

**Special Mukbanging Issue!**

# Swillin' & Crillin'

**Summer/Fall 2025**

**Your Complete Guide to Weed, Bites & Wine in the Yampa Valley**

**Have the Best Day Ever!**  
(Special PVDC Tribute!)

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**A Guide to  
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Drinking  
Games**

**Brewha Beta**

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and  
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**Things  
Steamboaters  
(and Visitors)  
Should Know**

**Plus:**

**Munchies  
Bevvies**

**The  
Straight  
Dope**

**Off the  
Couch**

**Party Time  
And More!**







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"Favorite place to lounge on a summer afternoon?"

## Eugene

"The beach at the D-hole, with a camp chair eight inches deep in the water."

## Melissa

"Paddle boarding with my Golden, Strider, on my board and my legs dangling in the cool water."

## John

"On my deck overlooking Stagecoach Reservoir or lounging in one of the ski chairs along the Yampa River."

## Deb

"On the deck at Rendezvous, after a gondola ride and a hike across Duster. No services are available, but if you pack your own drinks and a snack, you can kick back and enjoy the view."

## Haley

"On the patio at the Clark Store with a double scoop in a waffle cone after hiking in the Zirkel Wilderness on the Zirkel Circle or to Micah Basin."

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## Letter from the Editor “Best Day Ever”



Just a few of the people who Pete loaned a piece of gear to.

Well, we lost a good one in town this spring with the passing of longtime local and community advocate Peter Van De Carr. Pete passed away in a skiing accident at his hometown Steamboat Ski Resort—whose snow feeds the waterway he so loved. Peter founded Backdoor Sports on the banks of the Yampa, offering backcountry skiing gear in the winter and river and other outdoor gear in the summer. He also offered kayak lessons and raft trips and was the river’s largest tubing outfitter. His theory: “Getting people out on the river is the key to saving it. Get them to know it, and they’ll fight for its well-being.”

But it was his approach to helping and loving his family, friends and customers that perhaps stands out most, whether it was giving you a bale off a new ski boot or loaning you his gear instead of having you buy something. While business professors might argue against that economic acumen, no one can quarrel with how he spread positivity to everyone he met while doing everything he could to help them enjoy the outdoors. His mantra, which we all heard him echo repeatedly, was to simply treat every day as the “Best Day Ever,” whether it was bulletproof boilerplate or neck-deep powder.

That’s something us here at Swillin’ & Chillin’ are hoping to impart every issue as well. Don’t take everything so seriously all the time, and take some time to be present and let it all soak in. We all have it pretty good just being able to live, recreate and raise our kids here. So, let’s celebrate that each and every day and be nice to one another. Even if we flat out on our bike ride in a hailstorm, come back and say “Best Day Ever.” Because life is too short not to appreciate every single moment on this great planet of ours, which we’re blessed to share with our friends and loved ones.

If you couldn’t attend his ceremonies this spring (i.e. an unheard-of Ski for Pete Day with the resort opening the gondo after hours and grooming Heavenly Daze for a group ski to a band at the bottom), check out our tribute to him on page 16. Whether you’re a visitor or local, give it, and the rest of the magazine, a look sometime, then glance outside and try to appreciate things a little more than you did before. In fact, paraphrasing another of his mantras, let’s specialize in it.

*Eugene Bender*



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# BOAT BITES

## Steamboat News Round Up

### New Surf Spot at Craig River Park

Cowabunga! This fall heralds the grand opening of a new surf wave just 45 minutes away for kayakers and standup paddleboarders with the completion of the new Craig River Park just above Loudy-Simpson Park on the Yampa River. The whitewater park, located about a mile downstream of the golf course and two miles above Loudy-Simpson, includes two whitewater drop features built from the removal of an old diversion dam, as well as nature trails, picnic areas, toilets, and more. “We’re thrilled to see the Craig River Park come to life on the Yampa – it’s a game-changer for Craig,” says the Chamber’s Jennifer Holloway. “It not only boosts our quality of life by creating a new space for outdoor recreation and community connection, but promises economic benefits by attracting visitors, supporting local businesses, and showcasing all our region has to offer.” The project, designed by Durango, Colo.’s Riverwise Engineering, has been years in the making and boasts great late season flows thanks to additional water from the Elk River upstream. It contains two recreational wave features designed for safe navigational passage and surfing for everyone from beginners to higher-level whitewater enthusiasts.

### Dancing at Strings?

Break out your dancing shoes. At certain shows at the Strings Music Pavilion, you’ll now be able to dance the night away (please, not in your ski boots). During this past winter’s Railroad Earth concert, organizers “experimented” by removing the venue’s the seats and letting concertgoers shake a leg rather than sitting down all show. “The show went really well, the crowd loved it, and the room had a great energy,” says Strings director Elissa Greene, of the taking-a-dance-chance pivot from their normal audience routine. “We were thrilled with our first ever standing room only show. The crowd was fantastic and it was an incredible night. We’re looking to offer more shows with the seats removed in the future.” Next in line for the seatless, general admission show? Houndmouth on Friday, July 11.



Dancing room only.

### Snow Monkeys in Steamboat?

Don’t worry: Despite our abundance of hot springs, you probably won’t have to share your soak at Strawberry Park or Old Town Hot Springs with someone a tad hairier than normal. The Japanese macaque, also known as the snow monkey, is a terrestrial Old World monkey species native to Japan. And that’s likely where they’ll stay. “While our pools are ideal for soaking, we’re not sure the snow monkeys would follow our ‘No climbing on the water slide rule,’” says Old Town Hot Springs’ Sarah Konopka.



And remember, clothing optional after dark...

### Captain Ireland

St. Patrick’s Day revelers at O’Neils this March saw plenty of green into the wee hours of the night, but no one as decked out – or with better green abs – as Dr. Dave Wilkinson (AKA Captain Ireland). Once again, Wilkinson wowed onlookers with his propensity for donning costume, this time with a muscle-enhancing outfit that ensured he never got pinched. “But it did get a bit hot,” he admits. “I had to take it off after a while.”



Let’s call them avocado abs...

### Yes, Aspen Highlands Lodge Has a Duct Tape Dispenser

Those who think Aspen might be a little too hoity-toity these days take solace: at least one thing remains unchanged since the days of yesteryear and reaffirms our dirtbag faith in the high-end resort. Aspen Highland’s venerable Merry Go-Round Lodge still boasts its locally loved, time-honored Duct tape Dispenser, dishing out swaths of the fix-everything adhesive for free for anyone who wanders in. “I use it all the time,” says local resident Tim Braun. “I’ve used it to fix my pole baskets, gloves and even my pants this year.” No word yet on how it works on a pair of Guccis or fur.



Use it to fix your Guccis...

### Vroom, Vroom! Steamboat Cars and Coffee Brings It To Transit Center

Like things that go vroom? Then you’ll love Steamboat Cars and Coffee, a free, annual event where you’ll see far more than mountain town Subaru Outbacks. The summertime display of power and grace comes to the Transit Center every other Saturday from June 14 to Oct. 4 from 9 to 11 a.m. Now in its eighth year, it encourages all makes and models in any condition, under the motto “If it’s cool, bring it!” All shows are free to display and spectate. “We’re gearing up for another great season,” says organizer Dave Winters. “We started with just eight cars and now we get up to 90 at every show, with sponsors providing coffee and donuts.” Every season they also do a drive-by at The Doak, with residents wheeled out to see the cars drive by one at a time. “It’s our chance to give back to the community and brighten their day,” he says.





# Para Proud Bringing it Home

Former local Paralympian and four-time World Champion Noah Elliott brought it back home to Steamboat this winter by winning the overall Crystal Globe at this year’s FIS Para Snowboard World Cup on his former home turf. A former instructor at Steamboat Adaptive Recreational Sports, Elliot, a lower limb amputee, first started coming to Steamboat with the Sunshine Kid Foundation, a camp for kids with cancer, before moving here to instruct. “Winning the overall back here in Steamboat is a testimony for all the years, the dream, the fight, the training,” he says. “I used the energy from the Yampa Valley to be able to bring it home today. It really meant a lot to me.” Joining him at the event was American snowboarder Zach Miller from Littleton, a two-time Para Snowboard World Champion and 2023 ESPY award winner. The Steamboat event marked the first time the Para Snowboard World Cup has been held in the U.S. since 2017.



A pair a para boarders: Noah Elliot and Zach Miller flashing shaka brahs at the base.

# Trump Card

Apparently, some public land lovers around town weren’t too enamored with President Trump’s budget-cutting slashes to the country’s public lands workers. In February, snowmobilers and backcountry skiers arrived at Dry Lake Campground on Buff Pass to see the entrance sign plastered with “For Sale” signs. But no, it didn’t make the parking any easier.



No, they weren’t advertising parking spaces for sale.

# Chief Theater Sold, Design Plans Up in Air

The Chief has a new chief. The venerable Chief Theater at 811 Lincoln Ave. downtown has been sold, with the new owners’ plans under wraps, but rumors circulating that it could involve live stage venues and dinner club. According to Routt County records, the property sold for \$2.1 million. The building’s history dates to 1926 when it was built by Mark Schafermeyer, who later deeded it to “Chief” Harry Gordon, a descendant of the Miami Tribe who ran it as a motion picture house beginning in 1927. More recently, the theater was purchased by the Friends of the Chief in 2012, who ran it as a cultural and performing arts center. It was later sold to longtime supporters Mary and Jack McClurg and leased back to Friends of the Chief before shuttering its doors in 2021. Our hope? A concert venue à la Aspen’s Belly Up.

# Welcome Wildhorse Cinema + Arts

After a short renovation closure, the only movie theater in town re-opened this spring with a new mission to provide affordable space for the nonprofit arts community. Undiscovered Earth took over ownership and operation of the theater this spring, with plans to offer new movie releases as well as live performances and events. Executive Director Dagny McKinley says while the primary focus is still new releases, they’ll sprinkle it with other events and performances as well, turning it into “a community hub.” As part of the improvements, it added a narrow stage to one of the screening rooms that can be used for post-film talk backs, panels and other purposes. Another screening room is the new Take5, a speakeasy-type events space with a new stage that can host performances, classes, comedians and other events. The group is already programming jazz and comedy acts in the venue, as well as art classes and private events. As for its bread-and-butter (and popcorn) movies, audiences can expect new release films, classic films and independent cinema. Info: WildhorseSteamboat.org.



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# BOAT BITES

PHOTO COURTESY OF CODY WINTERS



World Cup window washer: Cody Winters celebrating his podium.

## Local Snowboarder Cody Winters Podiums Twice on World Cup

Let's just say he's on our team if there's ever a snowboard cross intramural league in town. After finishing fourth in three events and then tearing his MCL the year before, Steamboat-born and-raised snowboard stalwart Cody Winters earned his first World Cup podiums ever this winter, finishing third in a Parallel Slalom race in Austria and then third again in Snowboard Cross in Italy. "I went crazy straight on the first six or seven gates and had about a half-gate lead," Winters said in an interview after the first race. "My competitor had to throw it to full gas and take a ton of risk. He ended up blowing out of the course which led me to cruise through the rest of it and finish. It was a pretty magical feeling." Want to support him as he shoots for an Olympic medal and more World Cup podiums? Get your windows cleaned at [www.winterswindowwashing.com](http://www.winterswindowwashing.com).

## Doggone Fun

Wags your tails because it's official. City council members voted to permanently designate three new off-leash dog trails in town after a multi-year trial-period, bringing the total unleashed areas to five. The three trail areas include Sailors Way Trail, Butcherknife Trail and Whistler Park, joining Rita Valentine Park and the lower pond of Spring Creek Park. Signage and educational efforts will be funded through the city, which collects a \$20 fee on all animal code violations that's earmarked for dog park improvements. Woof, woof!



## Starry, Starry Night Steamboat Lake, Elkhead State Parks Join DarkSky Colorado

Go ahead, start singing "Starry, starry night..." (Just not too loud.) Two state parks in Routt County are part of 13 locations statewide joining the DarkSky Colorado program, aimed at reducing light pollution and protecting night sky views. Elkhead Reservoir and Steamboat Lake state parks are among 13 areas joining the program in 2025. Officials say the goal is to preserve access to the stars, bolster tourism, reduce energy consumption and improve quality of life. "It will encourage visitor exploration of hidden gems in rural communities and promote off-peak-season travel," said Gov. Jared Polis in a media release. "Reducing unnecessary light pollution saves energy, enhances stargazing tourism and protects Colorado's breathtaking night skies for everyone...it will help keep our star-filled skies clear for future generations of Coloradans and tourists to enjoy comets, constellations and meteors." DarkSky Colorado is a chapter of

DarkSky International, which combats light pollution worldwide. "We have a dark sky that not a lot of state parks have, and we want to bring people in for astro-tourism," said Elkhead ranger Mike Mueller, adding the park plans to retrofit light fixtures to be downcast and dark-sky compliant and to add signage and interpretative programs.

## Did You Know? Coors Cascade at Home in Steamboat

The first waterfall depicted on the original Coors Banquet beer label was none other than our own gloriously cascading Fish Creek Falls, from a photo taken in 1937. Normally nestled next to a tagline emphasizing that Coors is "brewed with 100% Rocky Mountain Water," the waterfall may also be there to remind you that "This is no downstream beer," a turn of phrase that Coors leaned on in advertisements in the 1980s. In 1978, when Coors Light was introduced, another waterfall was chosen, this time Milton Falls at Bogan Flats, near Marble, Colo.



Pardon the foam: the banquet of beers, brewed with 100% Rocky Mountain water.



## Toot Town, USA?

If you've ever found yourself driving through Steamboat and asking, "What's that smell" – congrats, you've officially been welcomed to Toot Town. That unmistakable (and let's be honest, slightly offensive) aroma wafting near Little Toots Park isn't the result of last night's chili cook-off – it's our beloved sulfur springs doing their thing. And yes, the park's name is entirely on brand. Locals know the stinky situation well, especially when cruising down Lincoln Avenue near 13th Street. But here's the kicker: no two springs are exactly alike. Some bubble, some steam, and some just sit there... stinking up the place with unapologetic flair. Steamboat Springs is home to seven different hot springs all located walking distance to downtown (check out the city's free self-guided walking tour to learn more). Legend has it that even wildlife can't get enough, with deer, elk, and even moose developing a taste for eau de rotten egg. So next time your nose crinkles on a downtown stroll, just smile – you're smelling history, healing waters, and a town with a seriously good sense of humor.

