

# Kyla \_ Dave Broomfield Out Lou...rview (2023-12-14 14\_37 GMT-7)

Thu, Dec 14, 2023 3:56PM • 28:52

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Broomfield, live, people, work, walk, interned, talk, house, love, home, move, dad, rec center, crossfit, mom, Boulder, growing, classes, Englewood, Centennial Elementary, West Lake Middle School, Legacy High School

00:00 Kyla Bullock

I'm really glad we're doing this today.

00:03 David Allison

Yeah, that's for sure. So, all right. Well, thank you so much for joining me today. I really appreciate it and we can start our conversation just by asking you to share your name and just a little bit more about yourself.

00:15 Kyla Bullock

All right, my name is Kyla Bullock. My maiden name is Kyla Shike (??). I was born and raised in Broomfield; I was born in 1987 and my mom and dad bought a house in Westlake two years before I was born, and my dad is still in that house. He will continue to have that house forever, as long as he is around. And then, I grew up in Broomfield, and we never left, obviously, and then I went to school: Centennial Elementary, and then West Lake Middle, and then Legacy High School, and then decided to stay in state and go to CU Boulder. I didn't know what I wanted to do when I went to school, but my mom took me to a football game as a senior in high school, and I really just liked the atmosphere. So, I knew I wanted to go to CU Boulder, which, now this year, it's a lot of fun. (Laughter) Go Buffs! And actually, I was deciding between CU, UNC and CSU. I knew I wanted to stay in state; got accepted to CU and went there. I went the journalism route to start, and then realized I didn't want to do that anymore. It just got boring towards the end of my sophomore year. And, I was minoring in atmospheric and oceanic science, which allowed me to take a lot of geography classes, so I had a lot of those under my belt already. And then, I ended up switching to geography at the end of sophomore, beginning of my junior year and then didn't know what I wanted to do with geography. And then my senior year, I took some GIS classes and some cartography classes, which was like, I tell people cartography is like how to make a map look pretty, (Laughter) and I really liked the art side of that, and just a lot of different outlets on how people read maps, especially, fast forward, now dealing with accessibility, making maps for all different people, dealing with all different things. And so, I graduated in four years from CU Boulder in '09. And while I was a senior, I interned with the City and County of Broomfield under Adrian Crop (??) in the IT department. And then when I graduated CU, it was in '09 with no jobs, couldn't find anything, so I kept my retail job: I was a manager at a store. And then, I actually asked Adrian if I could

continue to intern for no pay just to keep it going, because it's not like riding a bike: if you don't use it, you definitely lose it. And so, I interned for free. And then, a job opened up as a GIS technician, with community development under Gary McGann (??). And, I honestly think it's because of the people I knew at the city that I got the job. I was this fresh out of school 22 year old, and looking back, I was definitely under qualified, but I really enjoy that they saw something in me. And so, I've been, now, with the City and County of Broomfield: in March of '24, it'll be 14 years. And, I have moved from technician to specialist and now, full circle, I am back under Adrian Crop (??). He is now my boss.

03:29 David Allison

Awesome.

03:31 Kyla Bullock

And yeah, so it's crazy how it all works out. And yeah, I no longer live in Broomfield. I now live in Englewood with my husband; he works in Centennial, so when we were purchasing a home in 2012, it was kind of in the middle. He got the better end of the stick, but it was affordable at that time and ready for us to move in. So now, we've been in that house since 2012. So much like my parents were, I'm not, I don't hop around. And yeah, so that's kind of my background.

04:04 David Allison

So, Kyla, you mentioned that you started with journalism, and then you ended up switching majors. What were the things that, I don't know, maybe that you can look back at from high school or that you were kind of interested in, that got you down the path of...?

04:24 Kyla Bullock

Where I'm at now?

04:26 David Allison

Yeah.

