

Alaska BEYOND

HORIZON EDITION MAGAZINE JULY 2018

A SENSE OF PLACE
Discovering vintners'
signature wines

PAGE 20

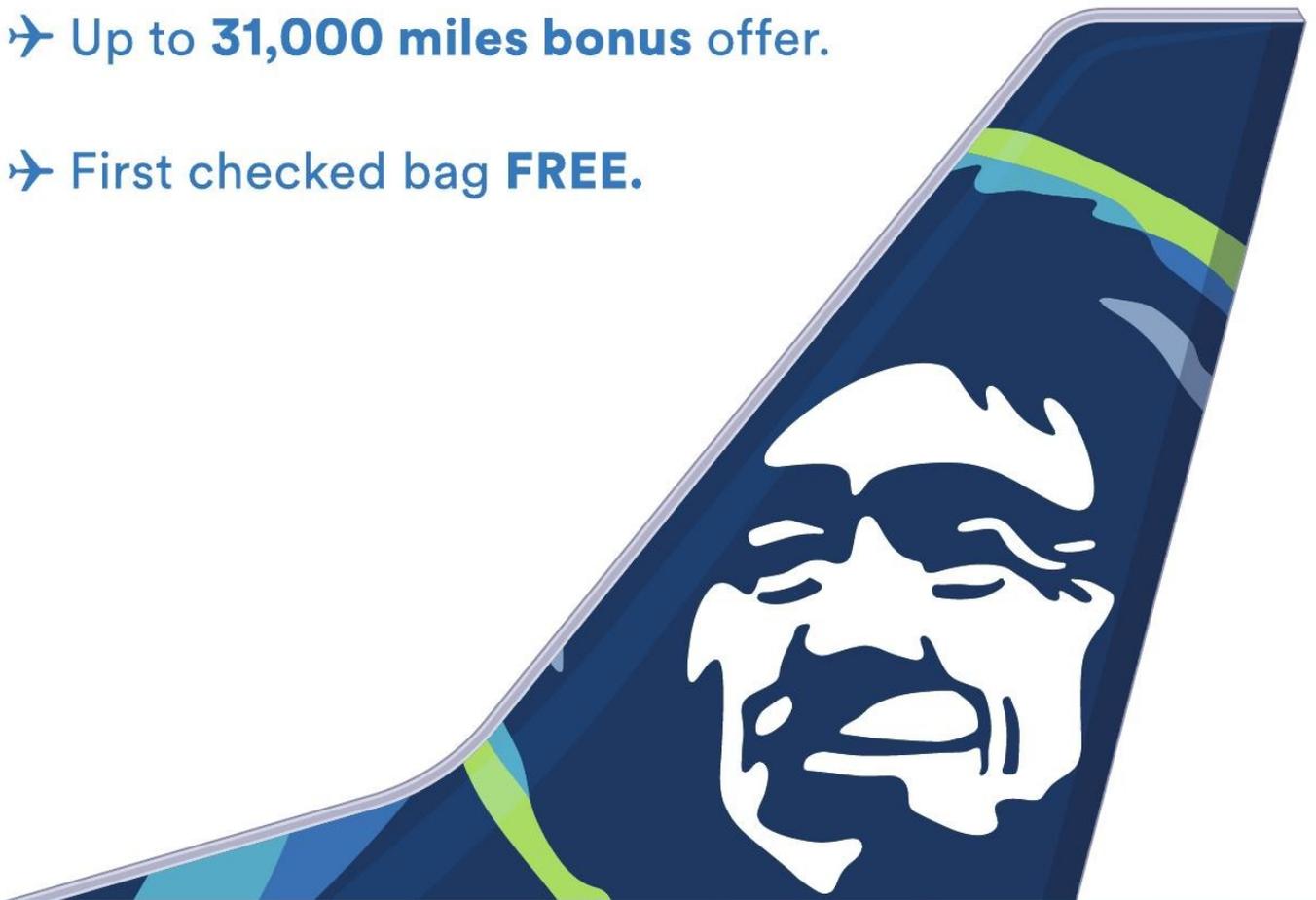
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lakes and rivers of the West

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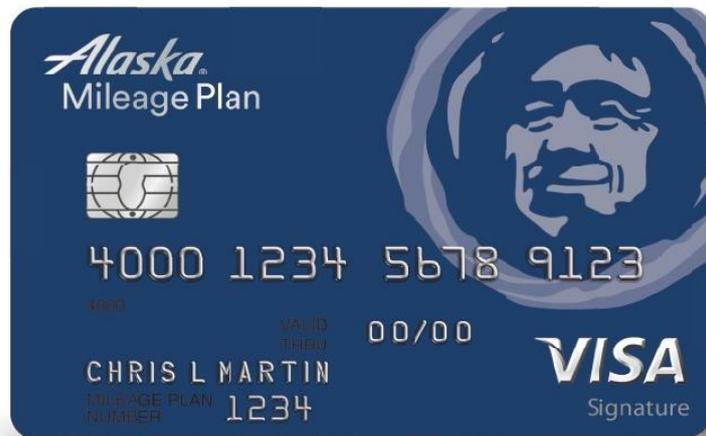


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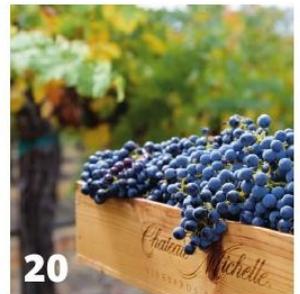
PLEASE REUSE AND RECYCLE

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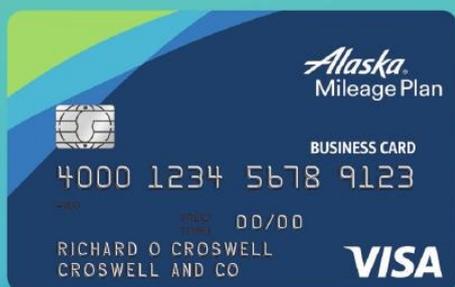
ON THE COVER:

Volunteers working with the Montana Wilderness Association devote vacation time to upgrading a trail in the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness.

Photo by Jean Arthur.

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WELCOME»

ONE OF THE BEST: KENNIE LUU

» Chances are, if you've flown through Seattle, you've seen and may even know Kennie Luu. He's the guy with the smile a mile wide. His English is a little broken, but his heart is pure gold. If you need something, he wants to help you.

Let me tell you more about Kennie. His given first name is Khang, and he was born in Vietnam. His father was a university professor, and his mother raised him and his four brothers. In 1983, the family made the difficult decision to flee their homeland, which had come under communist rule. Assisted by The Salvation Army, the family spent three months in a refugee camp in Thailand before traveling to the United States. Aside from some clothing and a pair of shoes, Kennie left behind all that he had known, in search of a better life. He was 16 years old and recalls that his family didn't even have a dollar in their pockets.

Kennie's family flew to San Francisco and then boarded a second flight to Seattle, where an aunt had offered them a temporary place to stay. Sometimes, it's the little things one remembers: Kennie recalls asking a flight attendant for 7UP on that flight, and he and his brothers enjoyed their first taste of America—with all the refills they wanted!

Kennie and his family moved into an apartment in Seattle's Central District. His father and mother, who each spoke three languages, got jobs and began to educate their boys. Eventually they were able to afford a home in West Seattle. Kennie and his brothers settled

into their new lives in America.

After graduating from high school, Kennie learned to operate a printing press at a nearby community college. That led to his first job at Alaska Airlines, in our graphics re-



Kennie Luu.

sources department, in 1991. He moved to the Seattle ticket counter in 2004, and has been there ever since.

In all, Kennie has been with Alaska Airlines for 26 years. He has near perfect attendance and works diligently. He allows himself a vacation once a year—often to the Bahamas or Hawai'i. Kennie's brother David, and sister-in-law Mihee, also work for Alaska.

By now you're wondering why I'm telling you about Kennie. Each year, Alaska recognizes the best of the best of our people with the Customer Service Legend Award—the highest honor an employee can receive. Kennie was selected with 14 others for recognition in 2018. Our Legends are the top quarter of 1 percent of all the people who have ever worked for our airline.

Today, Kennie has two sons of his own, who both have attended college. One works in music production, and the other is studying architecture at the University of Washington.

English is very natural for Kennie's kids, but not for Kennie himself. In fact, at one time he doubted that he'd make it at Alaska, because English is not his first language. But where words fail him, his smile and humor more than make up for it. He's a customer favorite and is often called upon to translate for guests who

need an interpreter. He says he does sometimes have people scratching their heads because they don't fully understand him—like the time he asked a group of flight attendants if they were going to Albuquerque, and they thought he said, "Would you like a cookie?"

Kennie's story reminds me that we shouldn't take anything for granted. I don't talk about this often, but I have a small airplane that I keep in a small hangar at Boeing Field. In that hangar is a large American flag. Each time I fly, I look at the flag, and I think of the incredible liberties and opportunities that our great country, with all of its faults, provides to each of us.

Kennie Luu, for me, is a fantastic reminder of these things. America is a much better place because we have opened our arms and welcomed people such as Kennie Luu and his family into the fold.

Congratulations, Kennie. I'm glad your family came to America; I'm incredibly grateful that you became a member of our team; and I'm happy that you're here today, brightening people's days and encouraging all of us to be our best.



Brad Tilden,
Chief Executive
Officer



BRIAN

LOST 72 POUNDS



My son is the primary reason I joined 20/20 LifeStyles. When he was born, I wanted to be around for a long time to watch him grow up and, more importantly, I wanted to be a role model so he'd learn healthy habits. I also just wanted to feel better and healthier so I can keep up with him and all the activities he'll want to pursue in the future.

I've struggled with my weight my entire life. By my mid-30s, I was starting to battle the health effects of being overweight. I was on medication for high blood pressure and acid reflux, and had started to notice new issues with cholesterol levels. I knew my diet was unhealthy but, no matter how many times I resolved to change my ways, it just wouldn't stick. I might exercise more, but wasn't taking the steps to improve my diet. I saw that my poor eating habits were impacting my wife's eating choices too. Something had to change.

When I began the 20/20 LifeStyles program and started learning about proper nutrition, it was eye-opening! I discovered that even the "healthy" fruit

smoothies I'd been making for breakfast were having the opposite effect. I learned so many little tips and tricks, but what stood out the most for me was the theme of mindfulness. By just stopping for a moment to think about what I was eating and, more importantly, why I was eating it, has changed my view on food forever. I no longer snack mindlessly. I make each meal count. If it's "on plan," then I want the right fuel to get me through to my next meal or carry me through an activity. If it's "off plan," then it needs to be delicious. I won't waste calories on comfort food like pizza unless it's a pizza I'll really enjoy, and even those moments have become fewer and fleeting. I don't overindulge. It's all about being present and mindful, choosing what I eat and not letting the food choose me.

My personal trainer was also a huge part of my success. When I was younger, I despised running and couldn't string together two miles without a lot of motivation. Once I got into shape, exercise became fun! Now, I routinely run 5-6 miles, three or four times a week. I recently completed the Seattle Half Marathon in 2

hours and 20 minutes, far exceeding my own expectations! I used to make excuses for not exercising. Now, I look forward to working out, hitting the workout room or running on the road six days a week. I also swim, cross-train and plan to get back into hiking and yoga, as well as try skiing for the first time next winter and kayaking over the summer. I'm also trying Pilates for the first time.

Exercise is great for busting stress and staying in shape, but exercise alone won't fix the problem. You have to have diet and exercise in harmony. Even now, I see my trainer and dietitian regularly to get my diet dialed-in to support my level of activity.

Biggest changes? I could list so many, but what I love the most is that I have more energy, feel so much more confident, and love wearing clothes from stores I couldn't have set foot in before. It's a lifestyle change, not a diet. I'll be working on my lifestyle for the rest of my life. At least now, I have the tools to get it right most of the time.

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Learn a little bit about Willamette Valley winemaking history and plan a visit today. oregonwinecountry.org

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BIODYNAMIC

Oregon's Willamette Valley has more BioDynamic acres under vine than any other American Viticulture Area (AVA).

IN THE KNOW»

WHAT'S NEW: ALASKA TAKES IT TO 11

» **Eleven straight years.** That's now the length of Alaska's ranking as the "Highest in Customer Satisfaction Among Traditional Carriers in North America," as reported in the J.D. Power 2018 North America Airline Satisfaction Study, released in late May.

"To earn this award for 11 years is a fantastic tribute to our people, especially as we worked to integrate two airlines," said Alaska Airlines CEO Brad Tilden, upon learning of this year's award.

The study measures the satisfaction of business and leisure travelers who flew a major North American carrier between April 2017 and March 2018. Alaska ranked highest among traditional airlines, with an overall score of 775 (the segment average was 741). Alaska also scored highest of any traditional airline across five categories, including aircraft; cost and fees; boarding/deplaning/baggage; flight crew; and check-in.

Over the last year, Alaska invested in updates to the guest experience, including completing the rollout of Premium Class on most of its Boeing fleet. Guests flying Premium Class

receive more legroom, early boarding, and a complimentary snack and drinks. In the past year, Alaska Airlines also added 15 spacious, three-class-cabin E175s to its Horizon Air fleet.

Alaska continues to make investments in its guests' experiences, with the addition of high-speed satellite connectivity; more free movies and TV content; new First Class and Main Cabin menu items; new craft beers and local wine selections; and, expected later this summer, new Alaska Lounge experiences that include on-site baristas.

"Ranking No. 1 in this study is a fantastic reminder that we are moving in the right direction," said Tilden.

For additional J.D. Power 2018 award information, visit jdpower.com/awards.



STRAWLESS IN SEATTLE ... AND BEYOND

Alaska Airlines and the environmental nonprofit Lonely Whale recently announced the airline's initiative to replace single-use plastic stir straws and citrus picks with sustainable alternatives in the airline's airport lounges, and on all flights, starting July 16. The program is the first of its kind among U.S. airlines and is part of Alaska's broader effort to reduce per-passenger inflight waste to landfills by 70 percent by 2020.