## Boys and Girls Club Turns 20

It's now older than its participants. After beginning its journey for local youth in Craig 20 years ago, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Colorado has now served more than 7,500 children ages 6 to 18 in both Craig and Steamboat Springs. With generous support from community members, the Yampa Valley Community Foundation, and longtime sponsor Yampa Valley Bank, Heather Martyn established the Boys & Girls Club of Steamboat shortly later, with the Steamboat Club now



celebrating its 15th anniversary. With her own kids member numbers one and two, Steamboat's summer camp now welcomes nearly 200 kids, joining a robust after-school program the rest of the year. "Parents need affordable childcare, and kids need a space to cut loose," Martyn says. "The best part is that kids just get to be kids." Its mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens. "We work hard to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the children we serve," says development director Kelly Landers. "Together, we're building brighter futures and creating opportunities that impact generations."

## Name That Door, Count Those Stickers!

Okay, we just had to run this as we don't know of a bar door in town – or even the state – that's ever been plastered with more stickers. This shout-out goes to the side (or is it front?) door at T-Bar, which is as plastered with stickers as its patrons are inside. Have one to add? You'll have to get creative finding an opening.

I spy with my little eye...



## Hog Island Moves

No, that's not a local menu. It's one from the good ol' south, where local fishing craft mainstay Hog Island Boatworks recently moved to better serve its rapidly growing skiff boat market. "We still have a presence in Steamboat, for sure, but we moved manufacturing down there to be closer to our core market," says owner Johnny St. John, who, when not slurping down crawfish or grits, you'll find slinging lures for bowfin on the Withlacoochee. "But Steamboat's still home."



## Support Your Local First Responders

Our first responders in town rescue us. Now there's a way to thank and support them for their hard-earned efforts. Last year Steamboat Springs firefighters Devin Borvansky and Nick Fernandez founded the nonprofit Routt First Responders Foundation, following the death of a Routt County Sheriff's officer in 2023. With its efforts focused on tangible assistance, scholarships for public service careers, and community engagement, the fund has raised nearly \$100,000 so far and has given out more than \$30,000 to help families in need. The fund's mission is to serve all first responders in the county, including fire departments, law enforcement, ski patrol, dispatchers, and search and rescue teams. One recent grateful recipient: ski patroller Preston Housel, who suffered a concussion and broken clavicle and ribs in a ski accident this past winter. To donate, visit [www.coloradogives.org/organization/steamboat-fire-foundation](http://www.coloradogives.org/organization/steamboat-fire-foundation).

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# BOAT BITES

## REACH: Sailors Nab State Champs Hockey Title

Want to know the values instilled in the Steamboat High School hockey team that helped them win this year's state championships for the first time ever? Reach for it. "For me, it starts with team values," said head coach Brian Ripley in an interview after the 4-2 win over Glenwood Springs in the final. "Ours are Respect; Effort; Attitude; Commitment and Honor. When they buy into that first, you know they are listening and coachable."



Not the Stanley, but we'll take it: the Sailors squad hoisting their state champs hockey trophy.

## Moose on the Loose

A chaotic scene from Steamboat emerged on social platforms this winter when a moose strode through the ski resort, prompting officials to issue a safety statement about distancing yourself from the ungulates: "Moose on the loose! You may have heard of visitors at Steamboat Resort spotting moose from BC Ski Way, as it is prime moose habitat...give these gorgeous creatures plenty of room (75+ or more feet). Moose have poor eyesight and can be very protective, so...please keep your distance!" Weighing up to 1,000 pounds, the Shiras moose, Colorado's largest big-game animal, is often seen around the resort. But they don't "shoo," says the resort's Sarah Jones, and can be dangerous to anyone encroaching on their territory. Resort zones home to moose during winter include BC Ski Way, Why Not, Vagabond and Bashor, where the packed



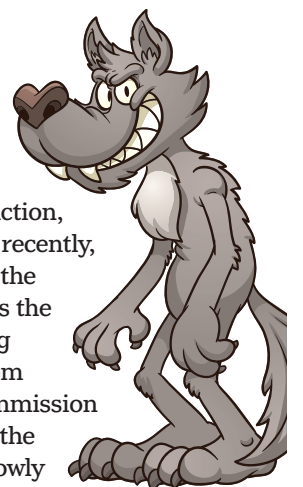
What happens when he makes it to the lift's bullwheel?

slopes make travel easier. From 2017 to 2021, Colorado Parks and Wildlife tracked a group of 21 collared moose, with another group of 10 collared in 2022 for a multi-year study. An estimated 30 moose live within Steamboat Resort boundaries during spring and fall, and up to 10 in winter.

## On the Prowl

### Wolves Join Cougars in Aspen

Now all the cougars in Aspen have something that could possibly prey on them. In a second round of wolf reintroduction, 20 gray wolves were released in Pitkin and Eagle counties recently, including 15 brought from British Columbia and five from the Copper Creek pack, captive since September. The release is the second round of a program to re-establish a self-sustaining wolf population in Colorado. Work to bring the animals from Canada began Jan. 10, two days after the state wildlife commission denied a petition from ranchers and their allies asking for the reintroduction program to be paused. Voters in 2020 narrowly approved a ballot measure directing the state to work to restore wolves west of the Continental Divide. The first group of 10 wolves from Oregon was released in Grand and Summit counties in December 2023.







"All forward! Err, nevermind..."

## Best Yampa Gives Day Promotion

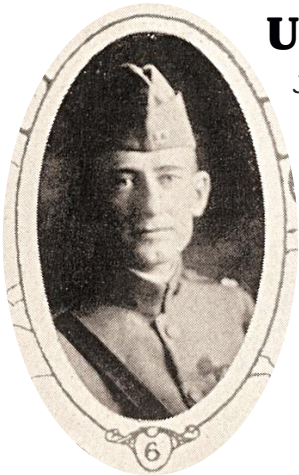
While drivers saw a lot of signs waving back and forth on December's Yampa Valley Gives Day, perhaps no nonprofit earned their keep more than sign-wavers from Friends of the Yampa, whose representatives showed up on a freezing cold Tuesday clad in parkas and balaclavas atop a fully inflated raft. Hats off (er, actually, better keep them on) to everyone who gave and supported our local nonprofits!



## Rural is Rad

Rural is Rad. So says a movement dreamed up by several outdoor industry founders to build awareness for rural brands experiencing shared challenges working in remote places with limited resources. "Our directory is growing, and we're honored to have 40+ brands on the list across rural

Colorado with more joining every day," says Steamboat's Robin Hall, founder of Town Hall Outdoor Co., who dreamed up the idea along with Buttnski founder Kelly Mazanti and Stray Wild founder TJ Smith. "It celebrates the uniqueness of rural businesses and empowers small, independent brands to thrive in the outdoor and lifestyle industries, alongside more established brands that have made the conscious choice to remain rooted in rural Colorado." As part of the collective, brands have access to a supportive network, exclusive marketing opportunities, and tools to help them connect with customers. "Together, we'll showcase the incredible products and stories from rural areas," says Hall. "It supports rural brands doing rad things in the outdoor industry, and helps consumers discover new brands while giving back to the hardworking entrepreneurs in these communities." Look for the third annual Rural is Rad Week this November.



## Uh, Excuse Me, It's Blackmer

Just in case you're wondering or find yourself in an argument on a local barstool, it's Blackmer, not Blackmere. (Last syllable rhymes with "her.") A few years ago, the city officially dropped the "e" on Blackmer Trail on Emerald Mountain. The road was named after Frank J. Blackmer, one of the first doctors in town, in 1932 a year after he died. Blackmer was instrumental in helping get the road built. Somewhere along the way, however, its name picked up an "e." And now you know...the rest of the story.

## Please, Tread on Me Tread's History Happy Hours, Brown Bag Series Going Strong

Sssshh...Steamboat's best deal for free drinks with a side of education could well be the Tread of Pioneers Museum's History Happy Hours, taking place the first Tuesday of each month, October through April. Often featuring the rowdy and raucous side of Routt County and Colorado history (one this winter was entitled "Suds and Saloons of Colorado"), the events, held at Olympian Hall, shed light on local lore and history, with free whiskey tasting courtesy of Mythology and beers from Storm Peak. "They've always been extremely popular since their beginnings eight years ago," says Tread's Candice Bannister. "We bring in speakers from all over the state to explore the crimes, conflicts, controversies and crazy side of history." In the summer, it tones the libation side down a notch, hosting its Brown Bag Summer Storytelling Series every Friday at noon in July and August at the museum.



## Rocky Mountain High Colorado Most Adventurous State in 2024

Move over Cali and...New Jersey. A new study has crowned Colorado the most adventurous state, with 97% more Google searches related to outdoor activities than the average state. In second place comes Oregon, with 4,258 searches annually per 100,000 residents, followed by Vermont and Utah coming in third and fourth. Conducted by student travel company Rustic Pathways, the study analyzed Google Keyword Planner data related to the pursuit of such adventurous activities as hiking, mountain climbing, backpacking, scuba diving, skydiving, camping and snowsports. It analyzed 12 months of searches relating to the activities, locations at which they're accessible, and equipment needed. In Colorado, residents carried out searches for the analyzed terms over 250,000 times per month on average, equating to 4,509 searches per 100,000 Coloradans each month, the highest rate across the nation. The most commonly searched term was "camping." "It's interesting to see the states containing the most adventurous populations," says CEO Shayne Fitz-Coy. "Several of these top ten states are somewhat synonymous with outdoor, extreme and venturesome activities and sports, so it's interesting to truly prove that they attract those seeking adventure."

## Want a Free Hot Tub? Head to Spa Country

Now this is some savings you can really soak in. Spa Country is launching its third year of its Wellness contest, where it gives away a free hot tub to a recipient in both Craig and Steamboat. Yep, you heard that right. "We've seen many people in our store over the years in desperate need of a hot tub, so we came up with the idea for a contest," says co-owner Austin Nelson. "Oftentimes those who need it most don't have the means to purchase one." The gist: between May-August submit your reason as to how a hot tub would benefit you, then cross your fingers. "I am so grateful," says last year's winner Luke Strickland. "It's been a major upgrade to my life and self-care." The company has given away two tubs each of the last two years, one in Routt County and one in Moffat County. "We look for not only a need, but also for people who can't afford one on their own," Nelson adds. "We feel this is our way of giving back to the community." Want a chance to win? Visit [www.steamboathottubs.com](http://www.steamboathottubs.com)



# BOAT BITES

## Earning the Gravel Gavel

Thirty-year-old Keegan Swenson gets the gavel for gravel. Swenson cemented his status as the God of Gravel at last year's sixth annual SBT GRVL race, drawing some of the top gravel riders in the world to the 125.3-mile Black Course to vie for the \$5,000 grand prize. Swensen set the course record in 2022, broke it again in 2023, and won again with a 22-mph pace on a slightly shorter course last year with 11,000 feet of elevation gain. His win came just a week after being crowned the champion for the fourth consecutive time in the Leadville 100 mountain bike race. In all, 3,000 riders competed on one of the event's four courses, which is far more than you'll see this year. Last year, the Routt County Commissioners capped rider numbers at 1,800 riders and got rid of the prize money. This year's event takes place June 26-29.



## New Owners for Hala Gear

Paddleboard manufacturer Hala Gear has changed hands after being purchased by local Colleen King. "I love the Hala brand and its whole culture," says King, a longtime employee of Hala, which was founded by Peter Hall in 2000. "It was too good of an opportunity to pass up. I've loved not just the brand that Peter has created, but the whole culture." King purchased the Hala assets, trademarks and patents from Hall last summer and is continuing the company's tradition of designing and building award-winning SUPs and accessories, including Hala's five-year warranty and certified repair store. Hala has 15 inflatable SUPs in its lineup, including those for river use, touring, and surfing, with its products available online at [www.halagear.com](http://www.halagear.com). Hall also sold his online retailer Colorado Kayak Supply to Denver's Confluence Kayak and Ski. "It's been awesome growing a business in this town with all the local support," he says.

## SUP Cowboys Giddyup!

Think Hala doesn't fit into Steamboat's western vibe? Don't tell King, who joined a few of her friends to get pulled on their SUPs behind horses at this year's Winter Carnival. Yippe kayay!



## Good News for Trails

Local hikers and mountain bikers got good news this spring when the U.S. Forest Service issued its final, signed Decision Notice regarding the Mad Rabbit Trails Project. According to a press release issued by the Forest Service, the project will include 49 miles of new trails, with trailhead improvements to be used for hiking, cycling, adaptive users, and motorized. Most of the trails will be along Highway 40, with varying abilities and uses. About 36 miles of routes in the area will be rehabilitated to protect resources and improve wildlife habitat and include seasonal wildlife closures. In December 2024, the project was awarded \$1.6 million from the city from 2013's 2A for Trails ballot measure. "RCR is proud to celebrate this victory alongside our local land managers, who are working hard to carry this project to success," says Routt County Riders executive director Laraine Martin. "It's going to benefit the immensely and be a priceless resource."



## Tip Your Helmets To... Notching 148 Days for 11 Skiers and Riders

While some days were probably better than others, and a few ailments and sniffles likely had to be ignored, 11 skiers and riders were awarded a coveted "148" belt buckle from Steamboat Ski Resort for hitting the slopes every single day of the season this year, 148 total through Saturday April 19, with a bonus making it 149 on closing day April 20. The list included longtime locals and relative newcomers, including two married couples who neglected work, house chores and possibly children long enough to get out every day. The list includes Anders Anderson, Dani and Justin Booth, Larry Budwig, Gregory Dalsis, Doug Hecker, Chantal Kane, Brad and Leila Kruelskie, Paul Madeen and Charles Smith.

## One Foot in Front of the Other RMYC Gearing Up for Solid Season

Despite cuts to some of its project partners such as the USFS and BLM this spring, local nonprofit Rocky Mountain Youth Corps is putting one foot in front of the other heading into its 2025 summer season.

"We're still doing what we do, providing meaningful service opportunities for youth and young adults, just at a slightly scaled-down capacity this season," says RMYC's Lauren Vandenhurk. With Colorado's snowpack below average throughout the Rockies, its wildfire



PHOTO COURTESY OF RMYC

mitigation work – seen this spring on a new firebreak line cut off Blackmer Road on Emerald Mountain – could be especially active, with crews awaiting potential deployment. Housed in a 4,300-square-foot headquarters on a 3.4-acre campus in town, RMYC has served more than 13,000 youth in its three decades of service, including more than 5,000 through its Yampa Valley Science School and Natural Resource internship programs. Its crews perform such services as community cleanups; planting and watering trees; building and maintaining trails – including those on 14ers; GIS programming; hydrology and archaeology projects; wildfire mitigation; and more. And save the date for its annual "Toast to Trails & Tales" fundraiser on Sept. 27 this year at Perry-Mansfield with auction items, dinner, dancing and more. Want to donate? Visit [rockymountainyouthcorps.org](http://rockymountainyouthcorps.org).