04:27 Kyla Bullock

So, I started with journalism, so in high school, I was the editor-in-chief of the yearbook. And, I was on the yearbook staff, I think, all four years, maybe not my freshman year, I don't really remember. But editor-in-chief of the yearbook, loved it, captain of the tennis team. I just really like taking the lead on a lot of stuff. And that has, now, I mean today, I love just leading projects, I love running events. I no longer own it, but I also owned my own....I had an LLC that I, did an all women's CrossFit competition that I co-owned with Veronica, who was a Broomfield resident, no longer: she moved away. But we came together, I've been CrossFitting for over 10 years, and we wanted an all women's competition. So, we did that. So, my ability to plan events and lead projects, that was very funneled into that, and that was definitely more of just a side, 'I just want to do this for fun.' And then it got to the point that it was taking up a lot more time, and the pay wasn't really there, not that it's all about money, but it did take up a lot of time. So, we ended up after, it was February of 2020, we ran an event, and it was one of our most successful events. And then, literally like a week later, the world closed. And yeah, we just, I don't know, we, we went back and forth with continuing, and then at this point last year, so in 2022, we had just decided, you know, 'I think let's call it,' and so, yeah, so I think with high school, I just

love being around people, love, like being on yearbook, you needed to know a lot of people and be extroverted, in the sense of being able to walk up to someone and just ask to take their photo and interview them. And in journalism, I think you need to not be, like, ruthless, but you just need to have that confidence of just walking up to someone and saying, like, 'Hey, can I interview you for a couple questions,' and just can't be shy. But then in college, I think the journalism side, I didn't want to just work at a newspaper. I honestly thought, because with my atmospheric minor, that I would go into meteorology. But then I also didn't want to, like I didn't want to be working 24 hours a day. I didn't know if I wanted a family at that point. I didn't know what I really wanted. I mean, you're a college kid, and you just want booze and free food. I don't know. And I was just like, yeah, the basics to get you by. And so I just, I really decided, you know, I wanted what my parents had. I wanted a nine to five or an eight to five job. I guess. I don't know where nine to five ever came in, but eight to five job and I wanted to come home at night and to leave work and have a good work from home, or not work from home, work life balance. And then when I got the city and county job, it was like, this is the perfect work life balance. You know, up until COVID, I came in whether I was four times or five eighths made, the drive came in every day, but at five o'clock, I was able to close my computer and go home. And it's nice to go to bed at night, not worrying about work. And so I really think I made that right switch in the road when the fork was there.

08:06 David Allison

Yeah, for sure.

08:08 David Allison

Just a little bit more about CrossFit. What about that was appealing to you? Or how did you kind of get into it? Just that sort of thing.

08:16 Kyla Bullock

So I am competitive, not super competitive, but I do like sports. I like competing. So as a kid, I played roller hockey; I was like the boy my dad never had. I did all the boys sports with him. I was with all boys, playing roller hockey. And then I started dabbling into volleyball and really liked it. I'm just not tall and while in freshman year of high school, I got cut from the team. I was like, Okay, I need a new sport. And so tennis came up. And I was like, well, let's try it out. And somehow it just came to me; I was okay at it. I ended up lettering all four years. So I wouldn't say I'm bad at it. But I also don't want to brag too much. So I played all four years, and then in college when I went to Boulder, I mean everyone in Boulder is a runner, and I really picked up running. And I just really enjoyed jogging by myself and putting on good music, but being by yourself it gets boring. Then, my husband, or at that time, my boyfriend...we lived in an apartment together and this was a couple years after I graduated college and I was still running and doing mini triathlons; running was the best part of the three, in my opinion. But then we would just do apartment workouts, at the apartment gym. And then he got a Groupon for a CrossFit gym. I remember it was when we were looking for a house and we were going with our realtor and he was so sore. He could barely get up and down the stairs of these houses, I'm like this sounds awful, like you can barely move. Why would you want to do this and then the gym that ended up being closest to the house that we bought in 2012, they did free classes every Saturday and he was already going. So I was like, well, I'll go. I've never lifted weights in my life. I never could do a pull up or even the monkey bars as a kid, I'm just not coordinated. But, after about three months of taking advantage of the free

classes, for a Christmas gift, I asked for a membership to the gym. And we were at that gym for five to six years. They moved locations and then we ended up joining CrossFit Omnia, which is where we're at now. My husband wanted to be competitive, and CrossFit Omnia is one of the more competitive gyms in Colorado. I've also made some of my best friends in my life through CrossFit. I mean, one of them was in my wedding. Four of them, I talk to probably every day via chat or text message. And now, none of them, except for one, still live here. I think that it just speaks numbers that I've made these friends as an adult, and we still keep in contact with them not living here. But I will tell anybody if you want to meet people, either church, intramurals, CrossFit, like that's just like.... because I'm a native, so I have a lot of friends all around. But I've met people that don't know how to meet people. And I'm like, "Well, do you go to church?" Okay, no; "do you play sports?" Not really. Just go to CrossFit. Try it out. I know. It's intimidating. Like I know, it's intimidating. I was a little twig walking into a CrossFit gym. And now, yeah, over 10 years later, I still go five days a week, and I love it. So yeah, so it's kind of for me now, I've never been competitive with CrossFit. But like on a level of being paid, the community is where it's at 100%.

