flavors with chef-driven creativity—making it a must-visit spot in Teton Valley. [p. 38]



Grand Targhee Resort
3300 Ski Hill Road, Alta, WY
800-TARGHEE (827-4433)
grandtarghee.com

This winter come check out the Powder Cache Bar & Grill. When you join us for a meal, you'll see why Powder Cache is one of the best-kept secrets in Teton Valley. Our warm, welcoming atmosphere and excellent service allow you to sit back, relax, and take in the incredible views from our floor to ceiling windows or get toasty next to our beautiful stone fireplace. Our culinary team offers fresh, local, and sustainable ingredients to create our American West-inspired mountain comfort dishes. At the Trap Bar and Grill, enjoy a wide selection of local microbrews on tap, great food like the famous Wydaho Nachos, and HD TVs with your favorite sports teams. Snorkels is your slope-side bistro; enjoy a cup of hot coffee or cappuccino with a Wyoming-style breakfast burrito. Return in the afternoon for homemade soups and sandwiches. [BC]



Grand Teton Brewing
430 Old Jackson Hwy, Victor
grandtetonbrewing.com

Grand Teton Brewing: Raising a glass to the Tetons since 1988! Bring the family and come visit our cozy tap room while enjoying our award-winning beer and smashburgers from Otto's Kitchen. Follow us on our social channels to stay up-to-date on our latest beer releases, case of the week promos, and special events. [p. 94]



King Sushi
98 East Little Avenue, Driggs
208-354-5464
Open Tues-Sun 4:30pm-9pm
kingsushijh.com

A sushi staple on both sides of the Tetons, King Sushi offers an inspired menu featuring sushi, sashimi, and rolls along with cocktails, wine, and sake crafted by head chef and James Beard nominee, Jason King. Enjoy an ever-changing specials menu with seasonal rolls, delicious nigiri, and more. Located on Little Avenue just off Main Street; stop by for happy hour and grab a seat at the bar or book a reservation at resy.com. Walk ins welcome. [p. 37]



Linn Canyon Ranch
1300 East 6000 South, Victor
208-787-LINN (5466)
linncanyonranch.com

Join us for a winter wonderland dining experience! You'll enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres before being seated at your private table in the historic lodge. Experience the fine hospitality and elevated dining the Linn family is known for. Advanced reservations are required. For holiday and private parties, please call to inquire. [p. 25]



Mama Su
18 North Main Street, Driggs
Open Daily 4pm - 9pm
mamasudriggs.com

From the creators of Teton Thai, we're excited to introduce Mama Su, your new go-to American Chinese restaurant in a cozy and vibrant setting. Enjoy classic favorites like Lo Mein, Wonton soup, Szechuan dumplings, and Sweet and Sour chicken. Pair your dinner with one of our house-brewed beers, sake, or a refreshing cocktail. [p. 53]



Pearl Street Bagels
80 North Main Street, Driggs
208-970-2259
Open Daily 6:30am-2:30pm
pearlstreetbagels.com

After 35 years in Jackson Hole, Pearl Street Bagels is excited to now be serving Teton Valley from its new downtown Driggs location. Offering traditional boiled and baked bagels, sandwiches, salads, organic coffee, and espresso drinks. Order in person or online at pearlstreetbagels.com. [p. 26]



Pinky G's Pizzeria
37 South Main Street, Victor
208-787-PINK (7465)
Open Daily 11:30am-10pm
Delivery 12pm-9pm, Victor and Driggs, order online
pinkygs.com

Pinky G's Pizzeria has brought New York-style hand tossed pizza to Victor, Idaho, with take-out and delivery throughout Teton Valley to Victor and Driggs. Founded in Jackson Hole in 2011, Pinky G's rocketed to fame a year later, when Guy Fieri shot an episode of *Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives* there and was blown away by their hand tossed New York-style pizzas. Stop by the newly renovated downtown Victor location for dining on the outdoor patio. Enjoy house-made dough and marinara made from scratch daily, with specialty pizzas like the Abe Froman, topped with spicy Italian sausage, fresh mozzarella, fresh chopped basil, and a balsamic drizzle; or try Guy's Pie, invented by Guy Fieri himself. Order online at pinkygs.com. [p. 55]



Refuge Taphouse
2 North Main Street, Victor
Sun-Thurs 3pm-9pm;
Fri-Sat 3pm-10pm
Ages 21 and over
@refuge_taphouse

Stop by Refuge Taphouse on Main Street in Victor for craft beer and wine by the glass. Enjoy twelve constantly rotating taps from top-tier local, regional, and international craft breweries and cideries. Take happy hour home with an eclectic selection of to-go beer and wine. Ages twenty-one and over. Menu features light bar snacks, and outside food is welcome. Refuge Taphouse is *the* place for apres!



