

STROLL®

Singletree

Kriss
&
Angel
King



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JEFFREY HULSE PHOTOGRAPHY

DELIVERING NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS

Hello Singletree Residents!

As summer winds to a close, September is a time of reflection and renewal, and this month's stories are a testament to the strength of the human spirit and the power of community.

In our *Meet Your Neighbors* feature, we introduce mother-daughter duo Kriss and Angel King. After a devastating fire in 2020 where they lost their ranch and home, they have rebuilt their lives here in Singletree. Today, they are the co-authors of a children's book series, *Just Keep Zippin'*, inspired by Zippy, a real-life therapy horse, to encourage young readers facing emotional or physical challenges.

In recognition of National Recovery Month, Dustin Straight shares his powerful journey from collegiate lacrosse to addiction and homelessness, and ultimately to recovery, family life, and founding a local outpatient treatment program. He also works closely with the nonprofit Reconnected.org to help others along their path to healing. In his words, Dustin is "living proof that recovery is real."

Another inspiring story comes from Debbie Robbins and Gail Mahoney, strong supporters of Luz de Vida, a non-profit organization that works to prevent trafficking and exploitation

of young girls in Peru. On September 6, the organization will host *Power of the Purse*, a local fundraiser offering gently used handbags, where every purchase helps change a girl's future.

And in our own backyard, Kim and Bill Cox noticed the need for a second bench on top of Knob Hill. After a year of persistence, they partnered with Vail Mountain Rescue to install a beautiful resting spot for all to enjoy.

In this issue, we are proud to introduce three of our esteemed sponsors: Dr. Alexandra Urbana at Vail Dental Design, Polly Hastie NP at Uplift with Polly, and the team at Mountain High Appliance. We are grateful for their generous support.

As a final note, we wish all the grandparents in the neighborhood a happy and memorable Grandparents Day on September 7!



Warm regards,
Holly Proctor
Publisher and Area Director
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YOU ARE INVITED SINGLETREE SUMMER SWANSONG

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 | 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Chip Ramsay Park, Singletree

Bring the Whole Family: Kids, Dogs, & Adults

4:00 PM • STRIDER BIKE RACES
4:30 PM • KIDS' MOUNTAIN BIKE RACES
5:30 PM • SOCCER SHOOTOUT
BOUNCY HOUSE • DOG AGILITY COURSES
PRIZES • FOOD & BEVERAGE FOR ALL

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SEPTEMBER CONTRIBUTORS

YOUR STORIES. OUR PAGES.

Thank you to our neighborhood grandparents for participating in our 2025 Grandparents Day Celebration!

From big adventures and family celebrations to four-legged friends and favorite pastimes and activities, it's your stories that bring *Stroll Singletree* to life. This magazine exists because of you - and for you. When neighbors contribute, the whole community becomes richer in connection, personality, and heart. Want to be part of it? Reach out to holly.proctor@n2co.com and share your story today!



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KRISS KING
Meet Your Neighbors



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Sponsor Spotlight
Vail Dental Design



DUSTIN STRAIGHT
Inspirational Journeys
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World of Change



BECAUSE EVERYONE
DESERVES TO FEEL
CONFIDENT—INSIDE
AND OUT

At Eagle Valley Community Foundation, we believe everyone deserves access to nutritious food—and our friends at Blitz Boutique believe everyone deserves access to high-quality clothing they feel good in.

That's why Blitz is hosting a FREE shopping event for customers of The Community Market!

The Community Market, Gypsum
 Thursday, September 25th
 4:00–6:00 PM

Each guest can choose three stylish, high-quality pieces of clothing to take home—because dignity, comfort, and community go hand in hand.
NO COST. NO CATCH. JUST KINDNESS.

MORE INFORMATION

Interested in volunteering, donating clothing, or supporting future events like this?

Reach out to:

✉ Alex - alex@eaglevalleycf.org

✉ Kate - info@blitzvall.com



JUST KEEP ZIPPIN'

with Kriss and Angel King

There are a few favorite mantras that we've found ourselves adopting over the years. Admittedly, I'm guilty of using them as corny email signatures or even license plate holder taglines. 1) "Smile, You Can Choose Your Attitude, No One Else Can" 2) "You Are Unequivocally Adored" 3) "Have Courage and Be Kind" (ok, that's totally Cinderella's from 2015) and 4) "Stay Magical" to name a few.