## Rugby Runs Away with Cowpie Classic Title; Will It Repeat?

Don't mess with Steamboat rugby. The local rugby ruffians swept last year's honorable Cowpie Classic here in town, one of the premier tournaments in the Rockies now celebrating its 50th anniversary. For the first time in Cowpie history, the Steamboat men, women and old boys all won titles and the right to parade around the famous Cowpie trophy. "It's an awesome tournament," says former player and now manager "Warpig." "Everyone has a ton of fun. We share stories, beers and a little bit of contact." As for the event's name? The first-ever tournament was held at the rodeo grounds, where all the cows were let onto the field and weren't shy about leaving their mark.





## AI Butt-recognition Technology Puts Damper on Derrieres?

Passengers riding trains along the Arkansas, Colorado and other rivers in the state were rejoicing April 1 when a story came out saying there's a crackdown on river-runners mooning trains thanks to AI butt-recognition technology. But the joke was on them, and they had to once again put up with people pressing hams, when they realized it was published on April Fool's. Still, it got us wondering...



PHOTO COURTESY OF RYAN DINGLE

The Stampedeers took this year's Howie Dome Heater for the third year in a row.

## Did you catch the annual Howie Dome Heater?

The ABC-style, three-day hockey tournament takes place each May at the Howelsen Ice Arena to raise money for the Routt First Responders Foundation. This year's event saw a record number of teams, which wrapped up Saturday evening with three games under their belts before a communal barbecue outside the rink followed by a party at Old Town Pub. On Sunday came the semi-finals, pitting the Stampedeers against Denver's Team Walshy, and Team Vladen facing OTP. The 7 a.m. alarm clocks came early for most Sunday morning, everyone shaking off the fog from the night before. While Team Walshy concluded the game up 2-1, shootout shots gave the edge to the Stampedeers, who won it on the final shot. Meanwhile, Team Vladen downed team OTP in quick fashion. The Stampedeers found a way to win one final game and take home their third consecutive Howie Dome Heater title. But the real winner was the Routt First Responders Foundation.



## Business Sign of the Month!

This one has to go to this Axe Throwing/Acupuncture sign on the west end of town, advertising both businesses under the same roof. Says the doc: "You won't feel a thing."



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB LEGASA

Tequila! Being inducted into the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame calls for a celebratory shot. Park Smalley, in the navy blue hoodie, is surrounded by friends, including Olympic gold medalist Donna Weinbrecht, Steamboat Olympians Bobby Adighieri, Kris "Fuzz" Feddersen, and other well-wishers.

## Hey Dad, You Are My Hero

They call him the Father of Freestyle. This spring, Steamboat Springs' Park Smalley was inducted into the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame – the biggest honor in the sport. Park put freestyle skiing on the map in the late '70s. And he did it using the tools he had around him: bales of hay and conveyor ladders from vegetable trucks, plus a manmade pond. Even into the '80s, the on-mountain moguls got no respect. Once, on the eve of a competition, cats groomed the run, leading to the slogan "Stop the Brutal Grooming." Despite it all, Park persisted until the Olympic Committee conceded and made freestyle skiing a demo sport in the 1988 Games. Finally, in 1994, the sport earned official Olympic status.



RON DAHLQUIST/SKI TOWN MEDIA

Can I have the next dance...?

## At the time, the sport included three disciplines:

ballet, moguls and aerials. Only two survived; ballet having been left behind. Is it undergoing a resurgence? Scan the QR code to check out Steamboat's April Fool's Day post.

The sport has evolved to include terrain parks, Big Air and slopestyle events, all thanks to Park and a handful of diehards who gathered for a reunion at the Hall of Fame ceremony last spring in Ishpeming, Michigan. Say that three times fast.



POST SHARED ON APRIL 1  
BY STEAMBOATRESORT



# BOAT BITES

## Alternative Youngster Games!

Forget quarters and those other old school drinking games of yesteryear. Today's kids and millennials have gotten way more creative, figuring out fun ways to play games outdoors that also include a modicum of libations. Below is a sampler of a few you might find yourself joining in on in someone's yard, garage, or on the river.

### Rage Cage

**What you need:** Two ping pong balls, 10 or more Solo cups, a table, three or more players, several beers.

**Set up:** Place cups in center of table; fill each one-third, and center one all the way; place players round the table; pick two across from each other to start.

**Gameplay:** The two starting players each take a cup closest to them and drink it. They then try to quickly bounce their ping pong ball into their empty cup. Once completed, they pass the cup and the ball clockwise to the next person to do the same. If someone makes it on the first try, they can pass the cup to anyone who's not currently bouncing a ball. This continues until a player makes a ball into their cup while the next person is still bouncing. Once this happens, the player will stack their cup onto the next one and the losing player will pass their stack clockwise, pick a new cup, drink it, and continue bouncing. Note: If a player accidentally bounces their ball into one of the center cups, they must drink it, stack it on top of theirs, and continue playing.

**How to win:** The game ends when all the cups have been consumed – and whomever gets the last cup must chug it (no matter what it contains).

### Beer Pong

**What you need:** Two ping pong balls, 10 or more Solo cups, a table, two players, several beers.

**Set up:** Line cups up in a 3-2-1 triangle format, with two payers standing on opposite ends of the table.

**Gameplay:** Throw a ping pong ball across table to get into cup. If you get it in the cup the other team drinks the beer from it and puts it aside.

**How to win:** Whoever scores most cups wins (there are other rules for trick shots, bouncing cup, balls back, etc.)

### SPECIAL NOTES

**Trick shot:** If the ball misses but bounces off a cup back to the shooter's side and the shooter's team recovers it, a trick shot can be taken (i.e. a shot with the non-dominant hand, bouncing off a wall into cup, etc.) If the trick shot is successful, the team gets one point. **Balls back:** If both players on the shooting team score, it is constituted as a "balls back", where each player gets to shoot again. **Bitch cup:** If the first cup to get hit is the center cup, the shooter must perform some pre-decided act (i.e. naked lap around the table).

### Robo Pound

**What you need:** Four Solo cups and a larger fifth cup (i.e. Super Big Gulp) in the middle.

**Set up:** Distribute one can of beer equally amongst the four cups, with the largest amount in the large cup. Typically played with two people on each team.

**Gameplay:** It's like quarters, where you try to bounce a quarter off its edge into a cup. Each team starts with a quarter then countdowns "123 Go!" If both people hit the first shot, one person on each team drinks that cup, retrieving the quarter as quickly as possible. Whoever shoots first and makes the next shot gets the other team's quarter. It's a mix of being able to shoot well and drink quickly. Whoever hits the big cup first wins. If you accidentally hit the big cup before the four cups are hit, you lose.



Beersby: the ultimate test of Frisbee prowess and one-handed beer drinking.

### Beersby

**What you need:** A Frisbee, two to four players, two ski poles (or paddles), several beers (play can either be one-on-one or two-on-two).

**Set up:** Weight down two empty beer cans with sand and place them on top of poles placed 10-20 yards apart from each other. If teams, place teammates by the same pole.

**Gameplay:** Players take turns throwing their Frisbee at their opponents' beer can on the post and trying to knock it down. Take turns throwing Frisbee, trying to hit the can or pole to knock the can off. The receiving team must try to catch the Frisbee and/or the beer if it gets knocked down (using only one hand). Scoring: If you drop the Frisbee, the other team is awarded a point. If you knock the pole and the can hits the ground, you get two points. If you catch the falling beer can, your team gets a point. Other rules: you can only throw and catch with one hand (a beer must always be in your other hand); you must throw the Frisbee from behind your post; you can only catch the Frisbee once it is behind your post.

**How to win:** The first team to 11 or 21 wins (depending on how many other teams are waiting in line to play).

### Trout

**What you need:** People and beer (and semblance of coordination).

**Set up:** Everyone stands in a circle, ideally around mid-torso depth in the water (but it also works on a beach), with a beer in their dominant hand.

**Gameplay:** An unopened beer (often floating in the middle of the circle) is thrown randomly around the circle (underhanded, with the thrower yelling "Live Trout!") and whoever is closest must catch it one-handed above the water or else they get the letter "T" in route to spelling out "Trout." Uncatchable tosses will result in the thrower getting the letter instead. When someone spells "Trout" they must chug the whole beer. (Variations: other players can splash them as they're chugging; if it's a questionable toss, the two players can have a "Trout-off" where they pass the beer between them until someone loses; players have to name a fish species (or other previously decided category) as they throw. Whoever gets the letter starts the next throw.



Cheers to the Governor!

What you need: People and beer (and ability to count).

Set up: Everyone stands in a circle.

Gameplay: Everyone counts in a rotation up to 21 and the first rule is 7 and 11 are switched (5,6,11,8,9,10,7,12,13...). Once you make it to 21 that person says, "Cheers to the Governor!" and takes a drink and gets to make a new rule to add to the counting (i.e. at 4 everyone drinks; at 17 you must dance; 18 reverses order; etc.), kind of like the game Add-on on a trampoline.



NICK LYONS

Events like the Yampa River Festival make a splash in Steamboat all summer long.

Steamboat Summer Highlights

From parades to sipping pinots, there's something for everyone in Steamboat in the summertime.

MAY

29-1 Yampa River Festival  
www.FriendsOfTheYampa.com

JUNE

1 Steamboat Marathon  
www.SteamboatChamber.com  
21 Reds, Whites and Brews in the Boat  
www.RedsWithAndBrews.net

JULY

1-4 Cowboy Roundup Days/Fourth of July Celebration, www.SteamboatChamber.com  
20-Aug. 7 (Sundays) "Twelfth Night"  
www.PiknikTheatre.org  
12-13 Art in the Park  
www.SteamboatCreates.org

AUGUST

1-9 All Arts Week  
www.UndiscoveredEarth.org  
9-18 Routt County Fair (Hayden)  
www.RouttCountyFair.org  
29-1 Labor Day Sidewalk Sale  
www.MainStreetSteamboat.com

SEPTEMBER

6 Steamboat OktoberWest  
www.SteamboatOktoberWest.com  
6 Literary Sojourn, www.LiterarySojourn.org  
26 Opera Steamboat "Falling in Love with Cree Carrico"  
www.OperaSteamboat.org

28-31 Yampa Valley Crane Festival  
www.ColoradoCranes.org

OCTOBER

2-5, Food & Wine Festival  
www.SteamboatFoodAndWine.com  
5 Downtown Hoedown/Chuck Wagon Chili Challenge  
www.MainStreetSteamboat.com  
4-11 Steamboat Restaurant Week  
www.MainStreetSteamboat.com  
31 Downtown Halloween Stroll  
www.MainStreetSteamboat.com

ONGOING EVENTS

Farmers Market: Saturdays, June 7-Sept. 20, downtown; www.MainStreetSteamboat.com  
First Friday Artwalk: First Friday of each month, 5-8 p.m., downtown; www.SteamboatCreates.org  
Steamboat Pro Rodeo Series: Fridays/Saturdays, June 20-Aug. 23; www.SteamboatProRodeo.com  
Free Summer Concert Series: June 21, July 19, Aug. 31, Sept. 31, Howelsen Hill; www.KeepinItFree.com  
Strings Music Festival: June-Sept., Strings Music Pavilion; www.StringsMusicFestival.com



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# BOAT BITES



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN AREL

*“This is where the magic happens”*

*Just a fraction of the crowd celebrating Pete*



## Best Day Ever: A Tribute to Peter Van De Carr

Stories from the Backdoor Trenches

Who else has a service at the ice rink? Or gets his mug on the front page of the newspaper with a story that jumps to five different pages? Or gets a moment of silence before the main act at WinterWonderGrass concert and has the main stage named after him? Or has the ski resort open the gondola after hours and groom Heavenly Daze for a giant group ski? One person: Pete Van De Carr.

The local river community lost one of its most stalwart supporters Feb. 25 when Van De Carr died in a skiing accident at his hometown Steamboat Ski Resort – whose snow feeds the waterway he so loved. A tireless advocate for his beloved Yampa River and hometown of Steamboat Springs, Peter founded and owned Backdoor Sports on the banks of the Yampa, which offers backcountry skiing gear in the winter and river and other outdoor gear in the summer. Backdoor Sports also offers kayak lessons and raft trips and is the river’s largest tubing outfitter. A tireless advocate for the Yampa, Pete served on the city’s Parks and Recreation Commission, the Yampa River Fund’s steering committee, and founded Friends of the Yampa.

“Steamboat was the first place where I could find a job and that also had a rugby team,” he once said before passing, adding that he moved

here in 1978 after graduating from Miami of Ohio University. “I hightailed it out of Oxford and headed west in a Camaro convertible without any brakes...a typical Ohio car.” First living in a tent off Buffalo Pass and working as a lumberjack on the powerlines, he later worked as a math teacher before opening Backdoor Sports as a mail-order ski shop in 1986. He added kayaks and moved to his current riverfront location in 1990. “It wasn’t because I was smart,” he said. “That’s just the only place we could find. It wasn’t that great a spot for a ski shop, but for the river now it’s awesome.”

Backdoor Sports has since become the river’s largest tubing outfitter, some years ushering as many as sixteen thousand people down the river in a summer. And he was adamant that getting people on the river is the key to saving it. “You have to know it to love it and love it to protect it.”

Above all, he was known as a loving father, husband and community member, spreading his positive attitude to everyone he met while helping them get outside and having the “Best Day Ever.” His advice: keep it simple and keep having fun; do something you absolutely love every single day and build a life around it; don’t worry too much; be generous and help people with kindness, encouragement and excitement.

*“Hey, can you watch the store for a second?”*

*“We specialize in Crookies! And wing nuts!”*

*“The quality of your life can be measured by your number of three-sport days”*

*“Some kids are tragically overprivileged”*



*Pete is honored with flowers and hockey sticks*



*Pete and his boys*



*"I wish I didn't like skiing so much;  
I'd be better at my job..."*

*"To turn is to admit defeat"*

*"I could pin all six of my  
sisters down at once"*

*"No such thing as bad weather...  
just bad equipment"*

*"Telly 'til You're Smelly"*



Gretchen and Pete "best days ever" together

*"Best Day Ever"*



*"Bob Dylan is the master of the  
complex, John Prine was  
the master of the simple."*

## Pete Being Pete

- He'd come back from skiing boiler plate in flat light and still say "Best Day Ever."
- He loved the Yampa fourth only behind Gretchen, Otis and Ollie. And maybe his Martin guitar. And his pigs.
- He once ran through a golfing party on the Rolling Stone course with blood streaming down his face after swimming from his kayak in Fish Creek.
- He staged a red neck costume night on a spring break river trip down the San Juan, giving his kids Ollie and Otis mullets at camp using first aid scissors. With everyone in muscle shirts, bandanas and cranking AC-DC, other parties couldn't tell it was a costume night.
- He paddled the entire Yampa from Yampa to Jensen, Utah, carrying a package of Twinkies in a Pelican box and sold them to an outfitter to prove you can conduct interstate commerce on the river, which qualifies it as a "navigable" waterway, thus protecting it from being dammed.
- He was big on trades: he once traded a drytop for a cortizone shot, a kayak for knee surgery, and a pair of skis for a deep clean on his bathroom.
- He played goalie on the Turkey Mountain Window Smashers soccer and Mad Dogs hockey teams (one time swinging his stick behind him, only to discover he was standing outside the goal). He had the perfect

personality for goalie...just back there sort of spacing out then coming through when you needed him. Kind of like how he ran his store Backdoor Sports.