Rise Coffee House
40 Depot Street, Driggs
208-354-RISE
Open Daily 7:30am–2pm
risedriggs.com @risedriggs

Rise Coffee House is a place where our community gathers and connects with one another. If you are looking for a beautifully crafted espresso drink, breakfast, or mouth-watering baked good, you'll be sure to find it here. Come enjoy culture, community, and excellent coffee. Voted best coffee in Teton Valley six years in a row. Cheers! [p. 36]



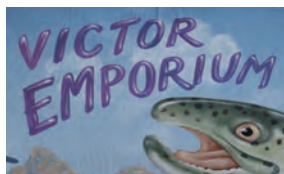
Tatanka Tavern
18 North Main Street, Suite 315
Colter Building, Driggs
208-227-8744
Open Daily 4pm–9pm
tatankatavern.com

Tatanka Tavern offers wood-fired artisan pizza, salads, and the finest of craft cocktails, beers, and wines. Bring in the family for a night out or grab a seat at the bar and watch the game. Enjoy local favorites like the Big Poppa with tomato sauce, fresh mozzarella cheese, parmesan cheese, fresh basil, and olive oil or build your own for dinner daily. [p. 38]



Teton Thai
18 North Main Street, Driggs
208-787-THAI (8424)
Dinner Daily 4pm–9pm
tetonthai.com

Voted “Best Restaurant, Teton Valley” in the *Jackson Hole News&Guide*, Teton Thai offers something for everyone. Enjoy a variety of exotic dishes, from Crispy Duck Pad Gar Pow to Muslim-style Masaman curry, all made from our family's recipes created in Bangkok. Sit at the kitchen counter and watch our chefs prepare your dish while you explore our eclectic beer and wine list. Enjoy Old World ales and Japanese-style pub food. Dine in or take out. [p. 53]



Victor Emporium
45 North Main Street, Victor
208-787-2221
Open seven days a week

Over one million served! For more than seventy-five years, the Victor Emporium Old Fashioned Soda Fountain has served delicious milkshakes, including the World-Famous Huckleberry Shake. Gourmet coffee and espresso served daily. The Emporium is also a great place to pick up those unusual gifts. Where the locals meet before enjoying the great outdoors here in Teton Valley. [p. 52]



Wydaho Roasters Coffee House
495 S Main Street
Driggs, ID 83422
208-500-2349
Open Daily 6am–9pm

Crafting connections—one cup, one bite, and one cone at a time. Nestled near downtown Driggs, Wydaho Roasters Coffee House is more than just a coffee shop—it's a scratch bakery and homemade ice cream haven. We roast our coffee beans on-site for unbeatable freshness, offering a full array of espresso and coffee drinks that showcase the best of Teton Valley. Whether you're here to relax, work, or study with our free WiFi, you'll find comfort in every corner—and every bite. Our baked goods are made from scratch daily, including buttery croissants, rustic galettes, tender muffins, savory quiche, and more. And when you're ready to treat yourself, our house-made ice cream delivers pure joy by the scoop. Come for the coffee, stay for the craft. Every sip, bite, and cone is a celebration of homemade goodness. [p. 13]

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Grand Targhee Resort
3300 Ski Hill Road
Alta, WY
800-TARGHEE [827-4433]
grandtarghee.com

After a day on the mountain, it's time to relax with the family in one of a variety of western-style slopeside accommodations. Be ready for first chair as you relax in the high alpine setting with a quaint mountain village that offers dining and shopping. Rooms vary in size and budget, from sleeping four to ten guests. The Teewinot Lodge boasts beautifully decorated and comfortable rooms with king and queen beds. The Sioux Two Bedrooms offer a small kitchenette and are perfect for your next resort getaway. The resort is dog friendly and offers pet friendly rooms. Lodging guests also receive 15 percent off lift tickets. Book online or call 800-TAR-GHEE to book your stay. [BC]



Linn Canyon Ranch
1300 East 6000 South, Victor
208-787-LINN [5466]
linncanyonranch.com

Our lodging combines the best of luxurious accommodations with nature's simple pleasures. Experience our authentic timber-frame cabin nestled in the snowy foothills of the Tetons, where quiet luxury awaits. Our guests feel relaxed and inspired in our cozy mountain sanctuary. When you make your lodging reservation, we will also book your riding and dining activities at the ranch. We are also happy to help you reserve off-site adventures such as floating, fishing, hiking, and sightseeing. [p. 25]