Our lives have been simply magical since moving to the Edwards area in 2023. The Valley and Singletree have welcomed us with open arms and our lives feel surreal compared to our turbulent past.

Now a new phrase has emerged for us, born of a creative endeavor to celebrate our therapy horse, Zippy, through our new children's books written with a heart for glorious kiddos growing up in an increasingly anxious and challenging world. *Just Keep Zippin'* inspires forward motion and resilience versus the quicksand-like "Why?" questions of hard circumstances.



For us, the hard circumstances came in relentless waves. Lifelong profound hearing loss for me, a sudden loss of a two-decade corporate career, and eight years of caring for aging parents. The perfect storm continued with a devastating fire, loss of our ranch and home, beloved horses, pets, and years of temporary homes while negotiating with insurance. The fire turmoil was especially dramatic due to its unfortunate timing. It happened days before the start of my daughter Angel's senior year and continued well into her early college years. We wrestled to find a new normal through the aftermath of the fire while the globe simultaneously wrestled with the COVID pandemic.

Horse Dreams

For me, Kriss, one of my lifelong passions has always been horses and animals of every kind. Creatures domestic or wild seem to sense my love for them and draw near to me so I can shower them with affection. I'm pretty sure that there is an Ask for a Pony ("AFAP") fairy that tags along with the tooth fairy and selectively taps little ones with a glittery hoof wand while they sleep. I certainly caught the bug, voraciously reading *Black Stallion* and *Black Beauty* books, and memorizing every facet of horse care from shiny hooves to flowing manes and tails!

This particular dream of horse ownership, however, was rather inconvenient at the time, since I was a fighter pilot's daughter, stationed for four years at an Air Force Base in Tokyo.