Plastic straws are a special concern because most cannot be recycled and have impacts on birds and marine life. The straws will be replaced with Forest Stewardship Council-certified white-birch stir sticks. The picks will be replaced with a more-sustainable bamboo alternative. Nonplastic, marine-friendly straws will be made available to guests with special needs and upon request.

Since 2010, Alaska Airlines has reduced passenger waste to landfills by 54 percent. Flight attendants have collected 12,000 tons of recyclables, about the same weight as 244 Boeing 737-900ERs. Visit alaskaair.com/sustainability.



INTRODUCING MILEAGE PLAN HOTELS



» **Alaska's award-winning Mileage Plan** has become even more rewarding for members, thanks to an expanded partnership with hotel-booking site Rocketmiles.

The ability to redeem miles for hotel stays was one of the most requested features

among Mileage Plan members, and the introduction of Mileage Plan Hotels makes that possible. Members can choose to pay for hotel stays using money, miles or a combination of money and miles—all on one platform.

Additionally, members earn between 500 and 10,000 Mileage Plan miles per night when paying money for hotel stays through the Mileage Plan Hotels platform.

Mileage Plan Hotels provides members with more than 400,000 properties worldwide to choose from, including brand-name hotels, boutique properties, resorts and more.

To learn more about the program, or to use your Alaska miles for hotel stays now, visit mileageplanhotels.com.

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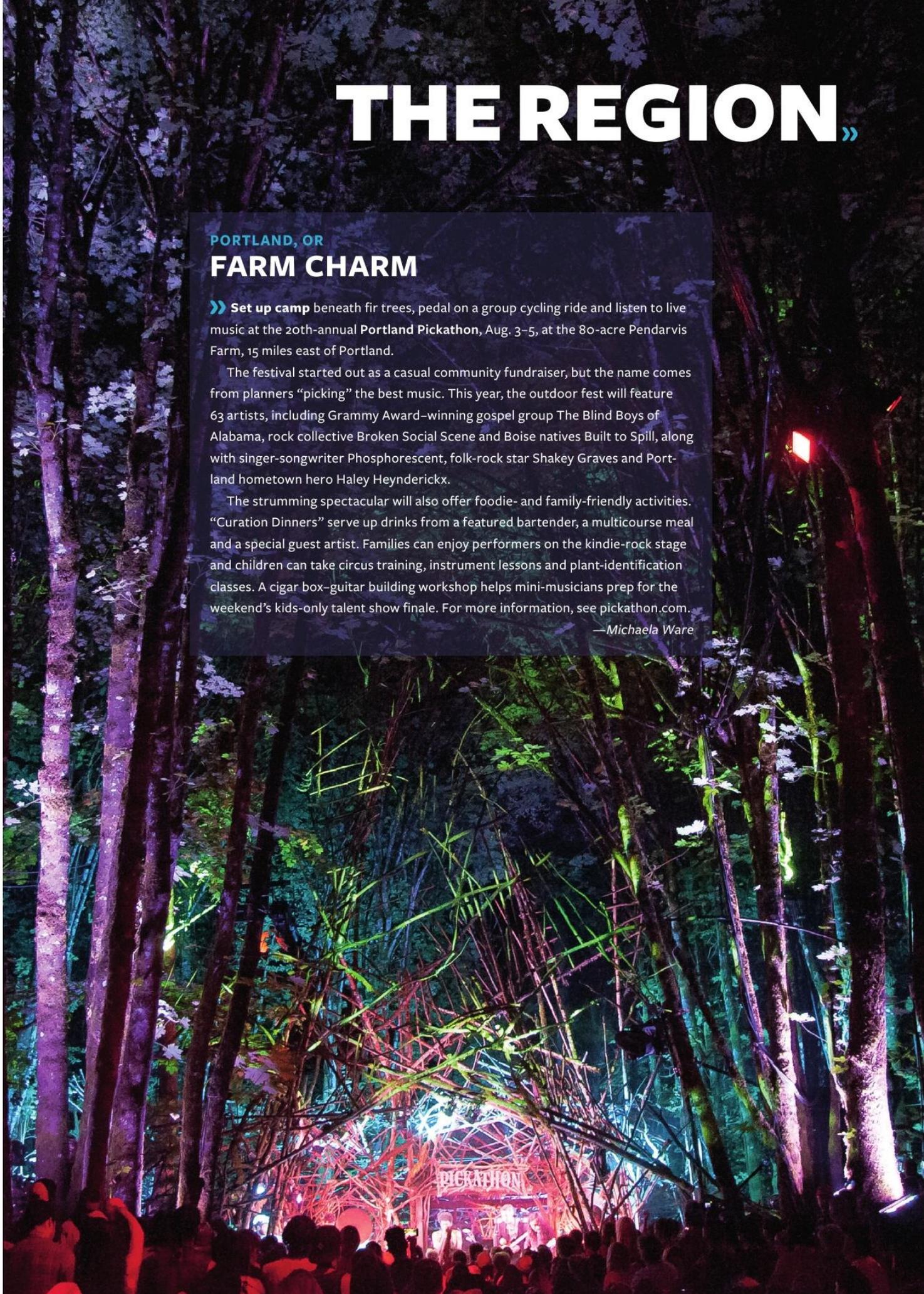
PORTLAND, OR FARM CHARM

» **Set up camp** beneath fir trees, pedal on a group cycling ride and listen to live music at the 20th-annual **Portland Pickathon**, Aug. 3–5, at the 80-acre Pendarvis Farm, 15 miles east of Portland.

The festival started out as a casual community fundraiser, but the name comes from planners “picking” the best music. This year, the outdoor fest will feature 63 artists, including Grammy Award-winning gospel group The Blind Boys of Alabama, rock collective Broken Social Scene and Boise natives Built to Spill, along with singer-songwriter Phosphorescent, folk-rock star Shakey Graves and Portland hometown hero Haley Heynderickx.

The strumming spectacular will also offer foodie- and family-friendly activities. “Curation Dinners” serve up drinks from a featured bartender, a multicourse meal and a special guest artist. Families can enjoy performers on the indie-rock stage and children can take circus training, instrument lessons and plant-identification classes. A cigar box-guitar building workshop helps mini-musicians prep for the weekend’s kids-only talent show finale. For more information, see pickathon.com.

—*Michaela Ware*



MY SCHICK STORY:

The journey to sobriety is different for everyone. I remember clearly the day I chose to quit drinking; to FEEL life; to be unapologetically me and fearless in the face of all this life has to offer.

I knew what I had to do, just not how to do it. I tried many times on my own with limited success, always wondering why it didn't work. It was my problem and no one else could help me - I had to do it for myself.

At Schick Shadel Hospital, I discovered the reasons and the science that explained why drinking was a problem for me. After seven years of sobriety, my heart is grateful. I am here to watch my son grow up and to be OK in this world of highs and lows. I now fill my soul with live music and the best of friends. I live, love, laugh, and dance like no one is watching.

I like me better when I don't drink.
Cheers to life!

- Karen



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SPOKANE, WA

HISTORIC PORTRAITS

» In the early 20th century, Edward S. Curtis took photographs and recorded his observations to document more than 80 North American tribes in traditional clothing, with the aim of preserving time-honored cultural ways.

This year, the exhibit “**Edward S. Curtis: The Grand Idea,**” at Spokane’s Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture, coincides with the 150th anniversary of Curtis’ 1868 birth.

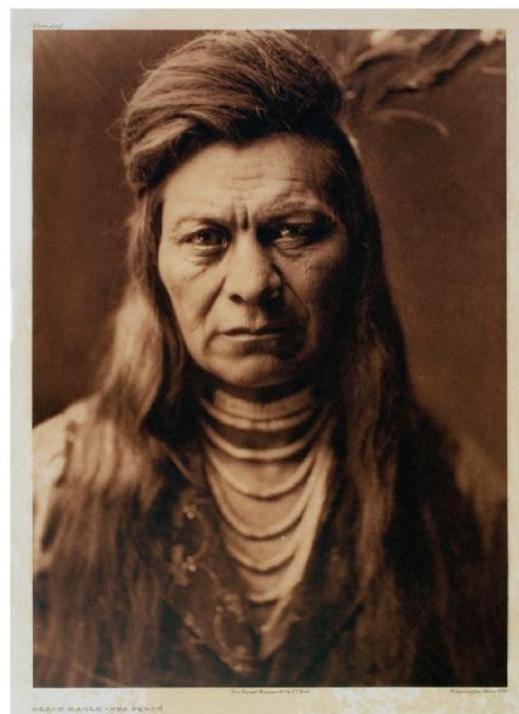
On view through Sept. 23, the exhibition focuses on Curtis’ photography of Plateau and Northwest Coast tribal members. Photos are coupled with museum pieces selected based upon objects in featured photographs, including clothing, hats, jewelry, basketry and even a canoe. The Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture has

one of the nation’s largest collections of items related to the Plateau peoples.

Also on display are photogravures—prints made with a copper plate, from Curtis’ *The North American Indian*, a lifetime undertaking comprising 20 volumes of text and images, describing tribal traditions from Curtis’ perspective.

Curtis was concerned about “the vanishing race”—the title of one of his photographs. However, the tribes depicted are very much living and active today, as revealed by the accompanying contemporary tribal members’ commentaries in the exhibit. For more information, visit northwestmuseum.org. —*Michaela Ware*

» **Black Eagle of the Nez Perce, photographed by Edward S. Curtis.**



HAMILTON, MT

BITTERROOT BLUEGRASS

» Pack a folding chair and your best toe-tapping footwear for the **Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival**, where Northwest and national performers strum guitars, pluck mandolins and play fiddles on the wood-paneled front porch of a cabin. “No Spittin’ on the Porch,” suggests a handmade sign.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary, July 27–29, the festival takes place on Hamilton-area ranchland, about 40 miles south of Missoula, and amid lodgepole pines and near the Bitterroot mountain range, along the Montana-Idaho border.

Musicians include the family group Trinity River Band, from Florida, and Kentucky-based, mandolin-strumming Kenny Stinson and Perfect Tym’n. Bluegrass bands from Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon will also perform on the rustic stage.



» **Trinity River Band on the Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival stage.**

In 2000, the film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* reignited popular interest in bluegrass, which is a casual American roots music borne of Scottish, Irish and Appalachian origins.

Festival attendees can sit back and listen, or participate in impromptu jams that fill the night air. Anyone who wishes to perform can also offer two songs for the Sunday-morning gospel show.

The “Kids in Bluegrass” concert on Saturday features young artists—the upcoming generation of musicians.

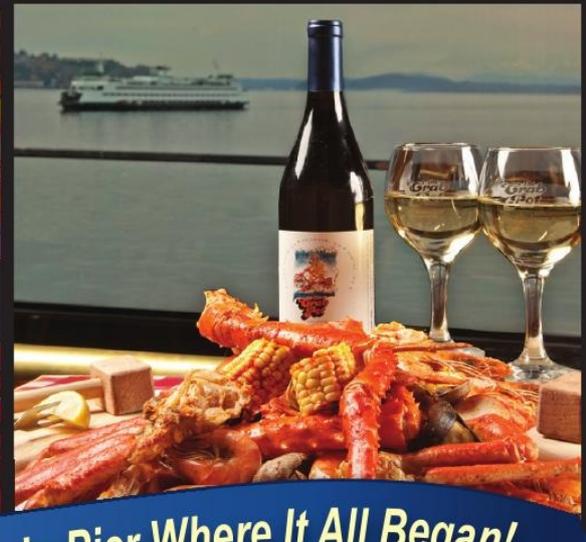
Many Hardtimes attendees return every year, to camp and to renew festival-created friendships, although newcomers are also always welcome.

Or, in the words of festival hosts (Tari and Mike Conroy) and ranchland owners (Janice Heiland, and Pat and Mary Thomas): “Y’all come.” For more information, visit hardtimesbluegrass.com. —*Megan Campbell*

FROM TOP: EDWARD S. CURTIS, BLACK EAGLE—NEZ PERCE, 1903, PHOTOGRAVURE; BOB CARROLL

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KETCHUM, ID

CURATED ARTS AND CRAFTS

» Visitors can shop a carefully curated selection of pieces at the **50th Annual Sun Valley Center Arts & Crafts Festival**, which will take place in Ketchum, Aug. 10–12. The festival’s jury accepts only one-fifth of all artist applicants.

Taking place at Ketchum’s 17-acre grassy Atkinson Park, the outdoor event will feature 130 artists from around the country who work in a variety of media, from ceramics to photography to wood.

Representative past pieces have included ceramic plates, outdoor scenes in pencil and

paint, felted clothing, handblown glass bowls, intricate metal bracelets and hand-carved wooden rocking chairs.

One local artist will be spotlighted daily while crafting a piece, so visitors can ask questions. Artists selling works in booths also welcome casual conversations about process and product.

In a kids’ area, children can make their own creations with some of the techniques used by artists at the event. Friday night offers live entertainment. For more information, see sunvalleycenter.org. —Megan Campbell

MAMMOTH LAKES, CA

ELEVATED ENTERTAINMENT

» It all started as a small, community-based rib cook-off 15 years ago. But the **Mammoth Village-Fest**, July 27–29, has become one of the largest Mammoth Lakes events of summer, and is one of the world’s highest cook-offs, at about 8,050 feet, where The Village at Mammoth (and the event) is located.

This year, more than 11,000 visitors are expected to witness tong-to-tong, grill-to-grill skill by chefs from 15 local restaurants. The three-day feast starts with Friday’s chili competition; following days feature rib and chicken cook-offs, as well as a



Crawdad Boil and the Mammoth Burger Battle.