Teton Homestead
18 North Main Street,
Suite 105, Driggs
800-746-5518
mail@tetonhomestead.com
tetonhomestead.com

Discover the property management experience you've been waiting for with Teton Homestead. Locally owned and operated, we don't just manage properties—we create effortless, stress-free experiences for homeowners and guests alike. From high-performing vacation homes to detailed caretaking and pristine housekeeping, every service is designed to maximize your property's potential and your peace of mind. Launching winter 2025/2026, the Elevated Collection showcases Teton Homestead's most exceptional homes—where refined design, elevated service, and mountain luxury meet. Expect more. Earn more. Choose Teton Homestead. [p. 23]



Teton Valley Cabins
34 East Ski Hill Road, Driggs
208-354-8153 or 866-687-1522
stay@tetonvalleycabins.com
tetonvalleycabins.com

Nestled in the heart of Teton Valley, our family-owned cabins welcome you for special getaways, vacation home base, family or group reunions, and more. Quaint charm, rustic cabins, and affordable rates await! Enjoy locally owned restaurants and shops, along with easy access to Yellowstone National Park, Grand Targhee Resort, and Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. Staying at Teton Valley Cabins means you don't have to leave your furry friends behind. We offer various room types equipped with microwave, fridge, satellite TV, WiFi, and pet friendly room accommodations. Check out our website for trip planning and activities in Teton Valley. We can't wait to see you! [p. 12]



Teton Valley Property Management
253 South Main Street, Driggs
208-354-3431
info@tetonvalleypm.com
tetonvalleyvacationrentals.com

Allow us to find that perfect home or condo to make your vacation memorable. All our homes are nicely furnished, meticulously maintained, and fully equipped to accommodate your group at a fraction of what you would pay for hotel rooms. All homes come complete with linens, kitchen necessities, smart TVs or satellite TV service, high-speed internet, soaps, and paper products. Book online and receive all the conveniences of home, away from home. [p. 8]



Wydaho Property Management
465 South Main Street, Driggs
208-999-3387
support@wydahoproperties.com
wydahoproperties.com

Wydaho Property Management is Teton Valley's premier full-service vacation rental and home management company. Our mission is to provide a seamless, worry-free experience for both homeowners and guests. Combining hospitality expertise, advanced technology, and a deep love for the Teton Valley community, we deliver exceptional service and unforgettable stays. From cozy cabins in Driggs to luxury retreats with sweeping Teton views, we create the perfect mountain escape—and help homeowners unlock the full potential of their properties.



Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Teton Valley is home to three meetinghouses of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. All visitors are welcome.

Sunday worship services are held in Victor (87 East Center Street; 9am, 10:30am, and 12pm), Driggs (225 North 1st Street; 9am, 10:30am, and 12pm), and Teton (209 South Main Street; 9am and 10:30am). Worship services are centered on the partaking of the bread and water of the sacrament. This one-hour meeting includes congregational hymns, prayers, and brief sermons focused on the love of God and atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Following this meeting, visitors of all ages are invited to attend a one-hour Sunday School class, divided by various age groups. Additional information can be found by calling Zane Calderwood (208-317-3325), Wade Treasure (307-409-0760), or by visiting ChurchOfJesusChrist.org.

Church in the Tetons

Driggs City Center | Driggs | 208-354-4673

churchinhetetons.org, churchinhetetonsidaho@gmail.com

We gather for worship in the Driggs City Center at 10am on Sunday mornings. We celebrate the Lord's Supper once a month. On months with five Sundays, we go out as the hands and feet of Jesus to serve our neighbors however we are able. We are a biblically grounded, Christ-centered, mission-focused, gospel-centric community that exists to serve Teton Valley and the world to the glory of God. We are often described as authentic, relational, genuine, and honest. Education is provided for kids three and over.

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

2559 South ID-33 | Driggs | 208-354-1771

uppervalleycatholic.com

Good Shepherd is a Roman Catholic Church serving the needs of the faithful in Teton Valley. We welcome all in participation in our liturgies, devotions, ministries, and activities. Sunday mass includes a 9am mass in English and an 11am mass in Spanish with Reconciliation after each. In addition, there is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays from noon to 5pm, and Holy Mass held Tuesdays at 7pm, Wednesdays at 5pm, and Thursdays at 9am. Reconciliation is offered on Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30pm. Preparation is offered for all the Sacraments. The church is open for prayer during the day. We would love for you to join our Catholic community.