- He was the eye candy in the band El Kabong.
- As commissioner of the nascent adult hockey league, he made anyone who was kicked out of a game for fighting write a 250-word letter of apology, which got posted up at the rink. The Steamboat Springs Youth Hockey Association is creating a memorial scholarship in his honor.
- He helped a forlorn cowboy herd cows across the river from his kayak in the middle of Yampa Canyon.
- A friend brought his tele skis in to get mounted, only to find one binding mounted three inches in front of the other. He tried to complain, but Pete answered, "What do you care? You're in a tele turn anyway!" And you had to be careful if you left your skis there as he might rent them out.
- As his friend Warpig puts it, "He was the consummate anti-salesman. I'd come in to buy something and he'd say why do you want that? Here, take mine. Or if you needed a bale for your ski boot, he'd take it off a new one. You'd have to persuade him to take your money... no matter how much you protested."

*Comment: "I heard you were good with the ladies?" Pete's response:  
"Well, I wasn't that good looking, so I had to try harder..."*

STRINGS

MUSIC FESTIVAL

SUMMER CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS

6/27 Mary Chapin Carpenter / Brandy Clark

6/29 BoDeans

7/6 Brent Rowan and Friends  
Featuring T. Graham Brown

7/10 Bruce Cockburn

7/11 Houndmouth (Standing Room Only)

7/13 Tab Benoit

7/18 John Oates: An Evening  
of Songs and Stories

7/20 Lucinda Williams

7/22 Chris Isaak

7/24 Firefall

7/27 Rhiannon Giddens & The  
Old-Time Revue

7/31 Pure Prairie League

8/1 Jarabe Mexicano

8/3 Mountain Grass Unit

8/7 TopHouse

8/10 Morgan James Symphonic Soul

8/14 Atlanta Rhythm Section

8/16 Jon Muq

8/19 Crystal Gayle

8/24 Allen Stone

9/19 Hot Tuna

10/4 Dawes Duo

Music on the Green\* · Wednesdays at 10am  
Yampa River Botanic Park · 6/25 - 8/20

Twilight Yoga\* · Wednesdays 7-8pm  
Strings Festival Park · 7/2 - 8/13

Musical Stargazing · 10/11 and 10/12  
6-9:30pm Legacy Ranch

\*Free Performances and Events

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# MUNCHIES

## Quick Bites

### What's a Mukbang?

A mukbang (Korean for “eating” and “broadcast”) is an online audiovisual broadcast in which a host consumes food (often from fast-food chains) while interacting with and reviewing it for their audience on such social platforms as Instagram, YouTube and TikTok. The genre became popular in South Korea in the early 2010s, fast became a global trend with followers consuming everything from pizza to noodles in front of a camera. The lip-smacking purpose is often educational, exposing viewers to regional specialties, with the host chatting, mouthful, with the audience. Cooking and eating food on camera for their audience, Mukbangers around the world have started earning high incomes for their eating endeavors from advertising, sponsorships, endorsements and viewers’ support, despite criticism of the trend promoting unhealthy eating habits.

### Inclusions Bakery and Dessert Bar Gets New Digs

It’s only fitting that Inclusions Bakery’s new home is well familiar with concoctions made from yeast. Inclusions Bakery and Dessert Bar has a new home at 1125 Lincoln Ave., former home of Yampa Valley Brewery. Specializing in scratch-made baked goods – including birthday cakes, coffee cakes, muffins, quickbread loaves, cupcakes, brownies, mousse cakes, quiche, sweet rolls and more – it made the move after nearly five years being located in Wildhorse Plaza. “We absolutely love it here,” says

manager Kirk Webber, who runs it with spouse Grace Riley. “We always wanted someplace with indoor/outdoor seating and this is perfect.” They kept the existing bar and turned it into a coffee bar, with the kitchen nearby and room for 31 people inside and a lot more on their 2,200-square-foot patio. But people love hanging out inside and watching their creations come to life. “For some reason, people like to watch you bake things,” he says. Bonus: sister company Becca’s Gourmet Goodies can ship to your home; and they now offer a Bread and Spread Club, featuring a specialty bread paired with a decadent spread every week.



### New Owners for Tavern at The Glen

Not that there’s likely to be bowling lanes coming to North Routt, but Tavern at The Glen now has new owners. Western Centers, the company behind Snow Bowl and the Boathouse, took over ownership this past year, fast making it North Routt’s new hotspot. The Trout Bar restaurant is headed by Chef Pete List, who whips up such appetizers as spicy fried pickles, salads, grilled elk sausage and red Chile; as well as such main entrees as the Home Ranch burger, blackened trout po’ boy, oven-roasted turkey sandwich, smoked and braised Home Ranch beef, turkey pot pie and more. Adjacent is the more formal Elk Lounge, as well as Lower Glen, a riverside event space by the Elk River. “We’re anticipating a summer and fall of catering weddings, special events, and celebrations, with room for a party tent and bonfire,” says Western Center’s Rory Clow. “Whether you’re looking for a quick bite, hearty Western meal or place to hold a larger gathering, Tavern at The Glen has it all.”

### Hot Potato

Let’s just say that he went out of the frying pan and into the fire on this one. Showing that some people will do anything to cook a potato, a man was arrested over the winter for trespassing after he entered a home on Pine Street to “cook food that he had brought.” Dispatched around 11 a.m., Steamboat Springs police searched the man and found a potato in his pocket, which he was allegedly attempting to cook in the residence. The incident landed him in hot water instead.



That’s a lot of baloney: Yampa Sandwich Co. celebrating 25-plus years slinging sammies.

### Yampa Sandwich Company Celebrates Big 25

#### Raises Over \$5,000 for SOS Outreach

That’s a lot of years of making sandwiches. Yampa Sandwich Co. blew out the candles on its 25th anniversary slinging sandwiches in Steamboat and beyond last November, ringing it in with a fundraiser raising \$5,000 for SOS Outreach while thanking its loyal, lunching followers. “For 25 years, we’ve been proud to be a part of Colorado’s vibrant communities,” says co-owner Dave Pepin, whose eatery has eight locations in Denver, Fort Collins and Steamboat. “From the trails to the slopes, our customers inspire us daily with their energy, love of the outdoors, and generosity. Partnering with SOS let us give back in a way that reflects what we’re all about – fueling adventures and shaping stronger communities. Now we’re shooting for another 25.” Miss the cake and ice cream? Celebrate with its fan favorite Yampa Ice Cream Sandwich.

### E3 Opens The Lounge

E3 has gotten closer to the mountain. Featuring an open kitchen, chef’s table and unique wood-fired grill, E3’s new The Lounge E3 Kitchen + Social Club has opened at 2165 Pine Grove Rd., the former home of Three Peaks Grill. Owned by E3 Restaurants, including brothers Jeff, Andy and Adam LaRoche, along with investors in Atlanta, Ga., the renovated space boasts a new vibrant atmosphere with “elevated cuisine and beverages.” The menu hints of E3 Chophouse downtown with familiar steaks, but adds fondue pairings, bison meatballs, specialty seafood dishes, and more. It also offers a chef’s table where guests can sit and meet kitchen staff, offering front-row seating to the kitchen where the magic happens. Bonus: acoustic music on the weekends.

### Shreddies Food Truck Back in Action

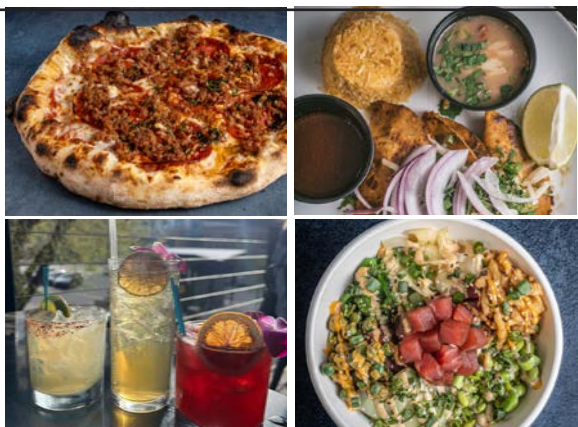
Fan of a fast Philly? Fear not: Shreddies food truck is back to slinging sammies. Restaurateur Patrick Keogh has reopened the moveable sandwich deli, taking over the eatery from his late friend, Jake Berman. His specialty: a Philly cheesesteak with shaved ribeye, peppers and onions and American cheese (aka the Philly Jake). Also look for French dip, Bahn Mi and hot ham sandwiches. Keogh is honored to carry on the tradition of Berman, who passed away in June 2024, and is also partnering with Culinary Hospitality Outreach and Wellness, a nonprofit mental health support group. Find his succulent sandwiches from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Cook Chevrolet on Tuesdays, Billo Dispensary on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and Elk River Pet and Ranch on Fridays. And check [www.shreddiesfood.com](http://www.shreddiesfood.com) for other hours and locations.



# Commons Catch-up

## New Pasta Bar, Sandwiches/Soup

Like a sports team beefing up its roster for the playoffs, The Commons Food Hall & Bar downtown has updated its roster of restaurants for the summer season. Joining wood-fired artisan pizza from Clyde's Pies, made-from-scratch Mexican from La Cocina, and scrumptious poke bowls from Poke the Bear, is Sup Which U, serving up soups, sandwiches and charcuterie, as well as a new house-made, build-your-own pasta bar. Every vendor is an independent, small, local business, offering something for everyone. With three levels of outdoor seating overlooking Howelsen Hill and a saddle-up-to-your-neighbor ambiance, its popular Common Bar also serves up a huge selection of beer, seltzers, wine, cocktails and NA options for après action.



# Best Little Market in Steamboat: Wild Plum

Located on the mountain at 2525 Village Dr., Wild Plum could well be the Best Little Market in Steamboat. Half community hub, half grocery/liquor store, half gourmet eatery, half coffee shop, and half bar (we know, we know... that's a lot of halves), Wild Plum isn't just a place – it's a lifestyle choice tucked just steps from the gondola where locals and visitors swing by for their caffeine fix, après sips, succulent Neapolitan pizza, forgotten tooth brush, and more. And did we mention its liquor store with over 700 varieties of beer, wine, and spirits (yes, really)? Wild Plum's got your back, taste buds, and weekend plans covered.



"We try to offer something for everyone – a quick and easy nearby option so people don't have to make the trip to larger stores like City Market," says owner Jason Partovi, adding they even offer delivery for DoorDash and UberEats. "We focus on what our locals and visitors most often need – a combination of everyday staples, convenient meals and unique treats."

Grocery staples sell well, he adds, including essentials like milk, eggs, bacon, bread and butter, as well as snacks and easy dinner meals. Its store also stocks simple condo essentials, gifts and souvenirs, as well as everything you need for that slam dunk spaghetti dinner. In its eatery, top-selling breakfast items include its breakfast burrito and BEC (bacon, egg, and cheese) sandwich, while for lunch guests chow down on its chicken pesto sandwich, burger and gyro. "Our Lavazza Coffee is also a major draw, as well as our artisan gelato for enjoying on the patio," he adds. "And as well as our retail liquor store, we also have an on-premises beer and wine license, with a great happy hour from 2:30 to 5:30. It's hard to capture everything we offer because we do so much."

## S&C Faves:

**Breakfast burrito:** bacon, sausage or chorizo, eggs, grilled peppers and onions, cheese, house potatoes and a side of salsa.

**Avocado toast:** toasted focaccia topped with avocado smash, arugula and grapefruit salad.

**'Za's:** Little Toots, Garden Grazers, Après Ski, and Wild Pie.

# She's Baaack!

## Sharon Stone New GM of True North Tavern

The owners of True North Adventure Lodge have teamed up with longtime restaurateur Sharon Stone, who's now managing the new True North Tavern in Hahns Peak. Owned by the husband-and-wife team of Job and Katrina Seese, the café is connected to the True North Adventure Lodge, providing guests and locals a place to dine, drink and bed down in an eight-bedroom, 10-bathroom lodge that sleeps up to 18. Expect such items as grilled ham and cheese, burgers from locally sourced beef, Fish Fry Fridays with haddock, walleye and fried shrimp, and date-night Saturdays prime rib, salmon and more.