Festivalgoers can enjoy the foods of the chefs’ labor while sipping in the beer/wine garden and dancing to evening stage performances by rock bands such as Simple Man (a Lynyrd Skynyrd tribute band) and Pink Floyd (a Pink Floyd tribute band).

Line dancing and hula hooping are two of the family-friendly interactive activities, with professional instructors leading the fun.

For more information, visit mammothvillagefest.info. —Kaylee Strachan



■ Enjoy a barrel of laughs with a glass of Pinot at the **Wine Country Comedy Fest 2018**, July 19–22, in Santa Rosa, CA. Matinee and evening stand-up comedy sets include comedians such as award-winning, Jenny Yang, at The Comedy Cellar (crushersofcomedy.com).

■ Nibble, nosh and nip from more than 60 restaurants, craft brewers, cideries and vendors at the **Albert Lee Appliance Bite of Seattle**, July 20–22, in Seattle. Listen to more than 90 entertainers perform on four stages, or learn a culinary talent or two at The Bite Cooks! live cooking demos (biteofseattle.com).

■ R&B legend Curtis Salgado, soulful Nikki Hill and country-bluesters Hillstomp will lead the lineup at the **Sisters Rhythm and Brews Festival**, Aug. 3–4, in Sisters, OR. (sistersrhythmandbrews.com).

■ This year’s **MontanaFair** will include national stars such as singer Kelly Clarkson of *The Voice* and



local stilt-walkers Animal Cracker Conspiracy (above), Aug. 10–18, in Billings. The fair’s amusement rides run the gamut from classic options to two new thrillers—“Black Out” and “Hi Rise.” Fair fare will include favorites such as the corn dog, along with specialties such as the Cowpie, a deep-fried cheeseburger (montanafair.com).

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: COURTESY OF DEV KHALSA PHOTOGRAPHY; RACHEL DRAGONFLY; COURTESY VILLAGEFEST-MAMMOTH

SEATTLE, WA
ON STAGE

Upcoming theater, from Tony Award winners to classics

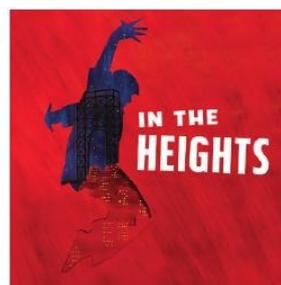
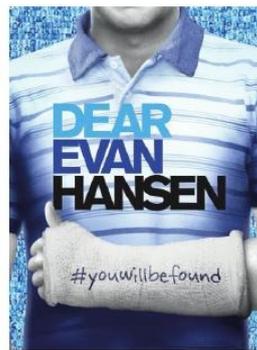
» **Come From Away**, the Broadway hit and Tony Award winner with development roots that include Seattle, will kick off **The 5th Avenue Theatre's** 2018–19 season and will also mark the beginning of the production's North American tour. *Come From Away* will be on stage Oct. 9–Nov. 4 at The 5th. The upcoming season also includes *Annie*, Nov. 23–Dec. 30; *Rock of Ages*, Feb. 1–24; the West Coast premiere of *Little Dancer*, based on an Edgar Degas masterpiece, March 22–April 14; *Urinetown* (co-produced with and presented at ACT), April 6–June 9; *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical*, April 23–28; and *West Side Story*, May 31–June 23. Alaska Airlines is a sponsor of The 5th Avenue Theatre (5thavenue.org).

Oslo, the political drama that won the 2017 Tony Award for best play, will be performed Oct. 12–Nov. 11 at **ACT**. The upcoming play schedule also includes *Lauren Weedman Doesn't Live Here Anymore*, July 20–Aug. 12; *Skylight*, Sept. 7–30; and *A Christmas Carol*, Nov. 23–Dec. 28 (acttheatre.org).

Dear Evan Hansen, winner of multiple Tony Awards, including best musical, will be part of the 2018–19 **Broadway at The Paramount** season, with the celebrated show onstage Jan. 23–Feb. 2. The season also includes *Waitress*, with music and lyrics by Grammy nominee Sara Bareilles; *On Your Feet!*, about Emilio and Gloria Estefan; *Disney's The Lion King*; the perennially popular *Cats*; the 2015 Andrew Lloyd Webber musical *School of Rock—The Musical*; best-selling *Wicked*; and *Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (stgpresents.org).

Seattle Children's Theatre will showcase updated classics and bold adaptations this season, including *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show*, with 75 lovable puppets, Sept. 13–Oct. 21. The theater's six-play season also features *And in This Corner: Cassius Clay*, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, *Balloonacy* and *The Diary of Anne Frank* (sct.org).

The 2008 Tony Award-winning musical *In the Heights*, by Lin-Manuel Miranda, who went on to



create *Hamilton*, takes the stage Nov. 23–Dec. 30 at **Seattle Repertory Theatre**. The Rep's eight-play 2018–19 season also includes *A Thousand Splendid Suns*; *A People's History*; *Last of the Boys*; *The Woman in Black*; *A Doll's House, Part 2*; *Nina Simone: Four Women*; and *Lydia and the Troll* (seattlerep.org).

Enjoy dramas and comedies performed by **Seattle Shakespeare Company**, whose productions include an all-female staging of *Richard III*, Sept. 12–Oct. 7, directed by Rosa Joshi, director of the powerful all-female *Bring Down the House* adaptation of the *Henry VI* trilogy in 2017. *Richard III* will be followed by *Arms and the Man*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *She Stoops to Conquer* and *As You Like It* (seattleshakespeare.org).

Taproot Theatre Company performs *Sweet Land, The Musical*, set in 1920 and described as a “lyrical celebration of land, love and the American immigrant experience,” July 11–Aug. 18. Also on stage at Taproot will be *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*, Sept. 12–Oct. 20; and two holiday productions: the Jane Austen-inspired *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, and *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (taproottheatre.org). —Michele A. Dill

» From top: *The Broadway* cast of *Come From Away*; graphic for *Oslo*; graphic for *Dear Evan Hansen*; The *Velveteen Rabbit* original production image for the poster by Robert Altman, with *Christian Roe* (*Rabbit*, left) and *Ashley Byam* (*Boy*, right); graphic for *In the Heights*; *Sarah Harlett*, shown as *Richard* in *Bring Down the House*, will play the lead in the upcoming *Richard III*. Right: *Tyler Todd Kimmel* & *Molli Corcoran* in *Sweet Land, The Musical*.



FROM TOP: MATT MURPHY; COURTESY ACT THEATRE; COURTESY DEAR EVAN HANSEN; COURTESY THE UNICORN THEATRE, LONDON, UK, 2017; PRODUCTION; COURTESY SEATTLE REPERTORY THEATRE; ARTWORK BY SHANNON LOY; PHOTO BY JOHN ULMAN; BOTTOM RIGHT: FROM SWEET LAND POSTER; PHOTO BY JOHN ULMAN



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By Kerry Newberry

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I'm driving into the heart of Oregon's Willamette Valley wine country, past hazelnut orchards and berry barns, to Ponzi Vineyards. One of the valley's founding wineries, Ponzi Vineyards is located about 20 miles southwest of Portland. When I arrive, the sun has yet to clear the peaks of the Chehalem Mountains, and second-generation winemaker Luisa Ponzi is already bundled up and walking the vineyards her family planted with Pinot Noir cuttings in 1970.

It's postcard perfect, even with moody skies and a chance of showers. The surrounding hillsides are green from recent rains, sprinkled with pops of purple sweet pea blooms and flowering lavender.

I'm visiting Ponzi as part of an exploration of the Northwest and California to learn more about prominent wineries, including their signature wines, and factors such as terroir that influence the wines' distinctive characteristics.

Luisa Ponzi's parents were adventurous spirits with a passion for food and wine. They traveled the Northwest coast in search of the perfect spot to grow Pinot—somewhere with mild days, cool nights and a long growing season. In the

Sisters Luisa (left) and Anna Maria (right) Ponzi, second-generation winery owners in Oregon's Willamette Valley.

Willamette Valley, the Ponzis decided to take their leap of faith. And for the past 25 years, their daughters have operated the winery, with Anna Maria as president and Luisa as winemaker.

Today, the valley is a verdant patchwork of rolling vineyards—an internationally renowned wine destination, most notably for Pinot Noir. Seven AVAs (American Viticultural Areas, or designated wine grape-growing regions) can be found within the Willamette Valley, including The Chehalem Mountains AVA.

Within the Chehalem Mountains AVA, there are more than 50 wineries and vineyards, many of which are family-owned. Cool-climate grapes such as Pinot Noir grow well here in the diverse soils, along with Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc and Chardonnay, among others.

With Chehalem Ridge's mist-drenched peaks behind her, Luisa Ponzi uncorks the winery's 2014 Classico Pinot Noir, a blend

she makes each year from the family's most established vineyards throughout the Willamette Valley, and she pours a taste into two tulipshaped glasses, the traditional glass for Pinot. "We feel this wine is a great portrait of Oregon Pinot—it's pure, with beautiful fruit, good acidity and structure, and a nice freshness to it," she says.

We swirl, sniff and sip. "What I'm looking for is added complexity, a little rusticity to the wine, some dusty tannins but still very much the purity found in Oregon Pinot," she says.

On the nose, the wine has aromas of white pepper and brambly fruit followed by a lush black cherry flavor. To play off the white pepper quality in the Pinot, Ponzi pairs the wine with a platter of cured meats and local cheeses. "Briar Rose Creamery in Dundee makes some beautiful cheeses to complement Oregon Pinots," she says. With notes of hazelnuts and mushrooms, Freya's Wheel, a semi-soft, bloomy rinded goat's milk cheese, often makes the plate.

Another favorite to try at home: Pasta with lavender flowers, served with Oregon Pinot. "There's some kind of magic that happens as the herb softens the tannins in the wine midpalate," Ponzi says.

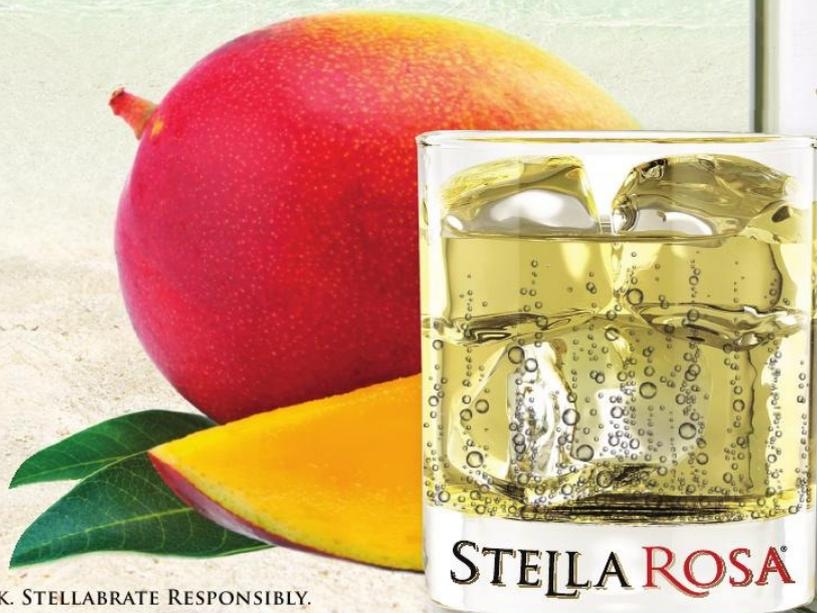
Other food pairings pay tribute to Ponzi's Italian heritage. "We often pull recipes from my mom's cookbook [*The Ponzi Vineyards Cookbook*], like risotto, ravioli, lasagna ... and anything with wild mushrooms." In the summer, pastas are simple and often garnished with ingredients plucked fresh from the home garden, such as heirloom tomatoes and rosemary, with a generous drizzle of olive oil.

The Italian connection also thrives in the vineyard. Years ago, the Ponzi family planted the rare Arneis white wine varietal—once on the verge of extinction—from Piedmont, Italy. It's alluringly fragrant. "With ours you get aromas of marzipan and fig, and a little grassy note," she says, "It's an intriguing wine."

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Grapes (at left) are grown in Eastern Washington vineyards (above) for Chateau Ste. Michelle.

Washington: Riesling

Chateau Ste. Michelle, just northeast of Seattle, is the main distribution hub for Riesling, the winery's defining white wine, says Bob Bertheau, head winemaker for Chateau Ste. Michelle. The winery's versatile selection ranges across the spectrum of sweetness from a dry aperitif to a rich and decadent dessert Riesling.

"We have a specific climate here in the Pacific Northwest that lends to colder Octobers, and the necessary acid retention for Riesling, allowing us to make a universally pleasing style," Bertheau says.

Two Washington state AVAs producing the coveted Riesling grapes include Yakima Valley, which has some of the oldest

Riesling vineyards in the state, and Ancient Lakes, a region north of most Washington growing regions—a cooler spot for tending grapes and ideal for crafting white wines with bright acidity.

Eroica Riesling is Chateau Ste. Michelle's benchmark white wine. It developed from the winery's collaboration with prominent winemaker Ernst Loosen, whose family has been producing Rieslings in Germany's Mosel Valley for more than 200 years. Named after Beethoven's Third Symphony, Eroica debuted with the 1999 vintage.

The project's goal: Elevate the reputation of American Riesling. "A lot of people view it as a sweet, simple wine," says

Bertheau. "But we also wanted to highlight that Riesling can be made in many different styles, like this Eroica, barely off-dry with a good acid balance that goes with food just amazingly."

In the glass, the 2016 Eroica Riesling opens with aromas of white peach, mandarin orange and fresh apricot, then finishes on the palate with a hint of floral notes and a zingy acidity. "One of the more classic pairings would be some Thai food—anything with a little spice to it," Bertheau says.