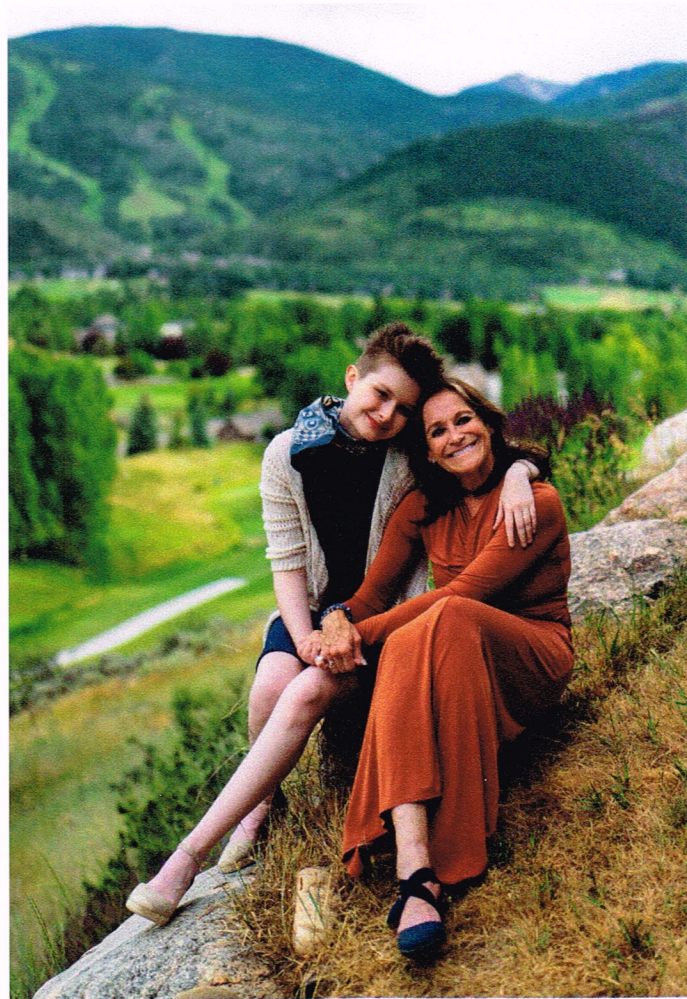
My Crazy First Job

I joined other American kids in selling snacks at the Japanese baseball stadiums to make money for my future horse fund. I still remember the jingle we sang: "Oyako Donburi, Oshushi Bento Sandowichi, Lemonane, Cider, GyuNyu." Yes, healthy chicken, egg, rice, fish food combinations, sold for Japanese Yen. I spoke "sukoshi" (a tiny bit) of Japanese, so heaven knows how accurately my 12-year-old self made change in the Japanese currency.

And so, the horse dream was tabled. Upon returning to the United States (minor culture shock, Tokyo to Omaha, home of the Strategic Air Command at Offutt AFB), the horse fund quickly morphed into a car fund, ushering in a long period of dormancy for my equine ownership dreams. I did, however, work with several kids' camps in Iowa and Colorado as a Wrangler and enjoyed many summers filled with horse activities.

Fast forward to college in Nebraska, studying veterinary medicine, and then stumbling from vet medicine into a lucrative 21-year career managing growth initiatives (e.g. internet) for the US West/Qwest, Sprint, CenturyLink & ATT telecoms.

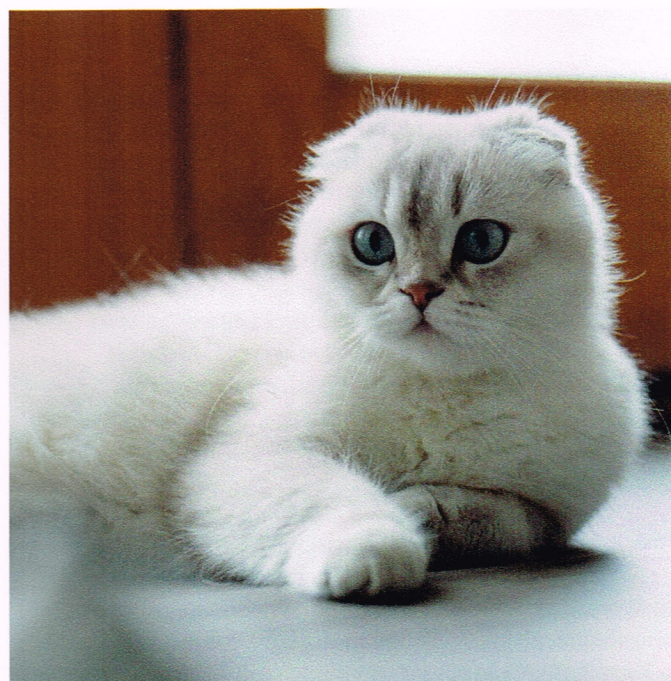
In 2003, my own Growth Initiative, my darling Angelia Grace (Angel) was born. The cord was around her neck, but all was well, and she has a birthmark under her chin that is a perfect smooch-mark set of lips! Interestingly, smooch marks on a beautiful bald head are one of Angel's emotional illustrations in our *Just Keep Zippin'* children's books.





DRAWING ON A DINOSAUR DREAM

Well before Angel's first job at a Jurassic World Exhibition, she was passionate about dinosaurs from a very young age. From designing playful stickers for the Dinosaur Museum to bringing Trax, the T-Rex Train Conductor to life in the next *Keep on Zippin'* book, her creativity continues to inspire young minds.



That same year (because we are a little bonkers), we adopted four horses, two giant Clydesdale-sized Belgians, two normal-sized horses, and a couple of carriages. Zippy, the subject of our children's books to come, was just a youngster at 6 years old.

Dinosaur Dreams

Angel's passion from early in her life has been art and fantastical things. It's not unusual for her to crank out incredible art for the sheer joy of it. Rather than the AFAP fairy visiting her, the "AFAD" (Ask For A Dinosaur) fairy took up residence. Phew! Mom was off the hook – not too many dinos for sale in Colorado that would fit in our barn.