12:05 David Allison

Yeah, super cool. So tell me a little bit about Broomfield when you're growing up. What was it like? And what were some of the stories or strong memories you have about the community?

12:19 Kyla Bullock

Yeah, so at the beginning, I said my parents' house, my childhood home is in Westlake, it's off of West Lake Drive and 133rd.. And Legacy wasn't there when I was a kid, Legacy High School. I would have gone to Horizon if Legacy wasn't built. And I remember, I do vaguely remember 136th being a dirt road with a farm and big trees. And then now it is not that, and neither is multiple miles ahead of it. Like my mom was born and raised in Brighton, Colorado, and I remember driving Huron and all these roads were very much dirt roads. And now you have TopGolf over there. It's just crazy the amount that has been built in the little amount of time really, when you put it into comparison. And I remember the only grocery store was King Soopers on 120th and Sheridan, which is now the fitness center. It was on the other side of the road and with Kmart; that was like the store to go to. Yeah, it's obviously just grown a lot by people, by building things, everything. I think you asked about a childhood memory and I don't know why this popped into my head. But, because I went to Centennial that was two blocks South, and then West Lake was eight blocks North and then Legacy, I walked to school. I don't know a whole lot of kids that walk to school anymore. I remember my friend Lisa, she and her family lived on 132nd, and we would meet in the greenbelt and walk to school together. In West Lake there's a lot of horseshoe roads; from mine, if I walked down a little bit, you walked through and you got to the Greenbelt. I would wait there and she would wait for me or I'd wait for her and we walked to school together. If it was too cold, I remember my mom would pick us up and drop us off. And I don't know, I just remember things like that from my childhood. I mean, I don't have children, and so, I don't know how many kids actually walked to school, but it just seems like you see less kids walking....

14:38 David Allison

Yeah.

14:38 Kyla Bullock

But I was also lucky enough to live close enough to walk. I still talk to the art teacher from my elementary school. A lot of people who.... are a lot of classes that I was in. I feel like I still hold a lot of deep roots with Centennial because a lot of those kids went the same route. We went to Centennial, West Lake, and Legacy. When I was in first, second and third grade, we had this program called the owls program. I don't know really what it was about, but you stayed with the exact same class for first, second, and third and we were in the mobile homes; and I am still friends with a lot of those kids that we were in class together, and those teachers as well. So my mom passed away almost two years ago, and a lot of those people were at the memorial and it was like, mind blowing; it's people you don't necessarily talk to on a daily basis, but you are rooted in those people. So I think that's where everything comes through. I mean, I'm rooted in Broomfield.

15:46 David Allison

Sounds cool. Yeah. So tell me just a little bit more about, when you came back and started working in Broomfield and what that transition from living in a place and knowing a place pretty well to, Okay, now I'm working for the City and County this way. I'm doing this job and that kind of professional track, what was that transition like for you?

16:13 Kyle Bullock

I guess I didn't realize how much Broomfield had to offer as a citizen, which is crazy. Because I mean, well, as a kid, you don't really pay attention to all that. I knew there was a library, I knew that there were probably resources, but you really don't dive into it. I can even attest that my dad just joined the Rec Center two months ago, and we've lived here my whole life. But he just didn't realize it was something he would enjoy. But I think as a citizen, or resident versus an employee, Broomfield offers so much. And so, I live in the city of Inglewood which is inside of Arapahoe County and there are things that I really don't even dive into because I'm just living there. It's fine unless I need something then you look for it. But with Broomfield, I'll people like, Oh, especially because I work in GIS, I know about the map side of Broomfield. And if somebody might want to look for their property assessment value, I'm normally the person they ask. Well, how did you know where to find this? And like, Oh, you just have to go to the assessor office. That's where you go. Or if you need a quitclaim deed, you go here. And I know that now that I am working for the city.