Eroica Riesling's delicate fruit flavors and acidity pair well with the rich taste of shellfish dishes. Berthau directs me to the winery website's wine and food pairings, and I see a recipe for Smoked Sea Bass on Potato Pancakes. At that point, I'm ready for lunch. Luckily, there's a daily, seasonal lunch offered by the Chateau kitchen.

Another creative collaboration is Chateau Ste. Michelle's Artist Series. Bottle labels feature works of different renowned artists, such as Dale Chihuly. This Bordeaux-style blend is from two of Chateau Ste. Michelle's best vineyards: Cold Creek Vineyard, one of the state's oldest and most prestigious sites, and Canoe Ridge Estate, in southeastern Washington's Horse Heaven Hills AVA.



California: Rhône-Style

It's interesting to explore a wine destination such as San Luis Obispo County, perhaps not as well known as Sonoma or Napa.

One of the area's wine hubs is the community of Paso Robles. "It's a laid-back, small town surrounded by beautiful rolling hills, and not at all pretentious," says Anthony Riboli, a fourth-generation winemaker for Riboli Family Wine Estates, which recently opened a new winery in Paso Robles.

Located between San Francisco and Los Angeles, Paso Robles is surrounded by more than 200 nearby wineries. While the vibe is relaxed, the fast-growing Paso Robles AVA is nationally acclaimed for Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon and creative Rhône-style wines: Blends of grapes originating in France's Rhône region.



Riboli Family Wine Estates vineyards are located in the rolling hills of California's San Luis Obispo County.

Steep hillsides and rocky soils with lots of limestone—a rarity in California—have turned the area into a coveted place to grow grapes with rich, complex flavors. Riboli Family Wine Estates has long made Rhône-inspired wines with fruit from the region, from a robust, blackberry-rich Syrah to a spicy, opulent Grenache.

Rhône-style wines put Paso Robles on the wine map, but Bordeaux-style blends

have become increasingly popular in the past five years. More vineyard acreages are planted for Bordeaux varieties than Rhône, with more than 50 percent planted for Cabernet Sauvignon.

This inspired Riboli to innovate with a new Bordeaux-style blend and new Riboli signature wine—2014 San Simeon Stormwatch, named for five recently planted estate vineyards near San Luis Obispo's coastal town of San Simeon, about 45 miles away. "This structured wine has the five most common varieties for a Bordeaux blend, with Cabernet Sauvignon as the majority, followed by Merlot, Malbec, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc," Riboli says.

In the glass, the wine exudes blackberry and plum aromas followed by flavors of ripe cherry and raspberry. An avid home

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cook with an affinity for summer barbecue, Riboli likes to pair this robust red with lamb chops grilled with olive oil, freshly pressed garlic, rosemary, lemon zest, and a sprinkle of salt and pepper.

The name *Stormwatch* alludes to harvest time, which is usually in October. “You can have storms roll in, and you don’t want the grapes rained on, so as a winemaker, you are always on the watch for storms.”

For lighter fare such as grilled salmon or vegetable kabobs, he turns to the 2017

San Simeon Grenache Rosé. “The grapes are from our estate Stefano Vineyard, named for my grandfather, in Paso Robles,” he says. “This Rosé is an incredible wine we pair with dishes ranging from tuna tartare to filet mignon,” he says. With aromas of white strawberry and crisp melon, it’s the perfect wine to salute the summer.

Idaho: Syrah

“It’s fun when you are a new area like this,” says Greg Koenig, the winemaker/owner of Koenig Vineyards. The vineyards sit on the Sunny Slope Wine Trail in Caldwell, Idaho, home to most of Idaho’s wine vineyards, and part of the Snake River Valley appellation. The wild and rugged Snake River Valley AVA includes two eastern Oregon counties and a band of southwestern Idaho. It’s Idaho’s largest

and first AVA, established in 2007, and now includes 15 wineries.

“You get to try new sites, plant new grapes, and try new techniques in the vineyard,” he says. “It’s an opportunity for everybody to see what grows best.”

Koenig grew up in Sun Valley, Idaho, and studied architecture at the University of Notre Dame. But he was soon bit by the wine bug, which he decided to pursue full force in 1995. “At that time, there was very little Idaho wine being made,” he says. “Our wine industry is still small, so we all know one another and are constantly bouncing ideas around to see what works and what doesn’t.”

Syrah Three Vineyard Cuvée is the wine Koenig says he hangs his hat on. When the region first started getting noticed for quality red wines, Koenig says Syrah was the region’s calling card. “It’s

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Greg Koenig, winemaker at Koenig Vineyards in Idaho.

one of my favorite wines, and I think it's significant for the entire area," he says. "We've been making it since 2001, and it's a beautiful grape in the region." At this high elevation with an arid climate, the varietal ripens consistently, given extended time to ripen on the vine.

Syrah hails from France's Rhône Valley, but takes on characteristics of the soil and climate the dark-skinned grapes are grown in. "The southern Rhône varietals in general are good for Idaho,"

says Koenig. "But especially Syrah because it ripens consistently and leads to these big, beautiful, voluptuous wines."

In the glass, the wine bursts with blackberry and cherry aromas followed by lush fruit flavors. It's a wine he pairs with cheese fondue, because the tannins cut through the rich cheese, and because fondue always seems like a celebration.

Syrah also classically pairs with a grilled leg of lamb, which also ties into

Idaho's past, Koenig notes. Historically known for lamb production; a large Basque community immigrated from Europe, and settled in Idaho over the past century to work on Sawtooth Mountain sheep ranches, east of Boise.

"Now there are not as many sheep-herders, but there's still a rich Basque culture in Boise and Basque restaurants serving wonderful lamb dishes and chorizo," says Koenig.

Downtown Boise's "Basque Block" features a museum, restaurant and The Basque Market, with *pintxos* tastings and festive paella bakes on the patio. For Koenig, it's a perfect place to toast with a glass of Syrah on a summer evening. ■

Portland-based Kerry Newberry writes about food, wine, agriculture and travel.

WESTERN WINERIES

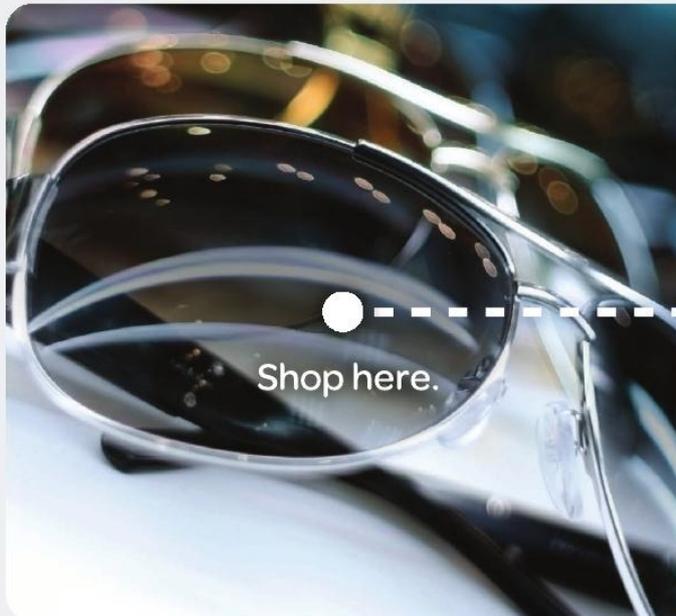
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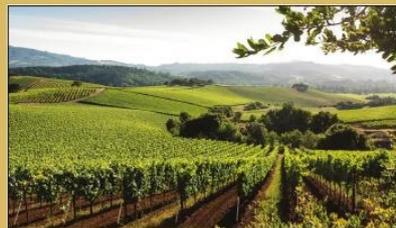
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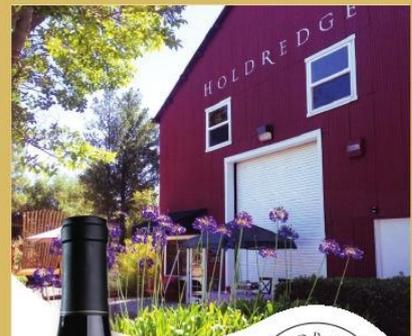
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THESE DAYS, many families find it hard to carve out time together, and to enjoy outdoor recreation amid their extensively scheduled and tech-driven lives. The solution for some families is to purchase a vacation home removed from the distractions of everyday concerns. Families are even designating their vacation homes as technology-free zones where they can reconnect with each other, and from which they can pursue many recreational activities.

» *One of the homes with a view of Lake Chelan at The Lookout development.*

For Seattle tech executives Dennis and Ann, and their daughters, ages 17 and 14, scheduling family and outdoor-recreation time has meant a second home in The Lookout development along Lake Chelan in Central Washington, where they enjoy boating, hiking and making new friends.

San Diegans Brett and Kelli, and their teen and preteen, have a vacation home at Whitetail Club in McCall, Idaho, where they mountain bike, fly-fish, ski and have fun on special Whitetail Club-arranged excursions.

For millennials MacKenzie and Blake, and their two toddlers, who live on a farm about 50 miles southwest of Portland, Oregon, the choice was easy: Head west to Pacific City, where the ocean scene is relaxing and the waves thrill Blake, a surfing aficionado.

Alan, from Orange County, California, says his family appreciates their executive vacation residence at 80/50 Mammoth, in the Mammoth Lakes area, as a calming escape where they can spend more time together, including skiing, fly-fishing and hiking. “Today, more than ever, there’s a real need for people to slow down however they can and unplug from the matrix of

social media and technology, and enjoy the beauty of nature, loved ones around us and new friends,” says Alan. “That’s why we bought a second home.”

Approximately 12 percent of U.S. homebuyers in 2016 purchased a vacation home, according to the 2017 NAR (National Association of Realtors) Investment & Vacation Home Buyer’s Survey. Buyers sought vacations in beach areas, with 36 percent making purchases there, according to the survey. Another 21 percent bought lakefront properties, while 20 percent sought out a second home in the country. Fourteen percent bought a mountain home, and 7 percent bought in a ranch location, with “other” rounding out the remainder.

In more general terms, 25 percent of vacation-home buyers bought in a resort area; an equal amount bought in a rural area; 21 percent bought in a small town; 15 percent bought in an urban area; and 14 percent bought in a suburb or subdivision. Around 18 percent of vacation buyers plan to eventually make their vacation home their primary residence when they retire, according to the NAR survey.

LAKE CHELAN

Dennis and Ann chose The Lookout in Chelan, Washington, four years

ago, in part because it was convenient to get there. The lake can be reached via an approximately three-hour drive from their Puget Sound-area home, or via an approximately 45-minute flight from Seattle to Wenatchee and then about a 40-mile drive north. “Our girls play competitive volleyball all year and run track, so [vacation time] is very difficult to forecast,” Dennis says. They get away to Lake Chelan to enjoy boating, skiing, ample sunshine, and a sense of community in the “lakeside village.”

The Lookout development sits on a 90-acre site, on the shore of the lake, about 1.5 miles from downtown Chelan, where Lookout buyers can shop, dine and bowl. The Lookout property includes a lakefront park, a 70-slip marina and a swimming pool. A small winery is nearby. It’s one of the approximately 30 wineries along the shore of Lake Chelan. About a third of the 320 planned Lookout homes have been sold.

“We wanted to be in a community of like-minded people who were open to talking to others, because we’re social and like to entertain,” Dennis says. He adds that they were surprised by how much there is to do in Chelan. From the Winterfest Fire & Ice Festival to the St. Patrick’s Day Top Dog



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» Above and right: Activities such as mountain biking are popular at Whitetail Club, where homes are sited amid natural beauty.

Parade to vintage-hydroplane races, there's always something going on, he says.

The family purchased a four-bedroom, 3,000-square-foot home that now sports a hot tub on the deck and a pingpong table in the garage. "There are two bedrooms on the top floor and an open middle floor where double doors open to the deck, so it's a nice gathering spot," Dennis says. The family uses the house about six weeks a year and rents it out at other times through The Lookout's vacation-rental program, which takes care of marketing, reservations and housekeeping.

Dennis, Ann and the kids named their home "More Cowbell" after a funny *Saturday Night Live* skit in which Will Ferrell plays the cowbell to (*Don't Fear*) *The Reaper* by Blue Öyster Cult, and the family extended a "let's have some fun" theme to the decor. For example, there are framed quirky sayings around the house, including one that shows a

THERE ARE FRAMED QUIRKY SAYINGS AROUND THE HOUSE. IT'S ALL PART OF FEELING LIKE THE FAMILY IS TRULY GETTING AWAY.

little boy in a Batman costume and the words, "Be Yourself."

It's all part of feeling like they are truly getting away, Dennis says. "There's no reason to pretend we're not on vacation."