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# MUNCHIES



## Mexican Grub Roundup

Arriba! If you *gusta* Mexican food, there's no shortage at all in this fair hamlet of ours, with nearly a dozen restaurantes cranking out burritos, enchiladas, tacos, tortas and more, bring flavor from south of the border to Steamboat. Below are a few of our faves. *Buen provecho!*

### Cinco De Mayo

Word on the mountain is there's a full-blown burrito battle royale happening on the PSIA office whiteboard—and guess who salsa'd their way to victory? Cinco De Mayo's Toncino Burrito. This heavyweight champ is deceptively simple: eggs, bacon, peppers, onions, cheese... aka, the breakfast dream team. It's all wrapped in a warm hug of homemade tortilla goodness, made from generations-old recipes. Catch breakfast until 11 AM—because dreams (and burritos) don't wait forever. [www.cincosteamboat.com](http://www.cincosteamboat.com)

### Vista Hermosa Grill

They say you can't please everyone... but Vista Hermosa Grill is trying anyway—with four kinds of meat in one sandwich. That's right, the Torta Cubana is a meaty masterpiece loaded with sausage, ham, barbacoa and steak. Not into full-on flavor fireworks? The Mexican Hamburger throws down with pineapple, crispy onions, fried jalapeños and fries, because why not toss the whole party onto the plate? And if you're feeling tortilla curious, their hand-pressed corn tortillas are the real MVP—perfect for when you want something lighter but still muy delicioso. [www.vistahermosagrill.com](http://www.vistahermosagrill.com)

### Tacos El Charro

On the corner of Downhill Drive—also known (by absolutely no one but locals) as “The Napa Valley”—you'll find Tacos El Charro, the little food truck that could. Now boasting a legit walk-up window and charming outdoor seating, they've leveled up but kept the vibes deliciously low-key. Feeling classic? Grab the Asada Tacos. Craving something bolder? The Burrito Barbacon is basically a flavor freight train. And for those who think breakfast should come with a kick, the Chilaquiles are calling your name. Every order comes with two house-made hot sauces and a side of cabbage soup—because why not keep things caliente and classy? [www.facebook.com/ElCharrofoodtruckmexicanfood/](http://www.facebook.com/ElCharrofoodtruckmexicanfood/)

### Vaqueros

At Vaqueros, the rooftop is where the magic happens—grab a seat, order a margarita, and take in the views of Main Street and a peek at Steamboat Resort. Chips and dip are practically mandatory up here, whether you're team salsa, guac, or going all-in with their fresh ceviche. Feeling hungry? The steak fajitas are a sizzling fan favorite, and with a bar as stacked as theirs, you'll never go thirsty (or unsatisfied—just be careful if you order the grande margarita). Whether you're kicking off the night or soaking in the sun après-style, Vaqueros is a must for rooftop vibes and full plates. [www.steamboat.vaquerosmexican.net](http://www.steamboat.vaquerosmexican.net)



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## Fiesta Jalisco

Fiesta Jalisco is where authentic Mexican flavors meet mountain-town hospitality. With locations stretching from Avon to beyond the Front Range, they've built a loyal following one sizzling plate at a time. Locals love it, visitors crave it, and the service is always on point. Their carne asada is the stuff of legend—grilled to perfection and served with pico, guac, green onions, and a fried jalapeño for that extra kick. Whether you're swinging by for a quick lunch or settling in for dinner with friends, Fiesta Jalisco serves up comfort, flavor, and that warm "welcome back" feeling. [www.steamboat.fiestajaliscoco.com](http://www.steamboat.fiestajaliscoco.com)

## La Fiesta Grill and Cantina

At La Fiesta Grill, the flavors are bold, the plates are beautiful, and the rave reviews aren't just hype—they're well-earned. This cozy spot dishes up comfort food with a fresh twist, and locals can't get enough. The veggie enchiladas—stuffed with squash and zucchini—are a garden party on a plate, while the bacon chicharrón guacamole is next-level creamy, crunchy goodness. Craving something with a little heat? The stuffed poblano with grilled chicken and pico brings the flavor, and the crispy chile relleno, topped with green chili and chipotle aioli, might just steal the show. Each dish comes with cilantro lime rice and charro beans, because even the sides here know how to shine. And while it's known as the best happy hour in town—we'll leave that review up to you (but don't be surprised if you end up sticking around for round two). [www.fiestagrillandcantina.com](http://www.fiestagrillandcantina.com)

## Taco Cabo

Nestled right by the river (where the view is as fresh as the guacamole), Taco Cabo is where Mexican fusion flavors meet the laid-back vibes of riverside dining. It's got everything you want—homemade street tacos, tamales, burritos, and hot sauces so good they should be bottled and sold as a luxury item. Seriously. Craving something a little extra? Their fresh-baked bread will have you questioning why carbs are ever frowned upon. And the guacamole? Let's just say you'll be "accidentally" ordering extra. Pull up a chair on their patio and catch some live tunes (because tacos + music = peak relaxation). Wash it all down with a blackberry mojito or a mezcal mule—your taste buds will thank you. And, if you're lucky, you might catch owner Kent stepping in with his harmonica for an impromptu riverside jam. It's like dinner and a show, minus the whole "needing a ticket" thing. [www.tacocabo.com](http://www.tacocabo.com)

## Del Mezcal Tacos and Margaritas

Just off the main drag, Del Mezcal Tacos and Margaritas is where bold flavors and smoky cocktails come to play. From the slow-braised Plato de Birria to the sizzling Molcajete (grilled pork and chicken smothered in green chili), this spot knows how to do comfort food right. Taco lovers, rejoice: the Pollo Asado and Copechano are local legends, and the Enchiladas Divorciadas—one red, one green—bring serious flavor and zero commitment issues. On the drink side, the Cadillac Margarita is a smooth classic, the Spicy Mezcalita brings the fire, and the Smokey Grill Mezcal Ahumado is pure, smoky bliss. Basically, it's the kind of place where you come for a quick taco... and end up staying for three margaritas. No regrets. [www.delmezcaltacosymargaritas.com/](http://www.delmezcaltacosymargaritas.com/)

## Salt & Lime

We know S&L has some of the best margs in town. But they also have great grub from south of the border, from its queso fundido, chorizo vampire, and Toritos Poppers (pineapple and cheese stuffed, bacon wrapped jalapeños, cascabel bbq) apps to main courses like Baja shrimp, quesadilla barbacoa, and steak ranchero. Want something lighter? It has some of the best tacos in the state, which don't break the bank. And come for the ambiance, whether it's on its rooftop bar or open dining area downstairs. [www.rexsfamily.com/salt-lime](http://www.rexsfamily.com/salt-lime)

—Haley Watkins

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# MUNCHIES

## Top Bennies in the 'Boat

Poached eggs on an English muffin slathered in hollandaise? Count us in. While nobody agrees on who invented eggs benedict (hint: it wasn't traitor Benedict Arnold), we love a good bennie—and these local spots are flipping tradition on its head by serving up some yolk-filled joy, Steamboat-style. So be a traitor yourself and forsake your typical omelet order for one of the following top benedicts in town. Just make sure to wipe that extra dollop of hollandaise off your chin.



### Creekside Café

Yeewhaw and pass the brisket. Located at 11th and Oak Street downtown along Soda Creek, Creekside Café's Cowboy Downhill is for ranch hands and mimosa mavens alike. Smoked beef brisket, charred onions, and pickled jalapeños piled high on your classic benedict base with house-made hollandaise. Choose potatoes or grits (life is about tough decisions). Like your swine? Try their BAT, layered with avocado, tomato and a local cut of thick bacon. And if you're not sipping their Bloody Mary, what are you doing with your life? [www.rexsfamily.com/creekside](http://www.rexsfamily.com/creekside)

### Winona's Restaurant & Bakery

Holy crab. Winona's on Lincoln Avenue downtown takes things coastal with Maryland blue crab, cream cheese, parmesan and green onions. It's bougie, it's rich, it's everything your Core Trail-walking legs deserve. Comes with your choice of potatoes, green chili cheese grits, hash browns, fruit or lemon garlic kale because...balance. [www.winonasrestaurant.cfd](http://www.winonasrestaurant.cfd)

### The Shack

No fuss, no frills, just flipping perfectly poached eggs since forever (okay, over 55 years, but who's counting?). At The Shack at 740 Lincoln Ave. downtown, go Traditional, Veggie, or Southwestern if you're feeling wild and a bit spicy. Served with hash browns, obviously.

### Freshies

Hankering for Southwestern flavor? Located between town and the mountain, Freshies' Southwestern Benny is a true Georgia O'Keeffe medley of flavors. Served divorciados-style (separated), one English muffin-poached egg is smothered in pork green chili and the other with veggie green chili. Pair it with their crispy breakfast potatoes or beloved green chili cheese grits. [www.freshies.restaurant](http://www.freshies.restaurant)

### Yampa Valley Kitchen

Yampa Valley Kitchen might be off main street, but its Reuben Eggs Benedict is off the charts when it comes to flavor. Sourcing locally and sustainably, this take has a house-made buttermilk biscuit as the base for 7X Wagyu pastrami, a spicy and tangy layer of kimchi, 1000 Island hollandaise and chives. Order the Reuben and you'll be raring to go. [www.yampavalleykitchen.com](http://www.yampavalleykitchen.com)

### The Egg

Ham it up with the Hikers Benny from The Egg. Loaded with salty ham, roasted tomatoes and mushrooms, asparagus, a house-made dill hollandaise and two crispy bacon strips, this is the ideal breakfast for before you head outside. Feeling French? Order the Parisian, a benny sans English muffin, piling smoked ham, roasted cremini mushrooms and melted Swiss on a buttery, flaky croissant topped with decadent hollandaise and fresh herbs. [www.theeggsteamboat.com](http://www.theeggsteamboat.com)

– Haley Watkins



# Sharing the Chair With... Restaurateur Rex Brice

Steamboat's Rex Brice wears a lot of hats running the Laundry, Creekside Café, Mazzola's, and Salt and Lime restaurants in town, one of which is the chef's hat he trained for. But he's also an ardent philanthropist, community member, skier, mountain biker and more, all while refueling locals and visitors for their next adventure. We caught up with him for his take on everything from the local dining scene and running restaurants here to where to find him when he's shredding Champagne Powder instead of pouring it in your glass.

**When and how did you end up in Steamboat?** Growing up in North Carolina, I always dreamed of living in Colorado. While working at a seasonal resort in Vermont I met a group of friends that all shared the same passion. In 1993 we all packed up and headed for Steamboat. Little did I know it would be my home for the next 30-plus years.

**What's your restaurant background?** I began my restaurant career in my hometown of Chapel Hill at Swenson's when I was 14, an old school ice cream parlor and sandwich shop. In high school I worked various restaurant jobs before moving to Asheville to attend culinary school. Then I worked as a chef in fine dining restaurants until opening my own restaurants.

**What's your take on Steamboat's restaurant scene?** When I moved to Steamboat, there were one or two standouts, but it was hard to make a living owning a restaurant back then. Steamboat didn't have the year-round population or summer tourism we do now. Today's restaurant scene is very different. We still have the challenges of a seasonal resort town, but our restaurant scene is vibrant.

**What's unique about all your restaurants?** Our family culture is what sets us apart. It's something that resonates throughout every aspect of our operations.

**What's the hardest part about running them?** The hardest is that unlike some businesses there isn't one hardest part. It is the combination of lots of little challenges that makes this business difficult. You're only as good as your last meal.

**What do you love about Steamboat?** I love the people who live here. Whether someone has lived here their entire life or just moved here, most people you meet have a great outlook on life. And people who live here appreciate that we are a small community with a ski resort as opposed to a ski resort with a small community. This is part of what also makes Steamboat such a great place to visit.

**What are some of your favorite summer activities?** Steamboat is such a wonderful place to be in the summer. I enjoy mountain biking, hiking, hanging out by the creek, and just walking around downtown.

**And finally, favorite run on a powder day?** I love all the little gems that haven't been hit yet. If you poke around on a powder day you can find fresh stashes all day long.



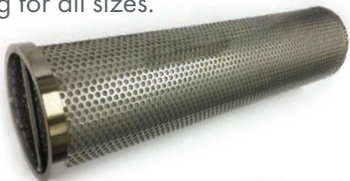
Rumor has it he's a great cook at home as well...



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# BEVVIES

## Short Pours

### Catching a New Bus

#### Storm Peak Moves Bus Stop to Base of the Grand

There's a new bus stop in town, and it doesn't involve waiting alongside a road. This spring, Storm Peak Brewing Co. moved its popular Bus Stop tap room on the mountain from its previous location adjacent to Antonio's Pizzeria to new digs in the former Double Diamonds bar location in the bottom of the Steamboat Grand at 2300 Mt. Werner Circle. "It's a bit smaller but our lease was up and it's a better long-term move," says owner Wyatt Patterson. "It's a pretty cool space and we're stoked to be there." As with the former location, it will serve a complete selection of draft beers brewed at its brewery west of town, while also adding, in a first for the brewery, an in-house chef and food menu. Patterson says it will be a "lowkey, order-at-the-counter" set-up, with such bar fare as hot wings, grilled cheese, soup, salads and more. "We're keeping it flexible, but it should be a great addition," he says.

### New Brew and Bourbon in Hayden

Well, that didn't take long. Less than six months after Yampa Valley Brewery closed its doors in Hayden, a new drinkery has opened there, featuring 32 brewhas on tap, bourbon cocktails, arcade games and more. Owned by Anna and Derek Martin, who also own the Alpenglow Wine Bar, the new Hayden Taphouse at 200 North Walnut Street came on line this spring and is already slinging suds. The concept: a beer and bourbon-focused taproom offering bevvies and food from nearby Sage and Spirit. Guests can play Skee-Ball and shuffleboard, while those with arcade acumen can enjoy timeless classics like Pong, Pac-Man, Street Fighter and Mortal Kombat. The couple plans to expand their wine production in the former brewery as well. Cheers!

### New Mojo for The Westerly

Call it art and apr  s. The Westerly owners Jacque and Ryan Scheer are now serving up drinks as well as the ability to peruse fine art, apparel, home decor and apothecary downtown. Customers can have drinks in the lounge area, but it's not the overall focus. The new space is filled with fine art lining the walls – much of it from Ryan, who uses 1800s photo techniques to produce western-themed dioramas – as well as top-brand clothing, jewelry, bags and wallets. Other art styles to peruse include works from local painter MB Warner, Nashville's Brandon Owen, South Carolina oil painter Kym Day, American West animator and oil painter Drew Christie, and Idaho multi-medium artist Tanden Launder.

### Mountain Tap News

Steamboat's Mountain Tap is abuzz this summer with news on its brews. To wit: High Time Haze has joined its packaged beer lineup (with matching tie-dye shirts). In collaboration with Routt County Riders, its Prickly Pedal, brewed with prickly pear cactus fruit, is available on tap and packaged all summer, with \$1 from every beer donated to RCR. Along with Hala Gear and Friends of the Yampa, its annual Hala-Lima Kolsch-style ale is also on tap all summer, with \$1 from every beer donated to FOTY. Music Mondays is kicking again, with live music on the patio every Monday from 5-7 p.m., complete with a bubble machine. Joggers & Lagers is back, with pro trail runner David Norris organizing a series of social runs that start and end at Mountain Tap (check in at 6 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays from May through October), with a free beer for participants. And finally (phew!), it now offers a sliced down, casual, version of its wood-fired pizza catering service in a custom-built trailer, offering wood-fired pizza buffets for up to 50 people.



### New IPA: Camp Coldie! "Drink Beer Outside"

Introducing Camp Coldie, 10 Barrel's crushable 5% IPA brewed in partnership with Scout Campers. The medium-bodied, subtly sweet lovechild with tropical notes of citrus, mango and grapefruit rings of a classic West Coast IPA, but with a lower ABV. An homage to overlanding and camping, its mantra is what we like: "Drink Beer Outside." And you can win \$25K toward a Scout Camper at [www.scoutcampers.com/campergiveaway](http://www.scoutcampers.com/campergiveaway).

### Didja Know? Glow-in-the-Dark Drinks!

Impress your friends with this nifty, neon party trick that makes your drinks glow. Whether you're mixing it with gin, vodka or other clear alcohol, the quinine in tonic water absorbs UV light and emits it as a photon of visible blue light, which glows bright blue when you place it under a blacklight. (Science note: All glow-in-the-dark materials contain phosphors, which radiate visible light after being energized.) To energize your party even more, try adding Vitamin B2 (hint: add a dissolvable vitamin B tablet, e.g. Berocca brand) which glows bright yellow when UV light hits its riboflavin molecules, or some cranberry juice for a slightly purple tinge to your drink.



### Black Light Bartending Beta

Drinks that glow blue under black lights: Clear alcohol (gin, vodka, white rum, coconut rum, etc.) mixed with tonic water.