So, art, dinosaurs (Angel says they are like real-life dragons), and fantastical stories have been Angel's passion since early grade school. She even illustrated a short story about a sunny girl living in a gloomy town and taking it upon herself to use a wheelbarrow to pile rocks in potholes. Unbeknownst to Hannah Hurdle, the heroine, the holes are actually skylights to a world beneath the streets that can never be filled up. *PlotHoles*, the Alice in Wonderland type story, is filled with humor and Angel, at 13, built a matching video game to complement the story.

Aging Parents

The Aging Parent Train came roaring into the station in 2011. My fiercely independent fighter-pilot dad had been paralyzed from the neck down but worked his way back to driving at 72. Mom had a stroke that took her ability to speak or read/write for 7 years. My corporate telecom job had ended suddenly, and our irrigation business ran on auto-pilot while Angel and I cared for my parents across two states. Priceless years: there is no such thing as perfect caregiving, but our hearts were full knowing my parents felt loved beyond measure in their final years.

At times, with the numerous roles we were playing, it felt like a game of Whac-A-Mole meets Twister. I laughingly

referred to myself as Chaos Mitigation Engineer. After my parents were “promoted”, it was time to start to simplify. The answer came in the strangest of ways.

A Fiery Catalyst to Change

The fire that occurred in August of 2020, during the COVID pandemic, resulted in the loss of our ranch that was home to our family, business and horses. The South Metro fire video from Parker, Colorado, still shows the gut-wrenching flames that erupted suddenly in the detached garage/shop. Angel was home alone, just a few days before her senior year was to begin. She was relaxing close to the gas fireplace in the house, assuming the banging and popping a few feet away was just the usual activity from the techs working in the shop.

Unknown strangers, a grandfatherly type and two tiny kids, came to the door to warn Angel to get out. The orange flames and black smoke were already 200 feet in the air, and she watched as the garage doors melted like wax. The fire quickly spread to the home, right where Angel had been sitting with her cat. The kind strangers disappeared as soon as first responders arrived, and we still fondly wonder about them with goosebumps, since the little boy had exclaimed, “Grandpa, Grandpa, we saved an Angel today!”

Angel's Crazy First Job

Angel persevered through 3 years of temporary homes during her senior year, and two years of art college with portfolio scholarships. A friend at college told her about jurassicworldexhibition.com being in Denver. This is a Universal Studios attraction that moves from city to city. Angel applied and started the next day. She ran the life-sized dinosaur animatronics and served as a Park Ranger for the attraction. What a dream first-job for this dinosaur

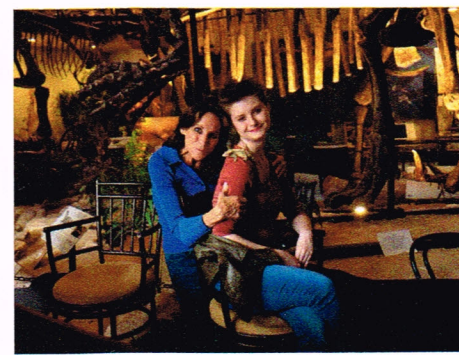
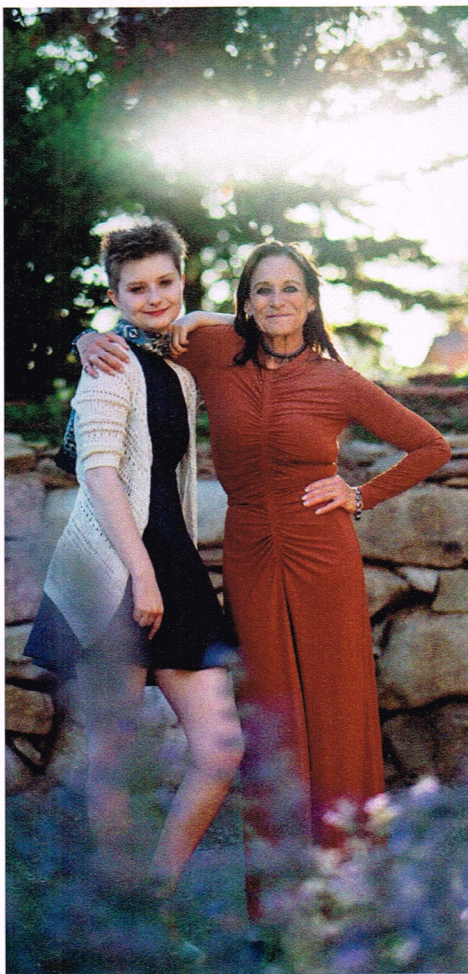
fanatic! The show is currently in exotic places like Bangkok, London, Madrid, and Singapore. Maybe one day she'll be able to rejoin them!