MCCALL

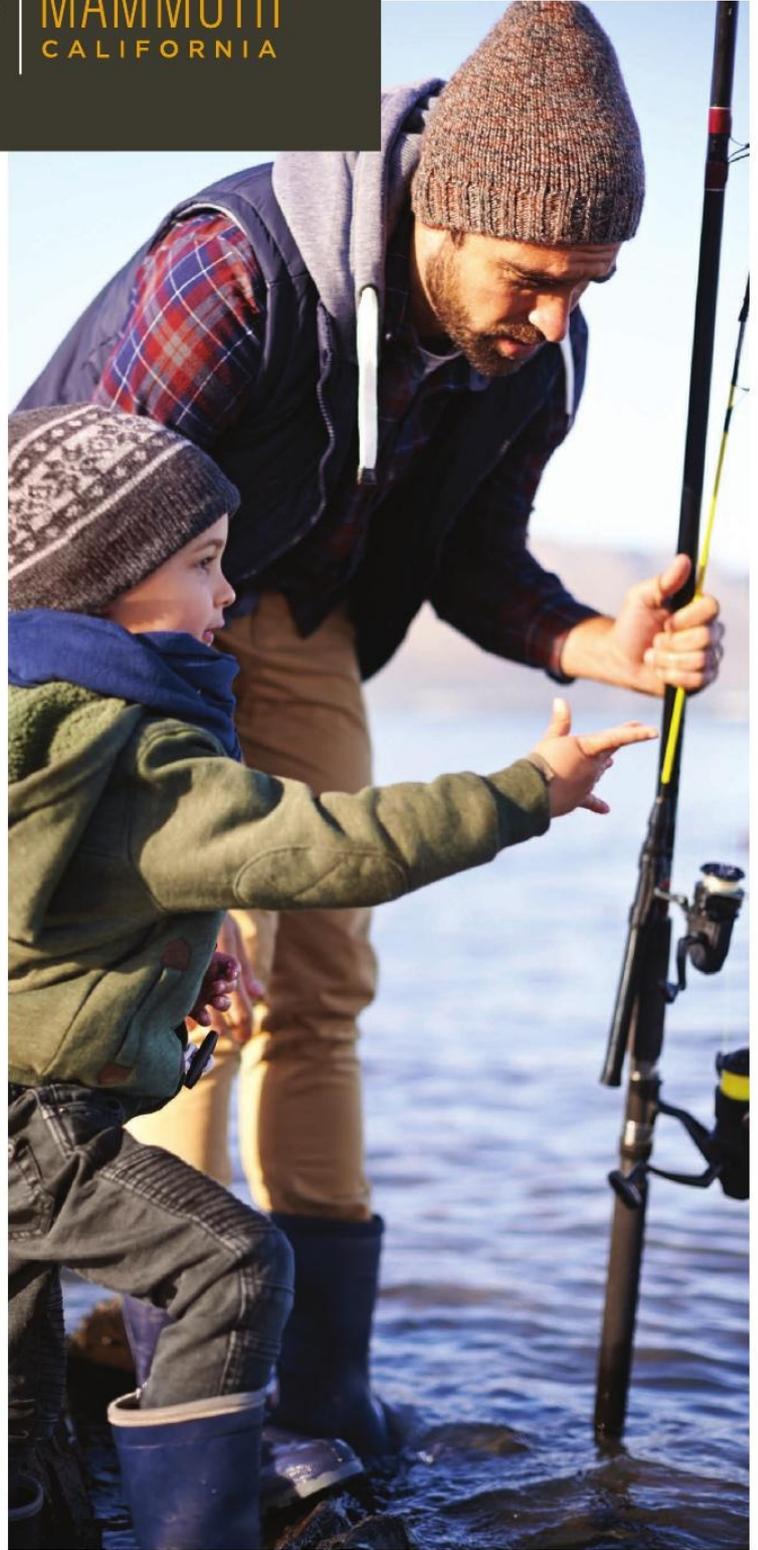
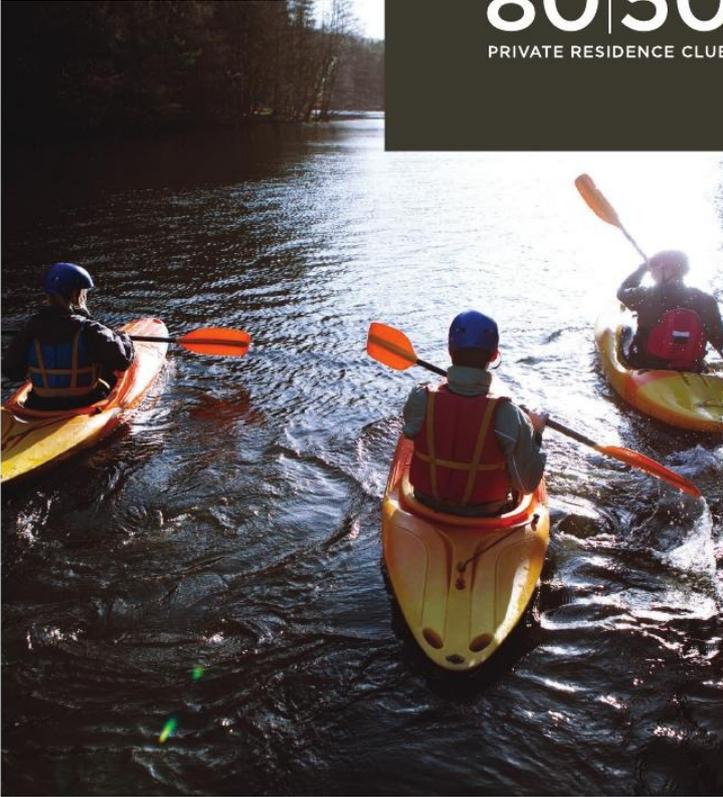
Whitetail Club—a gated, private-membership golf community that sits on southern Payette Lake in McCall, Idaho, and is described as being in the heart of the Salmon River Mountains, provides welcome vacation time for Brett and Kelli, and their two kids. Kelli grew up in Boise, just 110 miles south, and her uncle owned a small cabin at Whitetail Club. Kelli and Brett visited so often, they soon decided to buy their own vacation home there, completing the purchase in 2017.



The couple's new 3,700-square-foot, four-bedroom, five-bath modern Craftsman sits across the street from the 1,300-acre community's Fish & Swim Club, and next to a stocked trout pond that doubles as an ice-skating rink in the winter. The family also enjoys excursions arranged by the club concierge, including quad glamping (riding motorized quad bikes to remote

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» Waves roll ashore at Pacific City, with Haystack Rock in the background.

locations where they meet a crew who has already set up camp), as well as skiing, hiking, horseback riding, whitewater rafting, and boating and fishing in nearby rivers and alpine lakes.

Last fall, Brett, who owns a hospitality company, spent five days hanging out at the cabin on a father-daughter trip with his 11-year-old. They skied and took a Whitetail Club cooking class together. “We rarely get a chance to disconnect and [hang out like] that in San Diego,” he notes.

And at Whitetail Club, he says, “We don’t ever have any concerns about what the kids are doing. They can socialize with friends or ride bikes for hours. The community is made up of really great people.”

PACIFIC CITY

Willamette Valley agriculturalist Blake purchased a lot in the Nantucket Shores subdivision, with the help of Shorepine Properties Real Estate Company, long before he met

MacKenzie, a real estate agent. As the waves roll in around Haystack Rock, about a mile offshore from Pacific City, they form some of the most unique curls along the Pacific Ocean—great for surfing, according to sources such as tillamookcoast.com ... and Blake. (At 340 feet tall, the Pacific City Haystack Rock is even taller than the 266-foot Haystack Rock at Cannon Beach.)

“Blake’s passion has always been surfing,” says MacKenzie. “Pacific City is about an hour from [the farm], and Blake’s family has owned a home in Pacific City since he was a little kid. He surfs several times a week year-round—any time he can get away.”

The pair built their own house on Blake’s lot several years ago, turning plans for a bachelor pad into a three-bedroom, two-bath, 2,100-square-foot home complete

with an outdoor shower, which is handy after their two toddlers have explored the beach, as well as after Blake has been surfing.

“We have an open floor plan downstairs, and we built a bunkroom because we often have friends and family coming with us,” MacKenzie adds. Her twin sister, Blake’s older brother’s family, and her or Blake’s parents often join them. “It has six bunkbeds and a couple of cribs.”

They’ve liked this home so much that six months ago they bought another Nantucket Shores lot, on which they will start building a new home once their current house sells. “The lot is in the same subdivision, but with an incredible view looking out on pure ocean [with an unobstructed view of the water],” MacKenzie says. “We plan on making it our retirement home.”

THEIR BOYS LOVE BEING IN PACIFIC CITY. ‘WE SPEND THE DAY AT THE BEACH.’

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» Lake Mamie is one of the many scenic lakes in the Mammoth Lakes area.

“Emily and I had been visiting friends here three to four times a year, and then I came up last summer with my son, and we went exploring and fishing in the upper lakes,” says Alan, a commercial real

Their boys love being in Pacific City, she says. “We spend the day at the beach. Blake takes our 3-year-old out surfing, and I try not to watch.”

In addition to playing at the beach, the family likes to visit the library, indoor pool, surf shop, and Ben & Jeff’s Burgers and Tacos in Pacific City, while for Blake and MacKenzie’s parents-night-out dates, they enjoy Sportsman’s Pub-n-Grub, which is popular with locals. And the couple’s fathers love to fish together, MacKenzie says.

Pacific City is also home to the popular Pelican Pub & Brewery, for craft beer, and the new upscale Meridian restaurant, which serves delicious Northwest cuisine.

RECONNECTING IN MAMMOTH

Mammoth Mountain, with an 11,053-foot summit, has long been a favorite ski destination. For Orange County residents Alan and Emily, and their two teens, 80/50 Mammoth, a ski-in, ski-out luxury residence club where owners purchase fractional shares, provides a place to decompress, reconnect and enjoy nature in a way they don’t at home.



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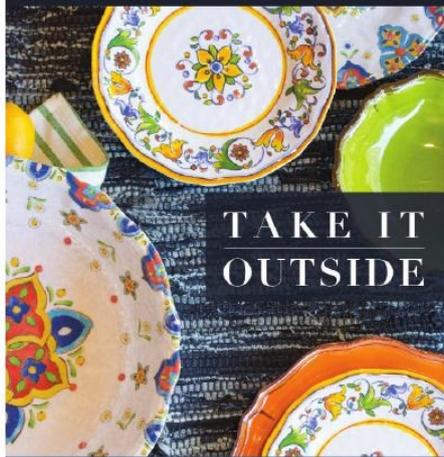
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estate investor and developer. "That trip convinced me that buying would allow us more frequent visits, and it would be nice to have a place to bond and connect outside the crazy everyday world we live in."

Providing access to the Village Gondola via private sky bridge, 80/50 Mammoth comprises 28 one-, two- and three-bedroom residences in a complex that also includes a movie

ONCE THEY'RE AT MAMMOTH LAKES, THE LAID-BACK AGENDA MIGHT BE TO SKI OR FISH, TO PLAY CARDS OR PIECE TOGETHER A PUZZLE.

room, and a rooftop gym, hot tub and sauna. Alan equates it to living in a luxury hotel, with the flexibility of ownership. Each owner is guaranteed three weeks in the summer and three in the winter, with unlimited usage if space is available.

Alan relishes the transition between Orange County and Mammoth. "We've worked out a good routine where we can mentally downshift," he says. Once they're at Mammoth Lakes, the laid-back agenda might be to ski or fish, to play cards or piece together a puzzle, or to simply enjoy the natural beauty of the area. "Just to take time to bond and have neat conversations without the distractions of the day-to-day is a real blessing," Alan says. ■

M. Sharon Baker lives in the Seattle area.



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Water Colors

*Scenic seas, lakes
and rivers of the West*

By Andrew Waite

The Sonoma Coast, California

Pounding waves and churning surf continually change the Sonoma Coast, shaping granite and other types of rock into sea stacks dotting the Pacific Ocean.



The Pacific Ocean breaks against California's rugged Sonoma Coast. Oregon's Crater Lake fills the nearly 2,000-foot caldera of Mount Mazama, which erupted and collapsed more than 7,700 years ago. The Snake River winds through Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. In The Evergreen State the Snake River joins the mighty Columbia, itself a majestic ribbon, flowing from British Columbia to the Pacific Ocean at the Washington–Oregon border. Montana's Flathead Lake reflects evening clouds as if its surface were a mirror. Washington's Puget Sound, part of the Salish Sea, laps against more than 1,300 miles of coastline. The waters of the West are dynamic and powerful. Spend a moment beside them as the morning sun rises or as moonlight sparkles atop their ripples, and these picturesque waterways are likely to move you with their beauty.



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Crater Lake, Oregon

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Snake River, Idaho

On a 1,040-mile course to its confluence with the Columbia River in Washington, the Snake River cuts through plains and canyons, including the basalt flow of the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, about 20 miles southwest of Boise.

Columbia River, Washington

The Ed Hendler Bridge, shown here in sunrise's pink light, crosses the Columbia between Pasco and Kennewick in Eastern Washington. The Columbia is the contiguous United States' largest river flowing into the Pacific Ocean.

Flathead Lake, Montana

Covering 200 square miles, this serene body of water, fed predominantly by snowmelt and the Flathead River, is one of the largest freshwater lakes in the contiguous United States west of the Mississippi River.