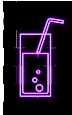
Drinks that glow purple under black lights: Add cranberry juice to the blue drinks above to make them purple.

Drinks that glow yellow under black lights: Some energy drinks glow yellow under UV light (the more vitamin B the better). If you can put up with the buzz (and hangover), try Monster or Rockstar energy drinks (which work better than Red Bull) with any clear alcohol.

Drinks that glow white under black lights: Good ol' milk glows white under a black light, so try a white Russian, with one part vodka, two parts milk, and one part Kahlua.



### Other glow hints:



**Use glow sticks as cocktail stirrers.** Simply snap the glow stick before serving the drink. The stick's glow will illuminate the liquid (note: check the stick for damage before using).



**Add a glowing ice cube.** Add ice cubes made from tonic water for brighter blue glow.



# Bar Sign of the Month: West End Sports Grill

Leave it to the folks at West End Sports to come up with the perfect sign you want to see on your way home...how could you not stop in?



# Aging Whiskey with Tunes Mythology Music

In case you hear a thumping base and guitar riffs emanating from the rackhouse at Mythology off U.S. Highway 129, don't think it's someone's band looking for a quiet place to practice. It's just Mythology's new school "sonic" technique for aging its whiskey, using sound waves to slosh the whiskey around during the cold temps of winter. "We've combined our passion for live music with crafting whiskey," says owner Scott Yeates. "During winter, the temperature is too cold for pressure inside a whiskey barrel to expand and therefore the whiskey sits dormant. So, we introduce low-frequency sound waves through music in our rackhouse to sonic age the whiskey. These sound waves reverberate the whiskey inside the barrel to force interactions between the charred wood and whiskey and further the aging process during an otherwise dormant period." He adds they have plans to introduce single barrels that are exposed to specific musicians and bands as well. Let us guess: "Whiskey River" by Willie Nelson?

# Outdoorsy Bar Tip! Turn Your SUP into a Bar!

Planning on camping by a waterway this summer? Try this nifty little après trick: Turn your SUP into a bar! Simply float it out into knee-deep water, anchor its ends (i.e. to other craft, dock, anchors, etc.) and have someone stand behind it to whip up concoctions for everyone from floaters to waders. **Hint from the trenches:** Use a cutting board if you're cutting limes or you'll have a short-lived countertop.



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# BEVVIES

## Brewery Roundup



### Mountain Tap Brewery

Cozy up to artisanal wood-fired pizzas and tasty lagers and IPAs at Mountain Tap's taproom and patio downtown at 910 Yampa Ave. The brewery carries 12 taps (Swillin' fave: the Macaroon) with a slew of seasonal creations, while a giant wood-fired oven cranks out homespun 'zas and a firepit-lined patio fuels the vibe. "Our beers, cuisine and ambience all depict our mountain town atmosphere," says owner Rich Tucciarone, who, if not behind the counter, you'll likely find surfing the A-Wave on the Yampa across the street. Bonus: its delectable popcorn spice is now available to bring home. [mountaintapbrewery.com](http://mountaintapbrewery.com)



### Storm Peak Brewing Co.

With a roof-top bar and new Bus Stop on-mountain location at the Steamboat Grand, there's a lot brewing at Storm Peak Brewing Co., located west of town at 1885 Elk River Plaza. Swill down its lagers and pilsners, as well as its Maestro, an IPA heavily hopped with citra and chinook, with flaked wheat and caramel malts. "We've got a ton of new beers coming," says co-owner

Wyatt Patterson. "People can always expect the mainstay beers they love as well as a rotating variety of experimental collaborations. We love sharing our passion for beer." Storm Peak makes its beer in a 4,600-square-foot facility with 20 taps and garage doors that open to a large patio with yurt and fire pit. Other mainstays include its Mad Creek Kolsch, Urban Sombrero Lager, guava-kettle-soured Hoochie Mama and Zomb Brown Ale. Oh yeah, and bring your dog. [stormpeakbrewing.com](http://stormpeakbrewing.com)

## Distilleries

### Mythology

Mythology is an award-winning craft whiskey and gin distillery making Steamboat its new home. Based at 2875 Elk River Road, it offers an inside cocktail bar and outside whiskey garden where customers can enjoy craft cocktails, local craft beer, boutique wines and Yield, a restaurant featuring Yampa-inspired eats like locally sourced meats, bread, cheeses and produce. Recognized as one of Colorado's top distilleries, its spirits have won more than 50 awards, with mainstays including its Best Friend Bourbon, Hell Bear American Whiskey and Needle Pig Gin. It also offers local bus rides as well as tours of its distillery and barrel-aging rack house. "We love it here," says co-owner Scott Yeates. "Steamboat offers an incredible opportunity to be involved and have an impact in our community." Bonus: huge outdoor gas firepit. [mythologydistillery.com](http://mythologydistillery.com)



### Routt Distillery

Routt Distillery is a "grain-to-glass" distillery specializing in gin, vodka and single malt whiskey, complete with a tasting room and deck. The grain is sourced from southern Colorado and the Front Range, with everything made in-house at its production facility and tasting room at 975 Captain Jack Drive. It focuses on local ag products, with its bottles featuring a 1920 map of Routt County and its spent grain fed to animals at Hayden Fresh Farm. Try its single malt whiskey with locally grown barley, as well as an absinthe and serviceberry bitters recipe and an agave spirit and rum. Bonus: spend \$100 or more at CAA and receive a free cocktail. [routtdistillery.com](http://routtdistillery.com)

### Steamboat Winery

Unleash your inner sommelier at Steamboat Winery, located at Two Brothers Ranch. The winery purchases its grapes from Sonoma and Napa but makes its wines in the Yampa Valley. All of its labels center around Steamboat, including River Angler Cabernet Sauvignon, Slopeside White Chardonnay, Ranch Dog Rose, Expert Slope Syrah, Barn Red Blend, Rodeo Merlot and a Bunny Slope sparkling grape juice. Its wines are also available for purchase locally, as are private in-home tastings with charcuterie by appointment. [steamboatwinery.com](http://steamboatwinery.com)





# Cocktail Kudos

Cocktails that have left their mark to become signatures at their respective establishments.

## Aurum Food & Wine: Aurum Manhattan

“The Aurum Manhattan is my only lasting legacy on the Aurum menu,” says restaurant CEO Phillips Armstrong. “That drink was born early in the life cycle of our company – even before our first day of operations.” Phil was alone behind the bar, tinkering with what he hoped would turn into a few signature cocktails. “I was playing with the traditional Manhattan recipe and added just a touch of green chartreuse,” he says, adding it made all the difference in the world. Chartreuse, he says, is the lemon juice equivalent in cocktails; a few drops brighten all the other flavors.



## Bésame: Rosa de Mezcal Negroni

“Negronis have a moment every year,” says Bésame bartender Liberty Adams, who invented the Rosa de Mezcal Negroni. “We were trying to do something that was easy to execute but was still elegant and had that ‘wow’ factor. We were also trying to make a more classic drink and put some Spanish notes to it.” In this negroni, the mezcal does that. Liberty added rosewater because of its similarity to mezcal. “Mezcal has a lift,” he says. “It kind of takes over. And rose is like that too.” He also added citric acid and vanilla along with the classic components of a negroni, Campari and vermouth. It’s quickly become a house favorite.



## Mythology: Pear Gin Sour

Crafting whiskey inspired the founding of Mythology, but they’re equally proud of they’re layered botanical gins. The balance of grapefruit citrus, pine and sage in their Needle Pig gin enhances everything it mixes with, as evidenced in the Pear Gin Sour. In this drink, those flavors are complemented by ripe pear sweetness against a backdrop of a vanilla simple. “It’s one of our most popular gin cocktails at our cocktail bar,” says Mythology founder Scott Yeates.



## Table 79 Foodbar: As You Wish

When Table 79’s former general manager Jeff Otterson was experimenting with Empress gin, he noticed how the color changed by adding citrus, making for a “cool show” upon presentation. His creation is a riff on the classic purple Aviation cocktail. Many will recognize the name, “As You Wish,” as a quote from the movie “The Princess Bride.” Since the drink was created, it has become a staple. Not only did the staff fall in love with it but they recommend it to guests time and time again.



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# BEVVIES

## Know Yer' 'Tender



### Cypress' Kyle Currell | Age: 41

#### What's your bartending background?

I've been bartending for 19 years starting in my hometown of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Shortly after, I moved to Denver and continued in hospitality before moving to Chicago and working at Luxbar, part of the Gibson's restaurant group, and several other concepts throughout the city. Then I found a great home under the tutelage of the Tippling Brothers, wine and spirit pros who opened the gates of the cocktail world to me. Afterwards, I created menus for the Sofitel Hotel Group and an acclaimed cocktail lounge in the West Loop neighborhood before joining a bar team tasked with opening the Boka Restaurant Group's newest concept. Seven years later, my girlfriend and I decided to try a different scene in Steamboat Springs, where we had visited her sister. After all, the Cubs broke the curse and won a world title so what else was there worth sticking around for?

#### What's your favorite part of the job?

Happy hour (just kidding). Creating a truly memorable experience for guests.

#### What's the hardest part?

Tapping into my social reserves when we are deep into high season.

#### What's your favorite drink to make?

A daiquiri. It's fast and so deliciously refreshing. Plus, sometimes you just need to unleash the fury on that shaker, exercise my demons so to speak.

#### What's the most popular order?

Old fashioned, espresso martinis and dirty vodka martinis.

#### What would you tell a newcomer to try?

Manhattan, gin martini or a Vesper. The introduction of aromatized wines is critical for those new to the sport; it opens up so much to explore.

#### What's the most common question you hear?

Do y'all have Tito's?

#### What's your drink of choice?

Depends on the mood and scenario, of course, but I think a Manhattan made with Rye whiskey (naturally), a fresh bottle of Di Torino vermouth, Angostura and orange bitters ought to do the trick. It's so simple yet rich, complex and velvety, it's a beautiful thing. A proper Mai Tai or daiquiri if the mood requires something shaken and citrusy. I'm a real sucker for anything Tiki!

#### Most important skills for a bartender?

Personality and people skills. All we are doing is entertaining so a positive attitude is key. A sense of pride in oneself and establishment is crucial and will most inevitably lead to maximum effort.

#### What do you like about the scene at Cypress?

The horseshoe-shaped bar without a doubt is the centerpiece in the space, both figuratively and physically. It's a mecca of social interaction. I recall the words of Dushan Zaric, founder of the world-famous bar Employees Only in New York City. He claimed the curved or serpentine shape of a bar allowed guests to see one another and would create a more social atmosphere. That in combination with the beautiful decor and incredible staff, not to mention the Southern cuisine and drink menus, make it a knock out.

#### Any other hobbies or sports?

I'm a family man now so it's all about them. Two kids, 6 and 3 years old, so we're at the parks a lot. I golf as much as possible in the summer and like just being outside doing stuff and things, on the bikes, cookouts, hiking, camping, fishing.

#### What do you like about Steamboat?

I like the community. There's a history here. It's not some manufactured resort town. It has a special vibe to it. The majority of people here are so kind and genuine, I'm happy to be part of it. The weather ain't too bad either.





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# STRAIGHT DOPE

## Strain Names

### What's in a Name?

Let's face it: The names of various dispensaries strains can be a bit perplexing. So, we did a little investigative reporting to discover the rhyme and reason behind some of them. "Most of the naming has to do with the plant's genetics – what strains were crossbred to create the strain – as well as its terps, such as flavor, aroma and look," says Billo's Dave Wittlinger. "They usually come from the breeder who created them and represent its smell, look, or flavor." Adds head of operations David Kulberg: "The naming is all super vague and super out there." Local dispensary Blue Heron agrees some of the names are a bit out there. "To be honest the strain name craziness is out of hand," says owner Mark Wellstone. "Some are just plain ridiculous." Following is a sneak peek behind some of these monikers.



ISTOCK.COM

### Lilac Diesel

**Strain type:** Sativa

**Behind the name:** A cross between Super Lemon Haze and Forbidden Fruit, with a lilac-type terpene profile, or even floral/lavender/citrus, combined with Diesel, an old school land race sativa.

### Mr. Nasty

**Strain type:** Hybrid

**Behind the name:** A combo of GMO x Grease Monkey, with terps that are skunky, garlic, diesel and greasy.

### Slurricrasher

**Strain Type:** Indica

**Behind the name:** A genetic cross between the Slurricane and Wedding Cake strains, playing off the name of the Owen Wilson movie, blending terps of purple Kool-Aid, vanilla frosting, wedding cake and black licorice.

### Spritzer

**Strain Type:** Sativa (Hybrid)

**Behind the name:** A combo of Grape Pie, M.A.C. and Runtz, with the zesty smell of Sprite or a spritzer.

### Garlic Sherbert

**Strain Type:** Sativa (Hybrid)

**Behind the name:** A potent cross between GMO (Garlic/Mushrooms and Onions) and Blue Sherbert, with a garlic and spicy smell.

### Tropicana Cookies

**Strain Type:** Sativa

**Behind the Name:** A cross between Tangie and Girl Scout Cookies, with a flavorful terp blend of oranges, tangerine and spiced cookies.

### PKB (Platinum Kush Breath)

**Strain Type:** Indica

**Behind the Name:** A couch-lounging blend of OGKB v2.1 and Platinum, with hints of pine, cinnamon, sugar cookie dough, and snickerdoodle.

### Lemon Poison

**Strain Type:** Sativa

**Behind the Name:** A lovechild of Lemon Meringue and Durban Poison in a citrus strain that tastes like a lemon Starburst.

### Dry Ice

**Strain Type:** Hybrid

**Behind the Name:** Combine Platinum Dosi and Slurricane lineages and you get this one, featuring a strong earth tone that leaves behind hints of soil and grape on the tongue.

## Know Yer' 'Tender



### Blue Heron's Jacqueline Wehner | Age: 44

**s&c:** How did you end up in Steamboat? I lived in Steamboat when I was a teenager and graduated from Steamboat Springs High School in 1998. I moved to San Diego for college and ended up staying there for 22 years. I decided to move back to Routt County with my husband because I wanted a better work/life balance. My sister still lives here, and she had been encouraging us to move back for a few years before we finally did it.

**s&c:** What made you want to get into budtending? Once cannabis became legal, I knew I wanted to work in the industry. From my own personal use, I knew how much cannabis had helped me in my daily life, and I wanted to help others experience those same benefits. Moving back to Colorado gave me the opportunity to change careers and start working in the industry.

**s&c:** Do you notice a difference between tourists and local customers? I think tourists need more education about the wide variety of cannabis products available—especially if they're from a place where cannabis isn't legal. My local customers usually know what they like and what they want when they come in. I'm always happy to answer any questions and enjoy showing new products, as well as sharing my personal favorites.