Headwaters Calvary Chapel

500 Ski Hill Road | Driggs | 208-354-WORD [9673]

headwaterschurch.fun

Our vision is to *Simply Teach the Bible Simply*—and thus, our pattern of study is verse by verse, chapter by chapter, book by book, right through the whole Bible. Sunday service starts at 10am and Wednesday service starts at 7pm. Visitors are warmly welcomed. For additional information, please call or visit our website. From the stoplight in Driggs, head east on Ski Hill Road for one mile and the church will be on your left as you round the turn.

Teton Valley Bible Church

265 North 2nd East | Driggs | 208-354-8523

tetonvalleybiblechurch.org

Teton Valley Bible Church exists to glorify God and exalt Jesus Christ as Lord through Holy Spirit-empowered living and worship. Our mission is to make disciples through gospel-centered outreach, the spiritual building-up of believers, and living in loving fellowship with one another. We gather together to worship the Lord on Sunday mornings; please visit the website for service times. Pastor Jim Otto (MDiv) is committed to expositional preaching and Biblical theology. Child-care is available and all are welcome. [p. 104]



The Learning Academy of Teton Valley

1480 South 500 West | Driggs | 208-354-7898

admissions@learningacademyschool.com

learningacademyschool.com

The Learning Academy of Teton Valley is an independent Preschool–Grade 8 school celebrating more than twenty years of excellence in education. Nestled on a beautiful campus featuring a school farm, greenhouse, and yurt, LATV provides a nurturing, child-focused environment that inspires exploration and creativity. LATV encourages students to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally by emphasizing inclusivity and character education. With a commitment to hands-on learning, time in nature, creative play, and individual growth, LATV fosters curiosity and confidence in every child, creating a vibrant, supportive community where students love to learn and grow. Summer programming, hybrid homeschooling options, and tuition support are available. Come see for yourself what a truly rich school experience can be. [p. 27]

Mountain Academy of Teton Science Schools

Grades Early Childhood–8th Grade

Victor, Idaho, and Jackson, Wyoming | 307-732-7743

mountainacademy.org

At Mountain Academy of Teton Science Schools, learning is in our nature. We are an independent day school serving students from early childhood through 8th grade. Mountain Academy provides an exceptional education that engages all aspects of the individual child. Whether you're returning or considering joining us for the first time, there's never been a better moment to be a part of our vibrant community. [p. 100]

Teton School District 401

District Office: 208-228-5923

tsd401.org

Empowering our students to reach their full potential—Teton School District 401 provides a safe and exceptional learning environment where career and college readiness are the academic cornerstones of a relevant and progressive education. [p. 103]

Teton High School

Grades 9–12 | 208-228-5924

ths.tsd401.org

Basin High School

Grades 9–12 | 208-970-6061

bhs.tsd401.org

Teton Middle School

Grades 6–8 | 208-228-5925

tms.tsd401.org

Rendezvous Upper Elementary

Grades 4–5 | 208-228-5926

rues.tsd401.org

Teton K-3 Elementary Schools

Victor 208-228-5929 | Driggs 208-228-5927 | Teton 208-228-5930

ves.tsd401.org, des.tsd401.org, tes.tsd401.org

Teton Valley Skijoring

PHOTO BY JULIE MARTIN



IT'S AN EVENT YOU MUST SEE TO FULLY BELIEVE: A skier holding a rope behind a galloping horse, while flying down a snowy track at full speed and trying to hit jumps and grab rings. "You don't have to know the rules to get hooked—just show up once, and you'll get it," says Bridget Sweeney, Teton Valley Skijoring executive director.

The two-day event held February 21 and 22 is chocked full of all-things snow and skiing with western flare thrown into the mix. "There aren't many places where cowboys and skiers share the same starting line, but here, that unique mix of Western and mountain culture is natural," she says. "Teton Valley Skijoring captures everything that makes this community unique, where ranch life and mountain life overlap in the best way possible. It's part rodeo, part ski race, and all heart."

Tickets are available online in advance and at the gate. Secure your spot early and consider adding priority parking for easy access to the action.

Buy tickets and learn more: tetonskijor.org.



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It's not that complicated.

The way we see it, skiing's pretty damn simple. You show up with your gear and some stoke. We provide the mountain, snow, a ride to the top, and a place to have a couple beers at the end of the day. That's really all you need. The rest are just "nice to haves." And yeah, we have a few of those. But we think you'll find that we've kept the focus where it belongs: On skiing.

WHERE SKIING STILL RULES



GRAND TARGHEE RESORT