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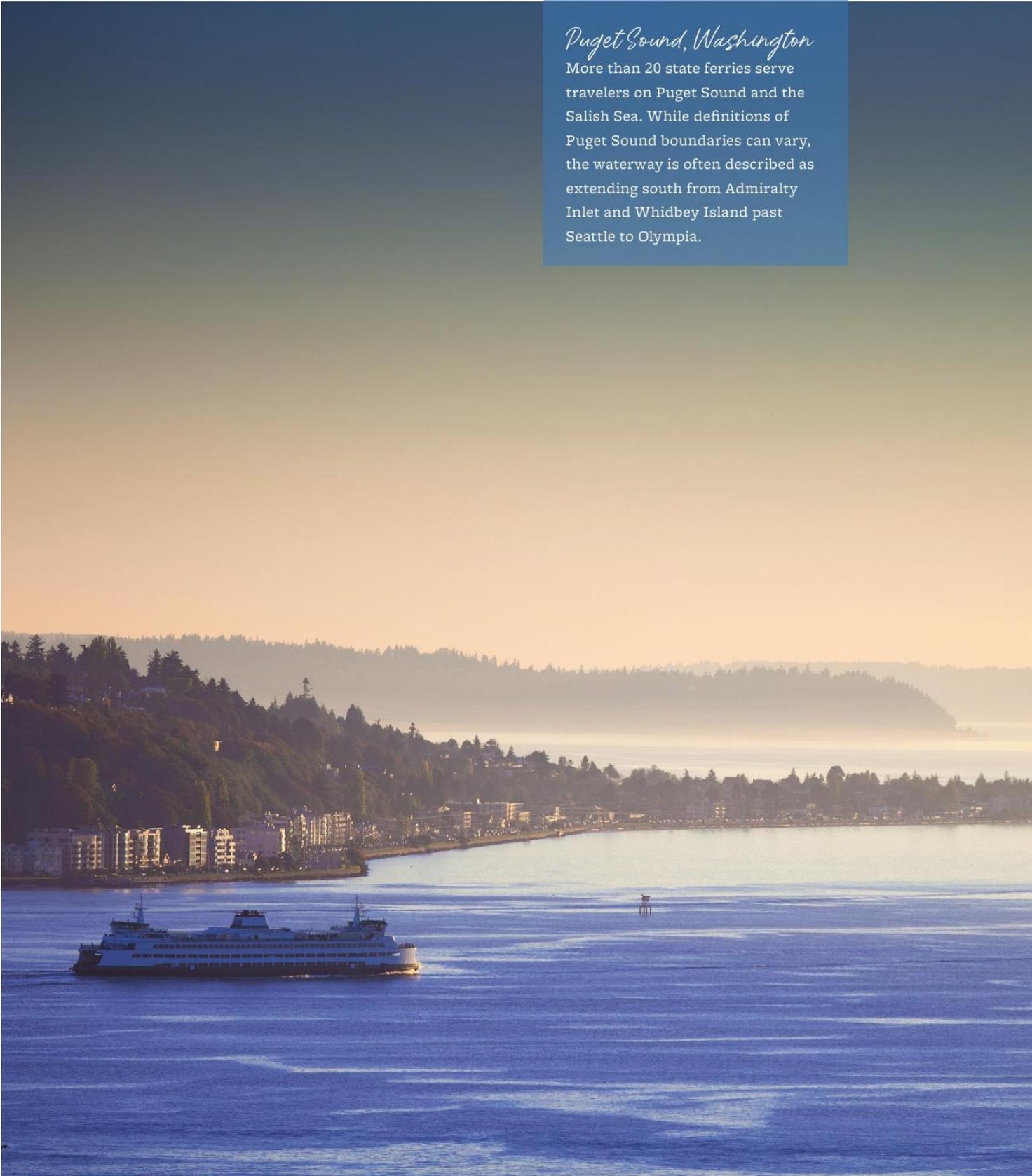


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Puget Sound, Washington

More than 20 state ferries serve travelers on Puget Sound and the Salish Sea. While definitions of Puget Sound boundaries can vary, the waterway is often described as extending south from Admiralty Inlet and Whidbey Island past Seattle to Olympia.





GREG GERVAIS, CO-FOUNDER OF COPPER BASIN CONSTRUCTION, WITH **SUE BALDWIN**, AVISTA ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Natural gas benefits builders and tenants.

Local developers are installing natural gas in their multifamily projects, as this clean, economical fuel adds value to their buildings. The cost for them to do so is also making financial sense now that one regional energy provider, Avista, is providing builders and developers with cash incentives.

Avista generates approximately half of its electricity from hydropower. And while the company embraces renewables such as wind and solar, these are considered intermittent energy resources (i.e., the wind does not always blow, especially in extreme cold temperatures when demand for electricity is at its peak). About 35% of the utility's diverse resource mix comes from natural gas, which provides reliable and affordable energy for many of its customers.

"As demand for energy grows, we're always looking for ways to increase energy efficiency," explains Avista Account Executive Sue Baldwin. "To help meet this demand, we burn natural gas in combustion turbines to generate electricity. However, when gas is converted to electricity and sent over power lines to our customers, nearly half of that energy produced is lost. That's why delivering it directly to a home for heating is much more efficient than using electricity."

And that's also why Avista is offering incentives to assist developers in bringing this plentiful and versatile fuel to multifamily projects. Avista's program provides up to \$3,500 per unit for installation of either space heating, hot water, or a combination of both (capped at 100% of the incremental cost to install natural gas). Available in

Avista's Washington and Idaho service territory through 2018, the incentive is for construction projects with five or more units per building.

One of the developers to take advantage of Avista's program is Greg Gervais, co-founder of Copper Basin

Developers can get up to \$3,500 per unit to install natural gas.

Construction. The Hayden Lake, Idaho-based company specializes in commercial and residential land development and is today one of the Inland Northwest's largest multifamily builders.

According to Gervais, installing gas heat requires additional framing (such as soffits for ductwork), along with multiple stages of sheetrocking and added fire prevention between floors.

Gervais installed natural gas in his latest project, the sophisticated 728 apartments in downtown Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Gervais explained that he is after high-caliber tenants who want some of the amenities they would enjoy with a house. A natural gas furnace lets him provide space heating and central air without unsightly wall heaters and window cooling units. Natural gas also supplies faster and more even heat throughout the apartment.



"We recognize there is a greater cost and additional effort to install natural gas, but the quality of the building is so much better," says Gervais. "And with Avista's help to offset some of those costs, it's definitely worth it."

Another development company that has partnered with Avista is Diamond Rock Construction in Spokane Valley. Diamond Rock has been building quality Spokane-area homes for over 20 years. The company also develops unique multifamily dwellings, one of its latest being Bella Tess, an upper-end apartment complex in the Valley, near the scenic Spokane River and Centennial Trail.

According to Baldwin, Diamond Rock is the area's first developer to successfully determine how to make three-story buildings pencil out using Avista's incentive.

"We had to feel good about bridging the financial gap ourselves," says Diamond Rock President Dennis Crapo. "Avista's incentive program certainly helped with that."

Diamond Rock chose natural gas heating for Bella Tess because it fits the company's environmentally-conscious vision for the property (even the center of the club house has a 15-foot tree growing under a skylight). According to Crapo, the Bella Tess property is Green Globe certified—a nationally recognized, green-rating assessment program that promotes adopting sustainability goals with construction projects.

Crapo listed several things that contribute to Green Globe status, including quality of the windows, thickness of the walls, amount of insulation and other improvements. A high-efficiency natural gas furnace also contributes, as does its integral central air.

"In addition to the energy-efficiency benefits, natural gas is also a plus for our tenants," said Crapo. "Once people experience the comfort that natural gas provides—especially during our cold winter months—they'll begin to expect it in other apartment buildings."

Natural gas space heating is just one of the ways developers are taking advantage of Avista's incentive. Baker Construction & Development, Inc. of Spokane found natural gas hot water to be a perfect solution for its latest 61-unit/214-bedroom apartment building, 940 North.

The company has been an industry leader in the western U.S. for seven decades. Their new 940 North building in Spokane serves as premier student housing primarily for Gonzaga University.

According to V.P. of Construction Lucas Holmquist, the luxurious 3- and 4-bedroom floor plans are designed much like a traditional college dorm, where student tenants share the apartment's main living spaces.

"For that reason alone, it made sense to install a central natural gas water heater system instead of individual electric water heaters," says Holmquist.

Most students take showers early in the morning before classes, he explained. The endless supply of hot water keeps roommates happy because the last one out of bed doesn't end up with a cold shower.

"The building's owner also benefits," he says. "This natural gas solution means fewer maintenance costs and a longer life cycle for the system. It's better for the environment, too."



LUCAS HOLMQUIST, V.P. OF CONSTRUCTION,
BAKER CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Developers interested in the incentive program should contact Avista early in the process. "We want to help as much as we can," says Baldwin, "and avoid engineers and architects having to redesign their plans to accommodate a different system."

To date, participating developers have installed nearly 2,000 gas-heated multifamily units.

"That converts to more than 7,000,000 kilowatt-hours of energy savings," said Baldwin.

To learn more about Avista's Multifamily Natural Gas Incentive Program, contact Sue Baldwin at 208-769-1340, or sue.baldwin@avistacorp.com



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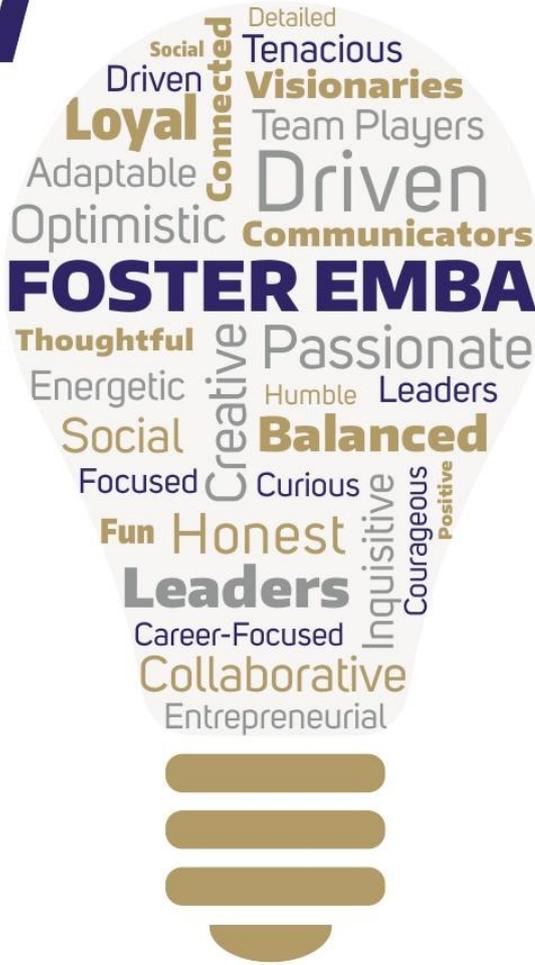
Enjoying nature's beauty while offering a helping hand

By Jean Arthur

» My husband, Lynn, and I have left our Storm Lake campsite and are hiking into Montana's Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness. At our elevation above 8,200 feet, we can see patches of snow sparkling in the summer sun along the northeast slopes of Mount Tiny. Indian paintbrush and harebell brighten the 3.5-mile route to Goat Flats, a high-mountain meadow about 115 miles southwest of Helena.

We are hiking with eight friends, and all of us are packing supplies such as pickaxes, gravel bags, gloves

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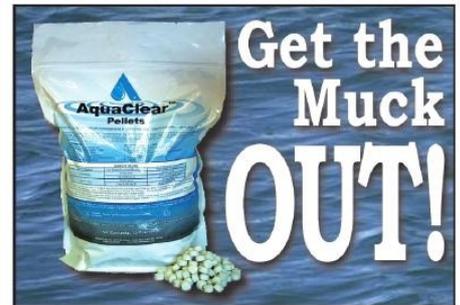
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and hard hats to build cairns—piles of stones that serve as trail landmarks—and to refurbish routes along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. We're vacationing by volunteering for a week with the Montana Wilderness Association (MWA).

Our trail crew is among the 100 or so summer volunteers working with MWA on portions of the trail, which generally runs north and south down the Big Sky State.

Designated by Congress in 1978, the trail traces the Rocky Mountains, approximately 3,100 miles from the Canadian border to Mexico, crossing Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico and three national parks: Glacier, Yellowstone and Rocky Mountain. About 800 miles of the trail is located in Montana.

MWA, as a partner with the U.S. Forest Service, relies on volunteers to repair and revitalize trails and wild spaces. We're going to build cairns to designate routes, and also shore up trails to prevent erosion to Goat Flats. But first, we have to get there.

Following Sonny Mazzullo, MWA stewardship coordinator and our group leader, we hike along the lovely sapphire blue of Storm Lake and delightfully find ourselves surrounded by wildlife. Trout nibble and splash, and chipmunks chitter. Pikas "eep" as we pass their rock-debris homes, and marmots "squeak" and flick their tails as they survey our boot-tromping, work-pants-scutting, tool-clanging group.

A patchwork of whitebark pines shades early parts of our hike, which rises 1,000 feet in elevation to Goat Flats. The trailside buffet includes wild raspberries and strawberries—the latter so tiny that a dozen make only a heaping tablespoon, yet they are so flavorful, I eat one at a time to properly savor them.

Along the way, Mazzullo tells us that the MWA began in 1958 as a grassroots, citizen-led movement to protect Montana mountain ranges. By 1964, at the urging of the MWA and other organizations, Congress passed The Wilderness Act, which established a National Wilderness Preservation System. Now MWA works in Montana's 16 wilderness areas, encompassing about 3.5 million acres. The Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness area covers more than 158,000 acres.



Mazzullo and MWA summer trail crew employee Michael "Sklady" Skladanowski work with volunteers each week. During a previous week, another group built cairns on a different part of Goat Flats.

As we continue, we spot purple aster, cinquefoil, yellow buckwheat, tufted phlox, elk thistle and yarrow. Then, Goat Flats welcomes us with a gentle breeze, puffy cumulus clouds and pink mountain heather. The view includes 10,000-foot peaks such as Queener Mountain and Mount Howe.

"We'll build cairns here and establish a good route through Goat Flats," says Mazzullo, who has spent six years on trail crews and doing other conservation work. "You can see that some trail sections are well-defined, and others are broad grassy ridges. It's not always clear where to hike, so we will help concentrate the trail users through the area."

Under the tutelage of engineers and group members Marco Ullmer and Jeff Canclini, we begin to build the cairns between 50 and 200 yards apart. The stacks include small, medium and large quartz diorite, tonalite, granodiorite and quartz monzodiorite, largest rocks on the bottom and angled toward the center. That way, if rock shifting occurs, it'll be minimal. Medium-size rocks fill the center of our growing cairn, and palm-size pebbles become the chinking between the rows of larger rocks.

» Opening page and above: *Montana Wilderness Association* volunteers improve trails in the *Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness*.

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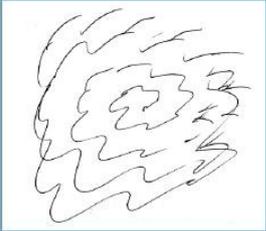
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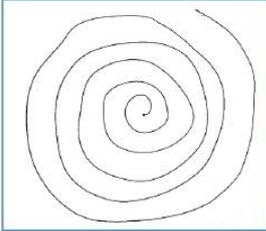
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Puzzle on page 58.