**S&C:** What is your favorite part about budtending? I enjoy meeting and interacting with all the different people who come into the store. People from all walks of life use cannabis, and I love talking to everyone and learning about the products they enjoy and the experiences they've had.

**s&c:** What is the hardest part about budtending? Staying educated and knowledgeable in this constantly evolving industry can be challenging. New strains, products, laws and scientific research are emerging all the time, so keeping up with everything to provide accurate and up-to-date information to our customers is essential.

**s&c:** What do you like about working at Blue Heron? One of the things I appreciate most about Blue Heron is that I'm able to be myself with our customers, my colleagues, and our owner. The environment is professional yet welcoming, supportive, and relaxed, which creates a positive atmosphere for both employees and customers alike.

**s&c:** What do you do in your free time? When I have free time, I enjoy sewing, doing various crafts, and spending quality time with my family and my dog, Mika. I also love to travel with my husband, and we try to attend EDM festivals and shows whenever we can.



# Steamboat’s Dispensaries

## Golden Leaf

Where: 1755 Lincoln Ave. | [goldenleaf.co](https://goldenleaf.co)

**What:** Located west of town, Golden Leaf cultivates cannabis with nutrient-rich soil, pure Rocky Mountain water and advanced growing techniques to produce some of the highest quality cannabis in Colorado. Whether you’re looking to enhance your Steamboat experience or help an ailment, Golden Leaf strives to provide a comfortable and informative experience for everyone. The awards it’s garnered are a testament to its dedication and passion, from firsts in the THC Classic (for such strains as its Lemonhead Delight and Black Maple #22). With quality and attention to detail going into every plant, it prides itself on friendly, service-oriented budtenders and offers a complimentary shuttle service and online recreational ordering.

## Billo

Where: 3150 Ingles Lane | [mybillo.com](https://mybillo.com)

**What:** Carrying a complete line of flower, concentrates, edibles, topicals and more, Billo is the only dispensary located in the Steamboat Mountain Village area and is the closest dispensary to the resort (and those coming into town off Rabbit Ears). Billo believes that customers deserve to know what they’re getting, where it was sourced, and how it will make you feel. Have your questions answered by industry professionals who take pride in helping people find the right mix of products to best enjoy their Steamboat experience. With straight-forward pricing and a wide variety of products to choose from, Billo is hands-down the locals’ favorite for quality cannabis in the Yampa Valley.

## Blue Heron

Where: 100 W. Main St., Oak Creek | [blueherondispensary.com](https://blueherondispensary.com)

**What:** Oak Creek’s Blue Heron takes pride in having one of the best selections of high-quality, organically grown flower in the state. This small boutique-style shop offers constantly rotating strains of amazing organic flower and a wide selection of top-shelf products including dialed-in gummies, Spherex, Wyld, AO extracts and more. “We love being part of this community and catering to our locals on a first-name basis,” says owner Mark Wellstone, who named the shop in honor of his late best buddy Matt Lansing. “We’re the hidden gem in Routt County and carry the best of the best.”

## Anna (Hayden)

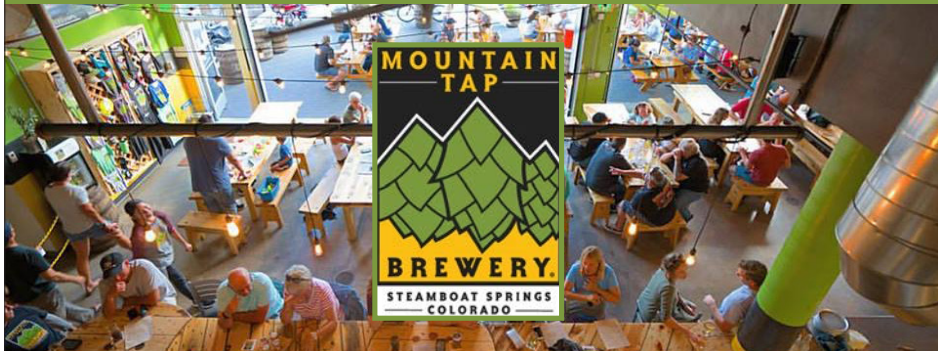
Blue Heron’s sister dispensary Anna (a play off the word “cannabis”) fuels the cannabis stoke in Hayden at 735 E. Jefferson St. (next to the “windmill” property), carrying its high-quality, all-organic flower and locally sourced concentrates. It’s also the closest shop to the airport in Hayden. “We hope to be an important part of Hayden’s revitalization and are excited to provide top quality service to the community,” says Wellstone, who operates the boutique-style shop with partner Cherie Sanders.

## Tumbleweed Steamboat

Where: 2093 Curve Plaza, #C-103 | [tumbleweed420.com](https://tumbleweed420.com)

**What:** Proud to be owned and operated by females, Tumbleweed—named after the namesake plant its owners saw blowing across the highway when they moved west from Minnesota—began in Parachute, Colo., in 2016. Growing like a weed itself, it’s since rolled across Colorado to include eight dispensaries in Frisco, Edwards, Carbondale, DeBeque, Eagle, Craig and Steamboat (which it formed by purchasing Rocky Mountain Remedies in 2019). Its Steamboat team has nearly 20 years of experience managing other dispensaries in Routt County, so is well-versed in understanding the wants of locals and visitors. It proudly serves the Colorado high country with quality green bud, edibles, topicals, CBD products, concentrates and everything in between.

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# Things Steamboaters Should Know

No matter how long you’ve been here, there are certain things you ought to know how to do living in Steamboat—to have in your bag of tricks, if you will, so you’re an OG instead of a gomer. No masters ourselves, we combed the valley floor for tips from experts to help ease the learning curve.

## How to Know When the River Peaks

Wise soothsayers look to the west-facing slopes of Mt. Werner for guidance. When the two brown spots on each side of Storm Peak meet, that’s when the river peaks. “It’s usually pretty darn spot-on,” maintained local river store owner Pete Van De Carr (RIP). “It’s better than most high-tech USGS predictions.”

## How Town Got Its Name

Wow your visiting friends with this little nugget of wisdom. When the first French fur trappers came through town in the early 1800s, they heard a bubbling sound emanating from the mineral spring near the current Art Depot. Mistaking it for the chugging engine of a steamboat, they named the area Steamboat Springs.



## How to Pick Up the Tab

Do it secretly instead of making a big to-do about it. Slide the waiter your credit card in route to the bathroom or snatch up the bill as soon as it arrives. Hint: If you do it during Happy Hour, chances are you’ll come out ahead come payback time.

## How to Enjoy/Appreciate Art

Three letters: FFA. It stands for First Friday Artwalk, where, the first Friday of every month, local galleries open their doors and wine bottles to showcase new wares. The free downtown gallery stroll is perhaps town’s best grassroots art event. “It exposes people to the creative energy that is here in the valley,” says local artist Dancy St. John, who hosts one of the event’s stops at the Steamboat Art Museum. Indeed, you couldn’t ask for a better place to impress your date with your softer, cultural side. Just don’t mix up your abstract from plein air.



## How to Find King Solomon Falls

Don’t ask how many people have gotten lost searching for this gem of a plunge-pool cliff jump. To get there, turn left on the dirt road past Columbine Cabins toward Three Forks Lodge. After about a half hour, look for white cliffs on your left marking a two-track off to your right (note: if you reach the entrance gate for Three Forks Lodge, you’ve gone too far). Drive the bumpy road for a half mile and then hike down a trail to the creek. The pool is about 20 minutes upstream (hint: take the trail close to the river instead of the one veering high to the right).

## How to Ride a Bull

Okay, so you might not ever have to or want to. But it’s a good skill regardless, even if it’s just impressing your friends on a mechanical bovine. “It’s simple,” says retired bull rider Brent Romick, who calls his biggest accolade simply surviving. “Keep your hand closed, your feet in your rope, and your eyes open. Do these three and you can often make it to eight seconds.” He adds that it’s also important to bend over and kiss your rear goodbye.



NOAH WETZEL

## Rodeo Rules

Eight seconds for bareback, saddle bronc and bull riding. In saddle bronc and bareback, cowboys must “mark out” horse (exit chute with spurs above horse’s shoulders and hold there until horse’s front feet hit the ground). In all, touching the animal, rider or any equipment with the free hand results in disqualification. Team roping: clock stops when all four legs have been roped, slack has been taken up and both ropers are facing one another (five-second penalty if heeler catches only one foot). Tie-down roping: any three legs must be tied together; roper throws hands up to signal flag judge, then gets back on and rides toward the calf, which must remain tied for six seconds after the rope is slack. Steer wrestling: once steer reaches the “scoreline,” rope barrier is released and wrestler and hazer give chase; wrestler has to bring down steer so its shoulders are on the ground. Barrel racing: cloverleaf pattern around three barrels (in either direction) in fastest time (knocked-over barrel incurs five-second penalty).

## How to Wear a Cowboy Hat

Steamboat’s ranching heritage ensures you’ll see sombreros around town. But there’s a right and wrong way to wear them, says long-time cowboy Brent Romick. Pick a hat with enough brim to shade your face, he says, and a crown that matches



the shape of your face (i.e. a tall crown for a long face, a short one for a squat face). And don't wear it crooked, to the side or at an angle, "or else you'll look like a dance hall cowboy." Also, never wear it backwards (the bow on the inside goes in back) and never ever put your hat on your bed. "It's bad luck," he says.

## How to Swing Dance

Stuck in the toe-stepping rut? Head to Schmiggity's for Tuesday Two-step night. "It's simple," says one instructor. "Quick, quick/slow, slow; or quick, quick, slow/quick, quick, slow." (Each "quick" gets one step, each "slow" gets two.) "If you can walk in and count from one to six, you can two-step—people make it harder and weirder than you have to." For good ol' country swing, go to the same side ("to your right, so you spin around clockwise") and don't worry about your feet (it's all about big arm movements). And yes, the Pretzel is still in. Hint: have a glass of wine to relax your arms.



NOAH WETZEL

## When is Naked Hour at the Strawberry Park Hot Springs?

It's a grey area. Not the part that's being uncovered, ahem, but the time. The springs' "clothing optional after dark" decree ranges from as early as 5:30 p.m. in the dead of daylight-savings-time winter to 9:30ish p.m. around the summer solstice. It's a great rule; just don't flaunt your wares so it can stay that way.

## How to Roll a Kayak

Consider kayaking as a step up the river rung from tubing. Whether you're a river rat or not, we live in a great place to learn. To fully master it comes mastering the roll. "It's crucial if you're going to progress," says Barry Smith of Mountain Sports Kayak School. There are four keys, he says: "Kiss your cockpit once upside-down; reach up and extend your paddle blade out of the water; sweep it across the surface; and snap your hips, keeping your head down. Having your head come up the last is the most important. Master that and you're golden."



BEN DUKE

## How to Repair a Flat Tire

There are those who've gotten flats, and those who will. To get back rolling and make that happy hour, Brock Webster of Orange Peel Bicycles says take your time, whether you're riding tubeless or with tubes. "Don't rush it," he says. "A little bit of patience will save you time in the long run." Only try a patch if you don't have a spare, he advises, and use plastic tire levers to help get the tire off. "Only take off one side of the tire," he adds, "and inflate the new tube a little so it has some shape. Check the tire's inside for thorns and then put it back on by hand, without the levers. Start at the valve stem and work back around to it, which gives it the most slack."

## How to Take a Photo Outside

We live in a great place to take photos. So don't blow it. "Shoot during the golden hours," says photographer Dan Tullis. "The sun's low angle creates shadows and adds depth and texture." Also, put the important objects in thirds. "If you're taking

a picture of mountains, make sure the horizon is straight and positioned either one-third up from the bottom or one-third down from the top. This looks the most natural and emphasizes the foreground or sky. People's faces look best when they're positioned on the upper third of the photo." Finally, include people in your landscapes: "It gives it a sense of scale and context."

## How to Avoid Butt Bruises Tubing

Avoiding a sore hinny when tubing the river is a team effort. The tuber in front should alert fellow tubers behind to upcoming obstacles by yelling "butts up!" Then comes the art itself. Lift your derriere out of harm's way by arching your back up and weighting your elbows until the obstacle has passed. Finally, make sure your tube is fully inflated before heading out for extra gluteal clearance.



NOAH WETZEL



BEN DUKE

## How to Cast a Fly

Veteran fly-casting instructor Jeff Ruff honed his 15-minute crash course for beginners by helping his Steamboat Middle School students catch their first trout on a fly line. A flexible fly rod is a spring and casters use the kinetic energy of 15 feet of fly line straightening out behind them to load it. Reversing the flex of the spring ultimately propels the line forward. The first step, he says, is to strip 15 to 20 feet of line beyond the tip of the rod. Second, raise the rod abruptly until its tip is straight above your head or just slightly beyond. Then exercise patience. "You have to pause to let that line straighten out," he says. "Once you do that, it doesn't really matter what you do bringing the rod forward. It will make a loop and the line will go out."

## How to Car Camp

Unlike backpacking, car camping allows you to bring the kitchen sink, literally. Whether you're in a camper or tent, bring it all and ask questions about if you really needed it later. For a key lakeside spot, reserve a campsite well in advance; for other more-roadside sites, take the time to explore a few to find the best spot, and don't park your car on the prime socializing real estate. And you can always crash in your car if your tent craps out.



NOAH WETZEL

## How to Pitch a Tent

There was a time when tents needed instruction manuals and multiple people to pitch. Today, local companies like Big Agnes have simplified things, leaving you more time to catch that trout, climb a peak, roast that marshmallow, and crack that beer your dog carried. A few pointers: pitch the tent on level ground, spread out the base first and then connect the poles into each corner, and position the door accessibly (not leading straight into a bush). Also, note where your campfire will be





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beforehand, so it's not engulfed in smoke. Final tip: crack a beer while you're setting it up; it might not make the process go faster, but it'll be more fun.

## How to Take Care of Someone Else's Dog

Live in a mountain town and it'll happen. Someone will ask you to take care of their dog while they skip town for the weekend.

Local dog sitters offer this advice: "Rule No 1: Don't lose the dog. If the owner says Ellsworth needs to be kept on a leash, keep it on a leash. Rule No 2: Follow instructions (no matter how weird). Adds Dave Terranova of Paws n Claws (with the dog owner's



BEN DUKE

permission, of course): "Bring plenty of treats to build trust; make sure the collar/harness/leash fit properly so they don't get loose; get a durable chew toy or treat soothing; and provide a bed they can call their own."

## How to Ride Little Moab

This short-but-sweet, loose-rocked, biking badge of courage just below the Quarry on Emerald Mountain is a great test of your technical ability before moving on to such rides as Spring Roll, BTR and Grouse Mountain on Buff Pass. So don't back off, says Orange Peel's Brock Webster. "Don't inch your way down. Speed is your friend. Pick your line, don't halt your momentum, and hold on for a tenth of a mile." Adds Wheels' Hazen Kreis: "Keep your weight back, pick a clean line, and stay off front brake."