I always joke that I don't know if I would want to live and work in the same city no matter who it's for, because you see different sides of it. Right? And I think even if I were to help a resident today, and then I run into him at King Soopers, Oh, Hi, good or bad, hopefully it's good. But yeah, I like that it is separate for me when I'm home and I'm typically not running into anybody, whether it's work or interaction side of customers. But yeah, I think that's probably the biggest difference of just knowing what resources are out there; and as an employee, I definitely know a lot more. I talked about my dad just joining the rec center. So he's retired. I've seen the SilverSneakers things for years. I don't even know what that means. Is it like a workout from home thing? I don't know. And finally, my dad, I started playing pickleball at the Rec Center with all the retirees. It's so much fun and I finally told my dad, "hey, you should come over and join me one day," because he's super athletic. Now he goes every single day; and we've looked into the whole SilverSneakers thing for him. He's made great friends, but it's just something he never looked into. We didn't know it was something he wanted to do. So I think it's just really like honing in. like I keep saying, on the resources that Broomfield has to offer, because there's so many things. I probably still don't even know half of it. So yeah,

19:01 David Allison

That's really cool. So I played Pickleball for the first time the other day, and I loved it. It was hard to get used to the kitchen, just saying.

16:13 Kyle Bullock

Yes. I know. It is very hard. why? Why are you calling me out for stepping into it? I don't understand. Yeah, it's been over said, but like the growth, the fastest growing sport in America, or maybe in the world. But it is fun for any age group to play, and it can get super competitive or it can just be fun. I go and play with my dad during lunch. I'll take an hour and I walk over to BCC and we play. I will tell you though, in the wintertime it is packed. There are so many people, which is a lot of fun. Even if you're not playing, you sit and you talk to everybody. I've met so many people and my dad's mission is to know everybody's names, which I think is great. But yeah, it's a fun sport, with anybody involved.

20:01 David Allison

So, and your dad, you said he's still in the same house you grew up in

20:06 Kyla Bullock

Still in the same house? Yeah. Back when my mom passed away, there was the conversation of, "Do I want to stay? Should I sell?" I have younger sister Emily, and of course, he talked to both of us when that happened, and, you know, what are your thoughts? I don't know who says this, but they say don't make any big changes within the first year of someone passing. We were like, Let's just give it a year. Let's see what happens in a year. He now kind of knows that he may want a second house, because he owns the house in Broomfield. We do own a lot of land in Florissant. Colorado and it has nothing built on it. But now he's kind of toying with the idea of maybe just having somewhere else to go sometimes. Because I mean, I can only imagine, right? You have this house with your wife of over 30 years. And there's memories everywhere. I mean, when I go there,,,,to be living in that house. So it's hard. But it's also difficult in this housing situation to sell your home when you outright own it, and then think about having to go buy something else. He doesn't want to do that and he genuinely loves his neighbors. There's probably five of them that have all been there about the same amount of time, which is just unheard of; people get up and move all the time. And he just likes the house. The only thing I'd say is, as he gets older, I wish there were less stairs, but I'm sure he will be fine. It's a bi-level. So you walk in and you have to do stairs. With my mom, it was difficult to get up and down the stairs. So that's why it's on my mind. But yeah, I don't know if now he'll ever sell it. I think he loves it and now that he's at the rec center every day. There's no reason to leave Broomfield.

21:57 David Allison

Yeah. a bi-level, it sounds like it must have been built in the late 70s.

22:01 Kyla Bullock

Yes, yeah.

22:04 David Allison



So tell me a little bit. I've been asking everybody, what do you see as maybe some challenges for Broomfield in the future? Or what are some things that you're excited about?

22:17 Kyla Bullock

Some challenges. Um, I think the challenge is just how fast everything is growing and knowing which direction to go in. I personally live in a 1000 square foot ranch home bungalow and it's perfect for me and my husband and my little dog. But you don't see those kinds of houses being built anymore, which I think is a bummer. But I also understand, people need more space, or there's bigger families. I would never say like, build this little community just for some, for the people who want it like the bigger home people to move into it. And that's just the way that the market is, I guess, nowadays. I mean, they're demolishing houses now like mine, to put up big duplexes, so I get it. But I think that that would be a challenge of like, in 50 years, there's not going to be these little homes anymore. When you have people like my single dad, he doesn't need that big of a house and he doesn't want that big of a house. So that might be a challenge and that's just me putting my opinion on it. Um, but it's now just Broomfield, that's just the world in general. I mean, growth is you never want it to stop, but then it's gotta stop at some point, right? We're not gonna get any more space; the space is there. Um, again, not just Broomfield, like you see everywhere growing and I think right now, I hear a lot.