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Each day, Mazzullo calls a water break at about 10 A.M. and lunch at noon, and another snack break at 2 P.M. We munch on MWA-provided food—snack bars and fruit, sandwiches and treats. As I relax from the labor, I ponder the concept of volunteering. What we're doing is called "voluntourism." My definition of that term is making new friends and trying new tasks while on a working vacation to make a difference in a beautiful natural setting.

A hundred volunteer hours and a dozen tons of rock into our cairn project, a dog wearing a pack dashes up, tail wagging as she licks our palms. Her owner thanks us for the stone markers.

"We really need these cairns," says local backpacker Linda, out for a wilderness hike with her companion Shiloh. "I met a backpacker here in Goat Flats last year. He was struggling to stay on the trail in the snow. These cairns will really help. Thank you so much!"

Invigorated by Linda's enthusiasm—and kisses from Shiloh—I'm back hefting rocks—lichen-flecked, orange-colored, chiseled by weather and cracked by freeze and thaw.

Each evening, we hike back to our camp at Storm Lake. Often, before dinner, many of the volunteers swim in the lake to wash off the trail dust. Some members of our group fish, some nap, while Mazzullo and Sklady prepare dinner. Afterward, we gather to share stories, talk or just appreciate the scenic setting.

For the first three days of our trip we build cairns, and for the final three days, we work on refurbishing the trail, which includes narrowing the path to reduce erosion and damaging runoff from snowmelt and summer cloudbursts.

As our voluntourism week comes to an end, I think about the discoveries I've made on this trip. One of them is to not take these trails for granted. There are no secret elves who build and then repair them. It's volunteers, like those in our group, who put in the work.

I've enjoyed the beauty of the land and being immersed in this wild place so much that we are going to join another crew. Lynn and I plan to return to the area this summer to backpack part of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and to volunteer. I'll be admiring the handiwork of the rock pickers of Goat Flats as well as enjoying the high-country solitude—and the camaraderie of newfound wilderness friends as we spend another vacation week volunteering in Montana's mountains. ■

Jean Arthur volunteers from her home in Bozeman, MT. For more information on volunteering with the U.S. Forest Service, visit fs.fed.us/working-with-us/volunteers.

MORE VOLUNTOURISM IDEAS

Service trips vary from trail work to beach-habitat preservation. Here are some options.



Path repair with the Washington Trails Association.

■ **Washington Trails Association** volunteers help with projects ranging from building causeways on the Pacific Crest Trail to repairing the Mountain Lake Loop trail in Moran State Park on Orcas Island. Work varies from clearing clogged drain culverts to repairing puncheon bridges and reinforcing trail walls. Volunteers enjoy beautiful camping, WTA-supplied cuisine and great company (wta.org).

■ **Oregon Natural Desert Association** volunteers monitor sage-grouse breeding grounds in the Hart Mountain area, about 200 miles southeast of Bend, and complete other desert-restoration projects, such as removing barbed-wire fencing that impedes wildlife travel in the John Day River Basin. Volunteers camp during the March-through-November multiday trips (onda.org).

■ In the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, running between Oregon and Idaho, jetboats ferry **Sierra Club** volunteers along the Snake River. Trips include eight-day backcountry excursions. The work ranges from connecting trails to clearing brush. Fishing, birding, camping and seeing Nez Perce petroglyphs are part of the adventure (content.sierraclub.org/outings/hell-back-service-hells-canyon-idaho).

■ On California's central coast, the **Nature Corps** offers a three-day volunteer vacation in the Morro Bay State Park. Volunteers remove nonnative European bunchgrass to restore the nesting habitat of the threatened snowy plover. Volunteers also work on habitat restoration on the Bluff Trail in Montaña de Oro State Park. The vacation portion includes a kayak across Morro Bay among sea lions and sea otters, and a tour of Hearst Castle, as well as wine tastings (thenaturecorps.org/tour/morro-bay). —J.A.

WHICH DIRECTION

A C R O S S

- 1 Actress Gilbert
- 5 Strike
- 8 Rouse
- 13 Tears
- 17 Skater Heiden
- 18 Dug for
- 20 Mountain ridge
- 21 First name in mystery
- 22 90 degrees
- 24 ____ face (military command)
- 26 Tokyo once
- 27 Go for a spin
- 28 Calve and Eames
- 30 Brow adornments
- 31 Horse colors
- 33 "Graf ____"
- 34 Potato's go-with
- 36 Dog tags, for short
- 37 Red vegetables
- 38 Innkeeper
- 42 Ball attendee
- 45 In the basement
- 47 Grounded bird
- 48 Do as told
- 49 Angry
- 50 Philosopher Descartes
- 51 Watch chain
- 52 Sandy's welcome
- 53 Capital letters
- 57 Davis or Midler
- 59 Go bad on the vine
- 60 Crave
- 61 ____ vostra salute
- 62 Eye fringes
- 63 Walks through water
- 65 French city
- 66 "____-Cop"
- 67 Endured
- 69 Act
- 70 Hockey surface
- 71 Magic's organization: abbr.
- 74 Hermit
- 75 Goes from second to first
- 77 Happy's associate
- 78 Yule item
- 79 Den
- 81 Within: pref.
- 82 Surrender
- 83 French donkey
- 84 Haut monde
- 88 Pierced
- 89 Pasturages
- 92 Type of type
- 93 ____-Magnon
- 94 Still sleeping
- 95 Wood slat
- 96 Kettle handles
- 98 Sprang up
- 101 Embarrass
- 103 Swiss river
- 104 Half a Congo fly
- 107 Passage over an other's property
- 110 Baseball position
- 113 Glutton's request

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- 114 ____ and kicking
- 115 Political team
- 116 Singer Martin
- 117 Canonized femmes: abbr.
- 118 Destined
- 119 Pluralizing letter
- 120 Part of TAE

D O W N

- 1 Baked
- 2 Parched
- 3 Hardness
- 4 German expletive
- 5 Deer ladies
- 6 "Bus Stop" playwright
- 7 ____ Aviv
- 8 Closest to the fire
- 9 Opera song
- 10 Beer containers
- 11 Crossed d
- 12 Court divider
- 13 Money back offer
- 14 Steamy appliance

- 15 Old nag
- 16 Matched pairs
- 18 Conduits
- 19 Grow dark
- 23 Barter
- 25 Blind as ____
- 29 New York nine
- 32 Skin type
- 33 Needle plier
- 34 Dew time
- 35 Existence: Lat.
- 37 Blase
- 38 Hurries up
- 39 Southpaw
- 40 Play the ham
- 41 Bumpkins
- 42 Wild pig
- 43 Spanish river
- 44 Liberalist
- 45 Numskulls
- 46 Regions
- 49 Keanu Reeves thriller
- 53 Beneath
- 54 Baseball's Rod ____

- 55 Steve or Fred
- 56 Toboggans
- 57 Groups of clouds
- 58 Boston hours: abbr.
- 62 Slow, musically
- 64 Summer refresher
- 65 Dote on
- 66 Fissures
- 67 Islamic deity
- 68 Pat or Debby
- 70 Washer cycle
- 72 Portend
- 73 Made a hole in one
- 75 Short swims
- 76 Moor
- 79 Winter coaster
- 80 Imitated
- 82 Far from cordial
- 85 Retransmitted
- 86 Fritter feature
- 87 Metric measurements
- 88 Suffering
- 90 Big galas
- 91 Assist nefariously

- 93 ____ blanche
- 96 Thailand loot
- 97 Tempered metal
- 98 Weapons
- 99 Laugh-a-minute
- 100 Storybook monster
- 101 "M*A*S*H" actress
- 102 Own
- 103 Turkish generals
- 105 Czech
- 106 Ferber or Best
- 108 Lout
- 109 Tampa's state: abbr.
- 111 ____ de France
- 112 Ms. Lupino

Solution on page 56.



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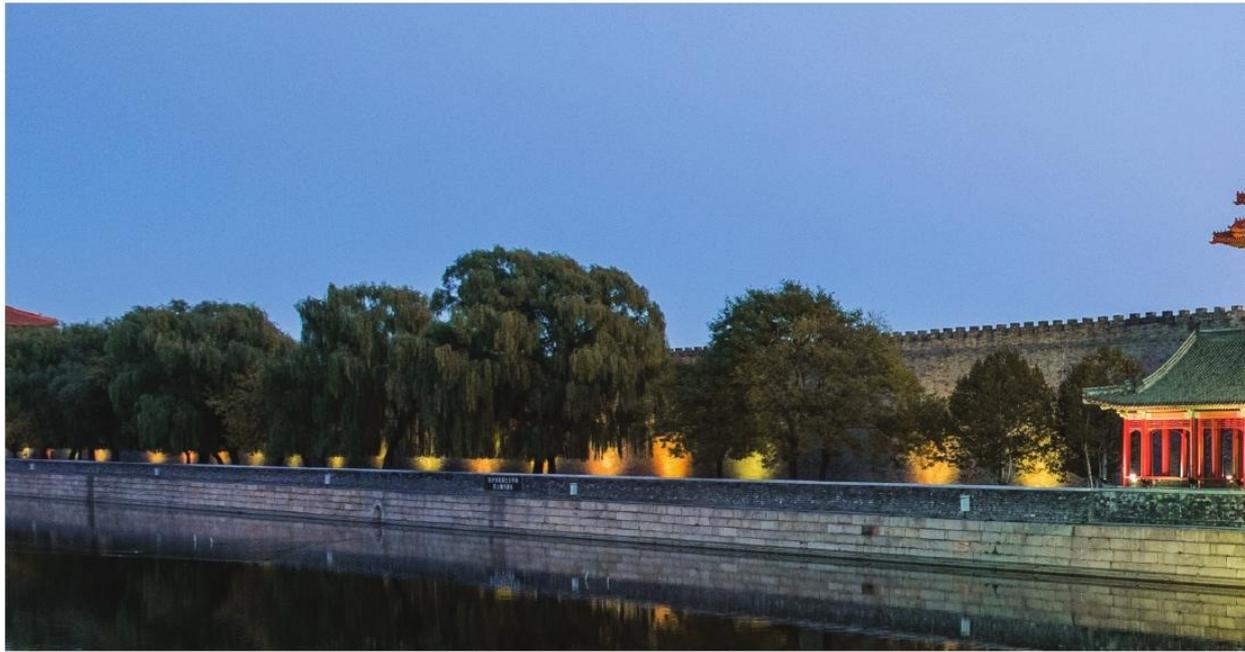
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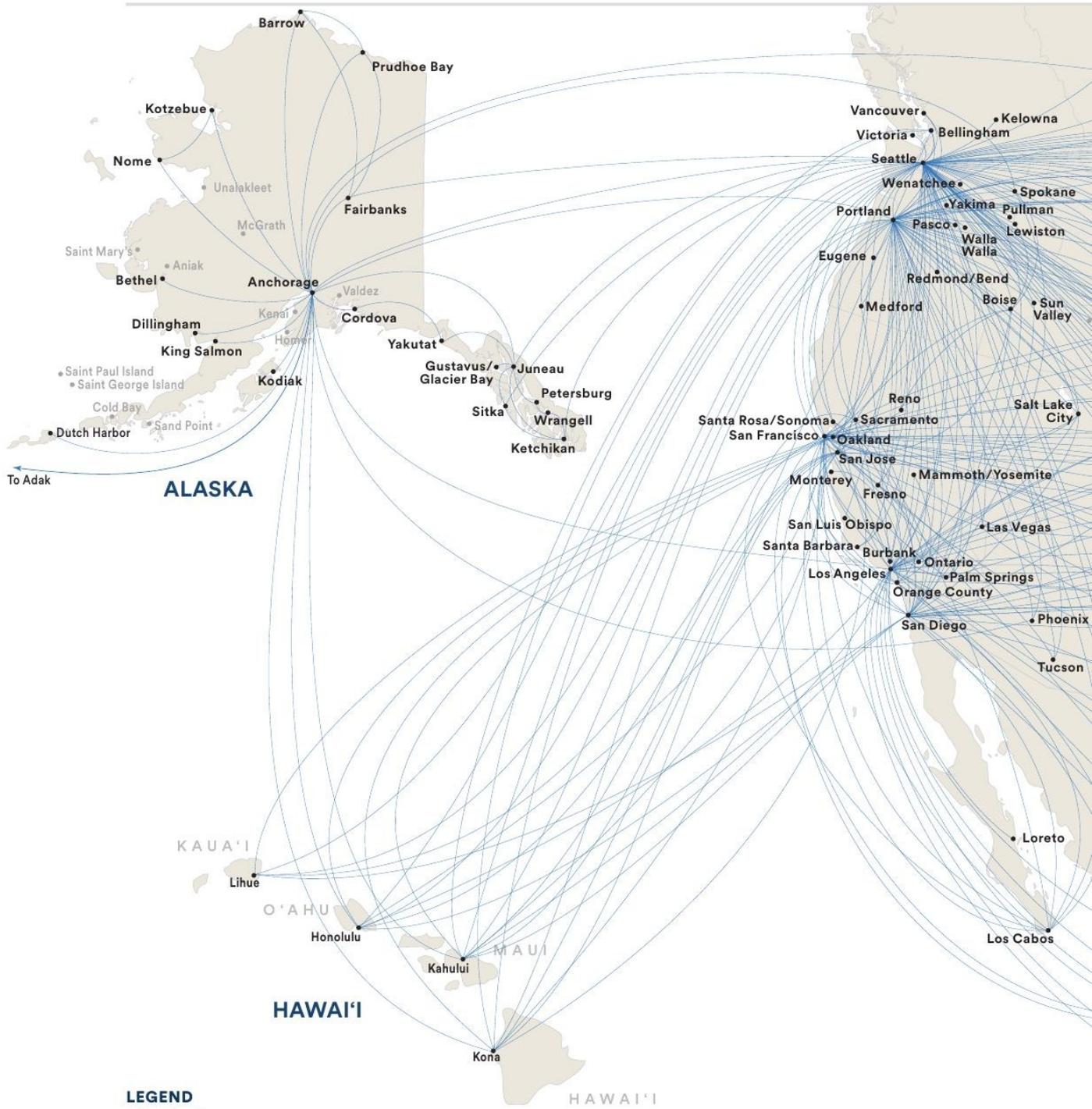
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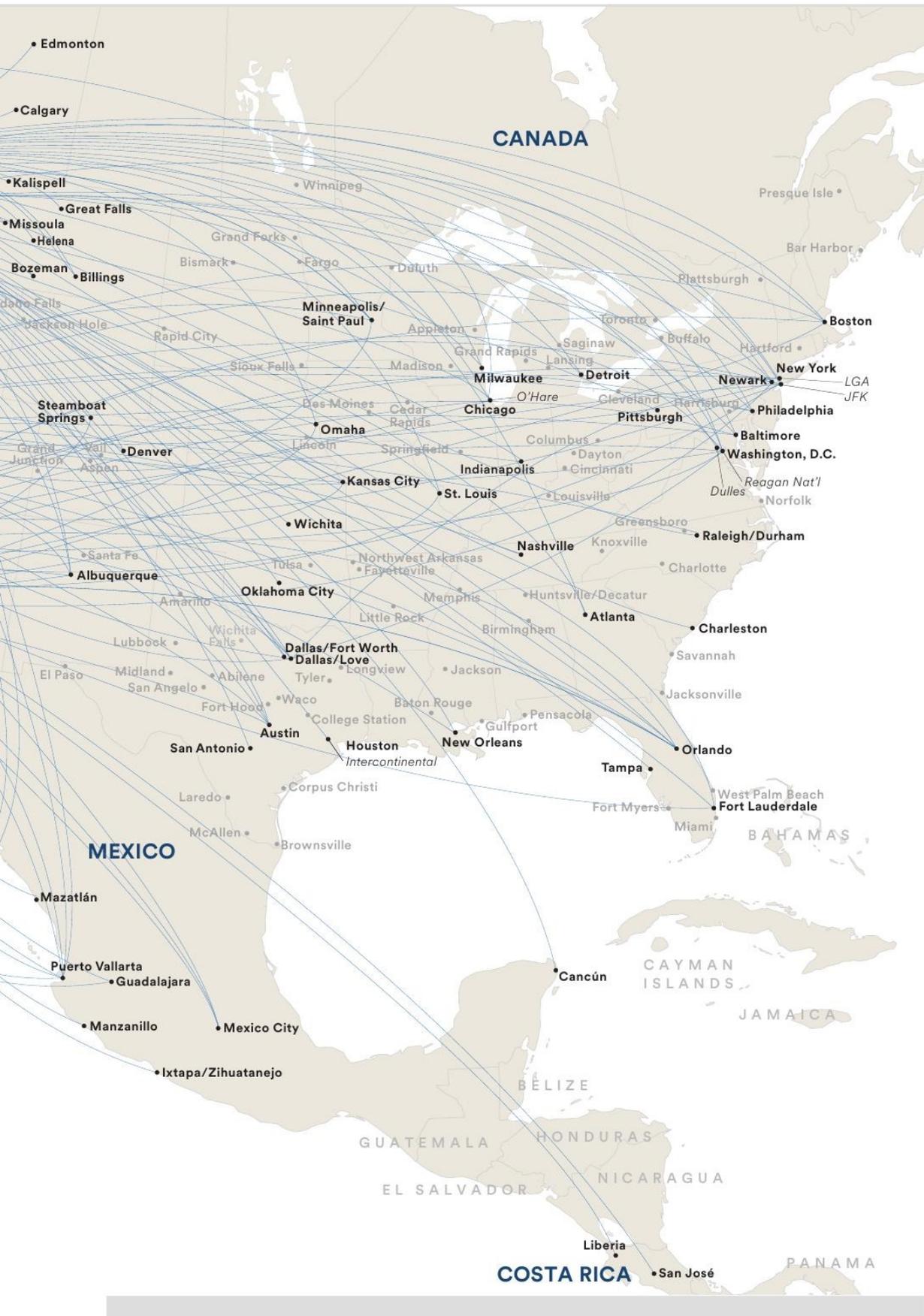
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Some Alaska Airlines service operated by Horizon Air or SkyWest Airlines.