How We Got Here!

After selling the fire-damaged property instead of re-building, we planned to regroup with family in Omaha. A friend and business venture partner, who lives near the Summit Club in Cordillera, asked if we would consider helping her family out for a couple of months watching her beautiful dog and house so they could travel to Hawaii for health reasons.

Angel had recently acquired her gorgeous kitten, Shimmer Chérie, (now Spoketherapy Kitty overseeing the *Just Keep Zippin'* books) and so we brought her to Cordillera for the summer. As luck would have it, neighbors in Cordillera were part of a 4 Eagle Ranch-hosted ministry called LifeRelaunch.org. The neighborhood embraced us, and I attended Women's Life Relaunch (sensing a common theme?) and quickly became involved as a facilitator in the ministry. More kind “lifer” forever friends appeared over the next few months, and we settled into our current paradise in Singletree when my Cordillera friends returned home.

Because our life is magical, OF COURSE Billy Doran has The Museum at Dinosaur Junction (DinosaurJunction.org) practically around the corner from our house in Singletree. Angel instantly began volunteering there and has adored every



minute. She is cranking out magnets and stickers and displays that are accurate for each kind of dinosaur.

Just Keep Zippin' - the New Normal

Simplification has been achieved with a new operational agreement on my irrigation business in Denver that diminishes that role for me as President. The first two of a planned 12 book series of *Just Keep Zippin'* books are self-published and out on Amazon and major bookseller sites like Barnes & Noble. They are also for sale at the Bookworm and the Museum at Dinosaur Junction.

Angel's illustrations are the very heart of the stories. Doctor Zippy the Horse sees Harry the Hairless Cat who is bummed about not having fur and is reminded what an encouragement he is to his person, a little girl who is losing her hair. In book two, Boom Boom the Elephant is tested at school and needs hearing aids. Angel is currently illustrating the third book starring Trax, the T-Rex Train Conductor who realizes he needs glasses. The story features real-life characters from the museum: Billy, Tilly the Tortoise, Irwin the Iguana, and Stumpy, the crested Gecko. Future books will feature Doc Zippy encouraging through his Hoovescriptions: Chomper the Beaver needs braces, Notzo the Squirrel has nut allergies, and other topics like bullying, autism, ADHD, anxiety, and more.

Although we miss owning horses of our own, we're maintaining simplicity in order to accommodate robust travel

plans in the future. Several horse groups like Mountain Valley Horse Rescue, Trio Therapy, Stable Friends, and Roundup River Ranch offer ample opportunities to "share air" with velvety muzzles that make the cares of this world just evaporate. We definitely plan to become involved with these groups and hope that you will too!

The creation of the *Just Keep Zippin'* series of books has been an uplifting labor of love. Angel's love for DinosaurJunction.org has her exuberantly volunteering out of her passion for paleontology. Kriss plans on helping sweet seniors in the Valley to *Just Keep Zippin'* with technology lunch & learns sponsored by 4 Eagle Seniors, and she'll continue to actively assist with Women's Life Relaunches.

We hope our story has been an encouragement. Please say hello and allow us to cuddle your fur babies and regular babies alike! Here's to Relaunching, Staying Magical, and let's all Just Keep Zippin'!

Please check out some of our favorite sites:

- **JustKeepZippin.com** - We'd love to hear from you!
- **MiracleHorses.com** - Zippy's full story
- **CossieCreations.redbubble.com** - Buy dino magnets, t-shirts and more
- **PaintedAngelWings.com** - One of Angel's many art sites
- **DinosaurJunction.org** - The Museum at Dinosaur Junction