I also help with Council meetings and I do know that the Baseline project is big and I think it's going to be great for Broomfield, like building. A lot of people don't even realize that the North area is Broomfield. I think that'll be amazing once it's in and then obviously the talk of what's happening around the city center. We'll see what direction it takes. I know there's been a lot of conversations, but I know a lot of people are really excited for it, just because we don't really have a downtown and I think it would bring a lot of people and things to do. One thing I love, I've lived in Denver for a year and then now Englewood, and I love that it's not suburbia. I love that I could go to a mom and pop coffee shop or dinner place. I don't have to go to this big gigantic wherever. I'm not gonna put any names out there, but I can go anywhere and support local. I love that we can support local in Broomfield and I think with the city center, it'll bring more kinds of local vibes to it, which with working right here I think will be nice to be able to walk over to whatever they put in. I did live in the Arista area for a little bit, right after college, and it was kind of when it was up and coming, so there wasn't a whole lot of dining or shopping. But now you go over there and there's cool, cool places to eat. And I'm like, this is kind of fun to be over here and the breweries over there. So I think once it becomes developed, that's just going to be a big deal. It's gonna be awesome for Broomfield.

25:23 David Allison

Anything that we missed or didn't talk about?

25:29 Kyla Bullock

Not that I can think of. Yeah, I do appreciate working up here and being able to hop over to my dad's house. The thing about Broomfield and I know the reason my parents moved here is because they knew they wanted kids. They wanted to be close to a school. They wanted somewhere that was close to Boulder and close to Denver and that's what you get with Broomfield. And that's a big reason. I think people don't leave, because traffic might be a little bit worse than it was 30 years ago, but you can still get to Boulder and a half-hour to an hour, you can get to Denver in a half-hour to an hour. You're just so close to so many things; you're not far from Golden, really. So, it's just very central. And I think being

able to go to Boulder, and then just because I know Boulder is so expensive to live in, to be able to be just outside and be in Broomfield, I think is awesome. I understand why my parents moved here. My dad's from Michigan. Like I said, my mom grew up in Brighton. At that point Brighton was farms; there was nothing out there. When they moved to Broomfield, even though it was way less than, than it is now, still the school. They had an elementary school and a grocery store, and you could go to Boulder, Denver, fairly easily. So I understand why people come here and why my dad will never leave.

27:00 David Allison

Yeah. Is your sister Emily still around this area?

27:03 Kyla Bullock

No. She lives in Orlando. She interned for Disney in college and then got a job at Disney and is still with Disney and absolutely loves it. She went to school for hospitality and she will never move. Well, she might move back, but she's good with the Florida winters. That's for sure. (Laughter) Yeah, so she's in Orlando, and then I have a half sister in Michigan; and, she will never leave Michigan. It's a very small town, Monroe, Michigan, where a lot of my family has never left and will never leave. But it's fun for us to go visit and it's fun for them to come visit us. So kind of spread out a little bit. But it's nice. My mom retired from Frontier Airlines years ago, but I grew up with her working for Frontier Airlines. And we were very fortunate to be able to fly for very inexpensive, if not free, because of standby. So we were able to go visit family wherever they were. So yeah, I was very fortunate to be able to do that and stay here because I love Colorado. I will never leave.

Well... my husband and I have talked about what we are going to do when we retire; we don't have children and we were both like "maybe we'll move to Italy". Kkay, from someone who's never left the state living-wise and moving to a European country? Okay, let's talk about this. (Laughter). Which I mean, we do travel a lot. He's German, and I would love to live somewhere over there. But while I'm working, I love living here. So yeah, no reason to leave. I understand why many people have come here to live.

28:44 David Allison

It makes sense.

28:45 Kyla Bullock

That's about it though.

28:46 David Allison

Thank you so much, Kyla, appreciate it.

28:48 Kyla Bullock

Thanks for having me today.