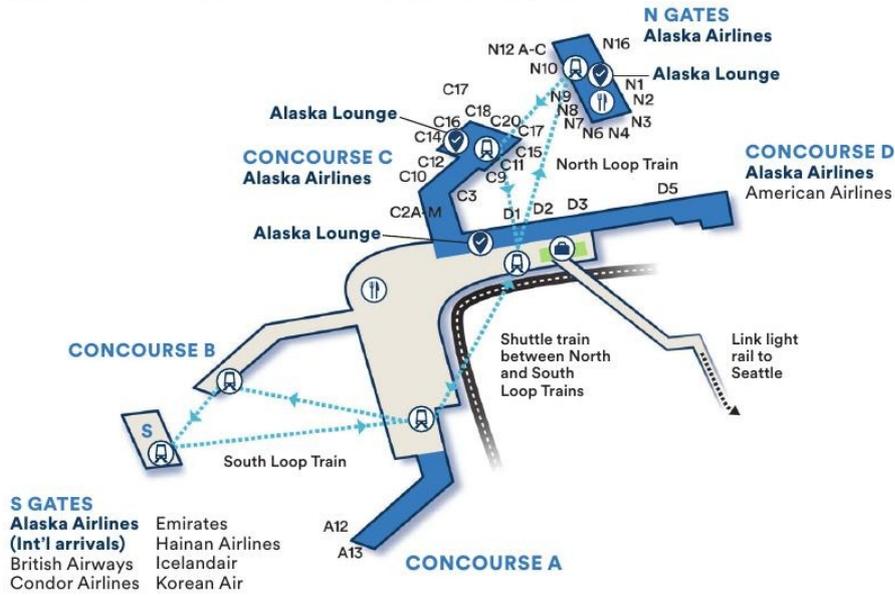
Some routes shown operate seasonally.

Airport terminal maps

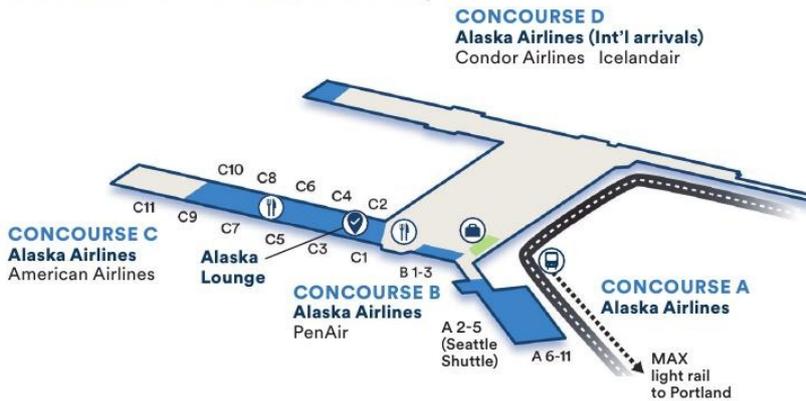
SEA Seattle/Tacoma International Airport

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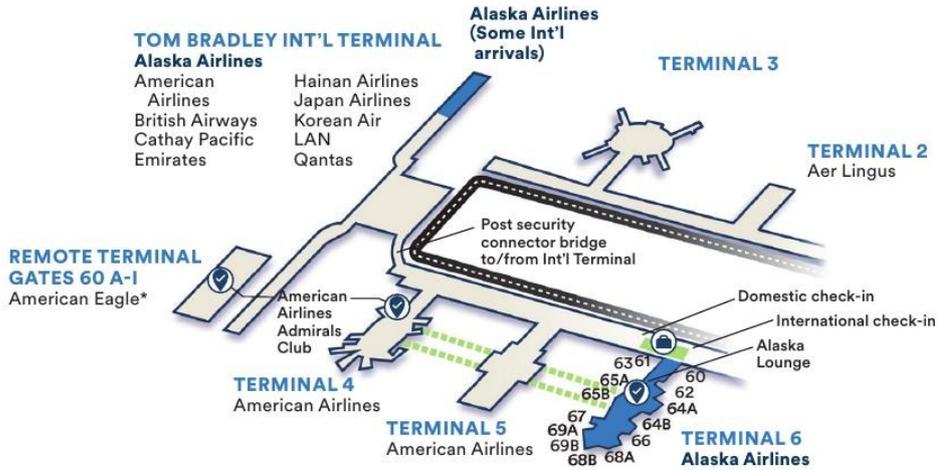
Tip: Alaska Lounge members have access to the Cathay Pacific Lounge at SFO when traveling on Alaska.

SFO San Francisco International Airport



- Legend: Lounge Alaska Airlines check-in Public transportation
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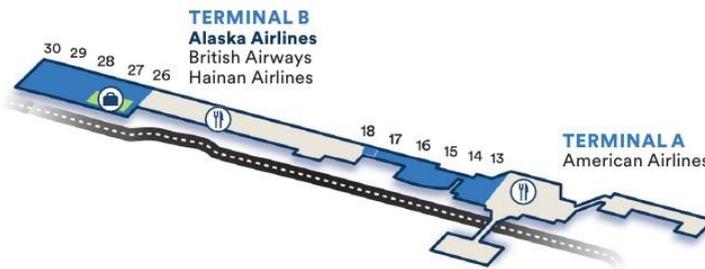
LAX Los Angeles International Airport



ANC Anchorage International Airport



SJC San Jose Mineta Airport



SAN San Diego International Airport



A CREEK RUNS THROUGH IT

Tracing personal connections to an urban watershed

By Ben Raker

» **At first**, it was all about the doughnuts. I was introducing my daughter Ella to volunteering for the environment, by joining a work party on the first day of spring in 2011. Ella was only 3 years old, but she gamely walked the half-mile from our North Seattle home to what was then simply called Thornton Creek Park Six. As we walked, we held hands—hers in tiny gardening gloves, mine in larger leather ones. We met the other volunteers at a dead-end street where they'd placed a pile of wood chips, tools and, yes, a small table with coffee and snacks.

The group's organizer taught us how to spread mulch around native shrubs and ground cover that had been planted as part of an effort to restore creekside habitat. Ella and I didn't get a lot of work done, but we did manage to lay wood chips around some plants. Then we celebrated with our doughnut treats.

I first learned about Thornton Creek by working on a high-school project. I remember being surprised to find this natural corridor running right through the city where I grew up. It flowed near my school, in pipes beneath the freeway, and under the mall I passed each day.

Thornton Creek's watershed covers much of North Seattle. According to the nonprofit Thornton Creek Alliance, the creek's main channel runs about 15 miles, mostly above ground, through more than 700 backyards and 15 parks and natural areas. Ultimately, the water flows to Lake Washington, then Puget Sound.

On the school project, I explored the creek with fellow students and talked to creek neighbors for a video we produced. Then, for the school newspaper, I reported on a faulty pipe we found draining something (explained to me as stormwater) into the stream. Through my research, I learned about how humans had affected Thornton Creek as the city grew, and also about diligent volunteers who worked to clean up the watershed and improve water quality. I saw tiny fish in this stream that reportedly once held five species of salmon and trout. I searched for some of the other animals that live in the area: pileated woodpeckers, owls, hawks, coyotes, river otters, raccoons.

About 25 years later, I live within shouting distance of this same waterway, and I've seen its banks transformed several times right near home. Park Six is now called Beaver Pond Natural Area for the rodents that downed trees and turned part of the park into a snaggy swamp. Nearby, a multiuse development arose on the site of a former parking lot. Completed in 2009, this project "daylighted" a branch of the creek

that had been underground, creating a water-quality channel that absorbs and filters stormwater with natural plantings, even as it provides a scenic centerpiece for the residences and businesses built around it.

I've also seen the slow but persistent process of people restoring habitat with their own hands—and participated in this a few times myself. Since our 2011 experience, Ella and I have joined several other work crews. We've weeded, planted and mulched. Last year, we pulled ivy in an area that was once a family orchard and farm. During a break, we perched on the low branch of an apple tree and ate sack lunches.

Ella says she remembers this moment simply for the peaceful feeling of being in a shady wood, and for learning how good a sandwich can taste after hard work.

Although my past experiences have given me some history with the creek, I make no claim to being the most connected. I have a neighbor who's spent a lifetime in his creekside home. And I've talked with volunteers who have poured decades of sweat and effort into work parties and advocacy. Thornton Creek has occupied only a subtle subcurrent in my life, just as it has an understated,

sometimes invisible presence in the city. It's no great river—no Colorado or Columbia. Far from being epic and wild, it's unassuming, tame and highly affected. Yet, even my limited connections with this modest waterway have felt significant. I've learned there's much to be gained by seeking out urban channels entwined with people's lives—by engaging with waters that are surrounded by people and that require human effort to stay close to a "natural" state.

This past April, I gathered girls from Ella's soccer team, which I coach, to join a crew near the creek. Ella, now 10, worked with teammates to tug-of-war against deeply rooted ivy. Along with other parents and volunteers, I helped dig out invasive blackberry by the roots.

Afterward, we were filthy and sore, but also felt accomplished. We could see what we had cleared in just a few hours. That space can now be replanted with more-varied native vegetation.

The work continues. Yet, as I watched the girls trampoline triumphantly on a springy pile of cleared weeds, I felt proud that I had helped others connect to urban nature hidden in plain sight. And I didn't even need to promise doughnuts. ■

Associate Editor Ben Raker battles tangled phrases and blackberries.



The writer, his daughter (second child from left) and friends pull ivy in Seattle.



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