## How to Skin an Elk

OK, we might not all have to learn this one. But we're surrounded by the largest elk herds in the country, so why not add it to your arsenal? "Get the meat cooled as quickly as possible by removing the hide," says local bow hunter Bill Van Ness. "Get the elk stable and make sure your knives are sharp—the hide will dull them quickly." After removing the entrails, he'll take out the tenderloins and then cut the hide mid-point in the animal. "Cut a straight line from the belly to the spine and skin forward toward the shoulder," he says. "When you reach the front leg, cut around the knee joint and then up the back of the leg to the brisket. Peel the hide around the leg and continue up the neck to the skull. The back half is similar. Peel back the hide, cut around the knee and progress up the leg's inside. When the hide is off that half, remove the quarters and backstrap on that side and then carefully roll the elk over and do it all again. Take your time...don't cut yourself by going too fast."

## How to Avoid the Grocery Line

Local moms and dads in the know have a foolproof scheme: they go first thing Sunday morning before the kids get out of bed and without them. "Don't bring them," one mom says. "They just prolong everything because they want everything." And avoid holiday weekends and Thursday and Friday evenings, when tourists arrive and want to stock their fridge.



# OFF THE COUCH

Buuurrrpppp! (“Excuse me...”)

## Beer Yoga!

It was only a matter of time. Proving that some pairings are better than others, suds and stretching have come together in the new trend of Beer Yoga, a hybrid where participants practice yoga at breweries or taprooms, drinking beer during or after assuaging themselves with asana. While its origins are IPA hazy, theorists say it first appeared domestically at 2013’s Burning Man Festival. Others maintain it dates back even farther to the Germans’ obsession with BierYoga.

Whatever its beginnings, 12 years since its debut at Burning Man it’s tapped into a growing market segment of practitioners. Just ask convert Brooke Larson, who founded Beer Yoga in Oklahoma City in 2015 after “taking a silly picture of myself sipping beer and doing yoga” and now has thousands of followers on Instagram and teaches classes in eight states. And scientific evidence backs the trend, with studies maintaining people who have one alcoholic drink a day are twice as likely to exercise as non-drinkers. The key, of course, is finding the right balance, which yoga helps but beer often hinders.

“I’m for whatever opens the door to yoga – beer yoga, wine yoga, goat yoga, cat yoga, puppy yoga, whatever,” says Yoga instructor Inga Rouches. “Yoga is a practice of self-awareness and if an external lure is needed to draw someone inward so be it. Hopefully, they’ll eventually drop the lure and dive inward where there is a lot to discover.”

Ready to give it a go here in Routt County?

### PRACTICE UP WITH THE BELOW POSES:

#### Beer Yoga Poses

- Downward Drinking Dog Pose
- Hold My Drink and Watch This Pose
- Side Slurp Pose
- Extended “Swig-angle” Pose
- Chug Pose
- Double Fisting Pose



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# OFF THE COUCH

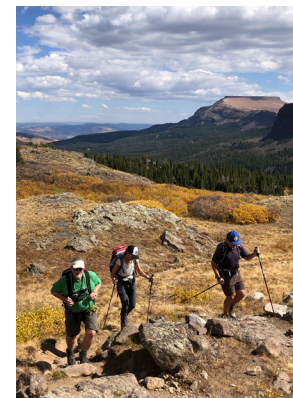
## “Not as Grousey as Grouse”

### New Downhill Trail on Emerald

After teasing us with glimpses of it the past couple seasons, town's newest downhill-only trail on Emerald Mountain is expected to be ready to ride late this summer. Built by Routt Country Riders as part of the 2A Trails initiative, the trail takes riders down from the top of Emerald Mountain to the base of Howelsen in a series of banks, berms, rollers and more, while serving up some of the best views of the valley in town (if you can ever take your eyes off the trail). Designed by FlowRide Concepts, which also helped design the NPR trail, the 3.2-mile-long advanced-level trail includes 27 berms, 11 step-up jumps, 27 rock drops and about 20,000 square feet of rock armoring. But it does have some technical sections that you either must hit with confidence or bypass. “It's awesome and is going to be super fun,” says Routt Country Riders president Craig Frithsen, adding the city is overseeing its still-to-be-determined name. “It has it all – chunk, flow, fast, airs, bermy and tech.”

## Hike to Trapper's Lake

If you're a hiker and want one of the best two-day get-aways you can get from town (and a nice, romantic one at that), try hiking 9 miles (with 1,933 feet of elevation gain) to Trapper's Lake from the Devil's Causeway trailhead at Stillwater Reservoir. The beauty: you can reserve a cabin with a campfire pit and overnight at Trapper's Lodge (rebuilt after a fire destroyed it in 2002), complete with restaurant, bar and showers, meaning all you need to carry is a day pack containing your lunch and rain gear. Then the next day, you can either hike back (adding on a spur across Devil's Causeway if you desire), or, if you have friends who drove up to meet you, trade off and let them hike back while you drive home. While you're there, you can fish for native Colorado cutthroat trout, horseback ride, hike some more if your legs are up to it, or rent a canoe or rowboat and head out on the lake. No matter what you do, you'll immerse yourself in the beauty of the Flat Tops Wilderness Area, birthplace of our nation's wilderness preservation movement from when US Forest Service employee Arthur Carhart first visited the area in 1919. (Note: it's “quiet time” after 10 p.m., which the lodge enforces by turning off the cabins' electricity.) Info: [www.trapperslake.com/cabins](http://www.trapperslake.com/cabins)



## The Views from Jackson's Snow King Are...Out of This World

### Town Ski Area Gets New Observatory/Planetarium

Now how about we get one of these at Howelsen Hill? Sure, Jackson Hole, Wyo., offers some of the most scenic and extreme ski terrain in the country. But don't overlook its little brother Snow King, overlooking town and arguably the best little community ski hill in the country. And its views from 1,500 feet above town are literally...out of this world. The brainchild of Bax Chapman, Snow King's chairman of the board who “wants to bring space to as many people as possible,” the ski area is now home to a new \$8 million Snow King Observatory and Planetarium so heralded that even Bill Nye the Science Guy paid it a visit last summer. Its new research-grade Plane Wave telescope is one of only 23 in the world, already imaging galaxies 30 million light years away. Located at the top of a resort and headed by former University of Colorado astronomer Joe Zator—who often commutes by snowboard with a headlamp when he's finished working—the facility includes an observatory and planetarium, as well as concert hall, wedding venue and more (with plans for a restaurant and bar) all at the top of a new gondola that recently replaced an 18-minute-long fixed lift. Note: bring your kids and they'll thank you forever. Need a place to stay? Summer or winter, saddle up to the Teton Mountain Lodge ([www.tetonlodge.com](http://www.tetonlodge.com)). Info: [www.snowkingmountain.com](http://www.snowkingmountain.com).



# Canine Corner (Woof! Woof!)



BEN DUKE

## Summertime Dog Tips

Heading outside with Rover this summer? Following are a few tips from Pet Kare Clinic's Dr. Karen Nann to help your adventure buddy stay in peak condition.

### Ease-in Slowly

Don't take Fido on the Stinger Challenge loop right away. Start slowly. "Come spring dogs are typically coming off a lazier winter consisting of walks, hikes and some skiing," says Dr. Nann. "Just as we build up our adventures they need to as well. Don't take them out for a 30-mile bike ride from the get-go; start slowly and build up weekly, maybe adding a mile or two weekly to increase stamina. And puppies' growth plates typically don't close until nine months of age so keep activity minimal until they're about a year old."

### Get Fleas to Flee

Practice flea and tick prevention as the weather warms up to help prevent such diseases as Ehrlichia, Lyme, Anaplasmosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and more. Prevention is the best medicine, including from Heartworm (transmitted by mosquitoes) and other intestinal parasites, so make sure your dog has all its vaccines as well.

### Paw Protection

Active pooch? Check his or her paws regularly. Rough terrain can cause wear and tear on their pads, and injuries like cuts or abrasions need to be properly cared for. "For paw protection I recommend Paw Friction especially in spring," she says. "Apply it prior to a hike for easy monitoring on wear and tear of the pads and reapply if needed to prevent further tearing of paw pads."

### Heed the Heat

Make sure your dog always has access to fresh, clean water to prevent

dehydration (keep a portable water bottle and dog bowl on hand). "My rule of thumb: double the amount of water I need to bring to ensure enough for my pets," says Dr. Nann, adding she has no problem with her dogs drinking from moving water or lakes. "Provide lots of water and shade—dogs can easily overheat and the only way to release excess heat is through paw pads and panting. If you're overheated your four-legged friend will be too. Adventure in the mornings or evenings to help to prevent heat-related issues. Cooling vests, such as those from Ruff Wear, can also help keep your dog cool on long hot days."

### Pack a Pack

Carrying a dog safety pack is a great idea to help protect your pooch. "In my adventure pack I typically have booties, treats, bandage material, forceps and Benadryl," says Dr. Nann. "These basic tools will cover allergic reactions, allow you to pull pricklers or cactus needles in skin, wrapping up abrasions that may occur as you are adventuring and provide some extra treats for the calorie burn."

### R & R

Just like us, dogs need time to recover from intense exercise. Don't overwork your dog and allow time to rest between activities. Quality sleep supports muscle recovery, maintains energy, and promotes a healthy immune system. "Treats also help to increase energy stores," says Dr. Nann. Just as us humans need a snack, providing extra calories on adventures is important. If your dog starts to pant more or is seeking shade it is time to rest and take a break."

### Injury Prevention

While many dogs are made for active lifestyles, injuries can always arise. Take precautions before heading out. Be mindful of rough terrain, uneven paths, or dangerous obstacles that could cause your dog to sprain or strain a muscle. If your dog is engaging in high-impact activities, consider investing in protective gear, like dog boots, which can safeguard paws from cuts, burns and punctures. Proper warm-up can also help prevent injuries, especially in older dogs.



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# THE DIRT

## How Young Buyers Are Landing Homes

Buying a home in your 20s is absolutely possible, even in a destination market like Steamboat Springs — but it takes planning, discipline, and sometimes a little creative strategy. While rising home prices, student debt, and a changing economy have delayed traditional milestones for many young adults, plenty are still finding ways to enter the market. Success often depends on smart financial habits — building a strong credit score, managing debt responsibly, and aggressively saving for a down payment and closing costs. Many first-time buyers also tap into down payment assistance programs, family support, or start small with condos, townhomes, or properties in surrounding areas like Hayden, Oak Creek or Stagecoach.

Before diving in, weigh several factors. Lenders typically look for at least two years of stable employment, a low debt-to-income ratio, and a good credit history. Start focusing on your credit early. In a high-demand market like Steamboat, flexibility is key — buyers may find greater opportunity in entry-level properties and fixer-uppers outside the downtown core. Also consider lifestyle and future plans. If you envision staying connected to the mountains, outdoor recreation, and small-town community living, Steamboat offers a lifestyle that’s hard to match.

Fortunately, plenty of resources can help young buyers succeed. Colorado offers various down payment assistance programs, and getting pre-approved for a mortgage early will give you a clear sense of your budget and make you a more competitive buyer. Plan for all costs — including property taxes, homeowners insurance, utilities, HOA fees (common in resort towns), and regular maintenance — to avoid surprises down the road. Having mom and dad or other relatives



co-sign can be a great help to the kickstart as well. A good real estate broker will connect you with resources and could possibly connect you with opportunities you didn’t see on Zillow or other platforms.

In the end, buying in Steamboat in your 20s isn’t just about checking a box — it’s about investing in a vibrant lifestyle and securing a foothold in one of Colorado’s most coveted mountain communities. With preparation, a bit of flexibility, and a long-term vision, young buyers can make the dream of mountain town living a reality earlier than they might think.

– Lauren Bloom, Broker/Partner, The Group Real Estate



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# PARTY TIME

## Making Jerry Proud Local Dead Cover Bands

“Ridin’ that train...” Those Grateful Dead lyrics also apply to a couple of bands in Steamboat – Heads All Empty and Worried Men – who are riding the Grateful Dead train with their song repertoire. Below we offer an inner look at what makes their blossoms blooming...



### Heads all Empty

Casey Jones, you better watch your speed. Especially when double-drummed Dead band Heads All Empty hits the stage with their soulful guitar licks and vocals harkening back to the glory days of the Grateful Dead. Covering the Dead, the Dead, and more Dead, the band includes John Miller on keys, Willie Samuelson on bass, Job Gibbs on guitar, Pat Waters and Gabe Hedstrom on drums, and JR Adams on guitar and vocals. Expect harmonies and jams that’ll keep you gyrating, Dead-style the whole show.

Coming together in 2023, the band’s two ringleaders are arguably Adams and Gibbs. A longtime Beatles fan, Adams got into the Dead for their songwriting and later jamming. And he loves the synergy they’ve all found in Heads All Empty. “It didn’t take long for us to really click,” Adams says. “I think this band has a great appeal because we all have different approaches and styles but somehow it all seems to work. It just felt like we had something from the beginning when this lineup came together.

“There’s something to be said about not trying to sound just like the Grateful Dead,” he adds. “We really couldn’t do that if we tried so it seems like a better approach for us to just bring our own way of playing to the catalog of the Dead.”

Waters, who began playing drums in high school and is an equally gifted guitar player and singer, loves that fact that they have two drummers who complement each other, just like the Dead, and that their singing seems to work. “I think what sets this band apart from other Dead bands is the vocals,” he says. “We have four strong singers that can sing lead or harmony. And playing with another drummer is more fun than I ever imagined. The way the guitars, bass and keys play off each other rhythmically and harmonically is one of the greatest things about the Dead...and being in a Dead tribute band like this.”

Moving to Steamboat in 1990, Gibbs was more of a Dead head from the get-go and has always been a fan

of their improvisation on stage. With their fanbase continuing to grow, he admits the group evolves and learns every time they get together and that he loves their evolving learning process, which often means giving each other space during improvisations.

“It’s so much fun,” says Adams, who especially enjoys “the slow and spacey” songs they play. “We all get excited when we have a gig approaching. It’s different every time which I think really makes it addictive. It’s been so amazing getting to see the Deadheads come out show after show. We’ve made a lot of new friends, and the vibes are always high.”

### Worried Men

As one of the longest running bands in Steamboat, Worried Men jams tunes from the Grateful Dead with the best of them (except, perhaps, for John Mayer). But they’re also adept at covering other artists, from the Allman Brothers and Willie Nelson to Johnny Cash and Bob Dylan. As an acoustic trio it features Jon Gibbs on guitar and vocals, Randy Kelley on guitar and mandolin, and Willie Samuelson on bass, adding Ron Wheeler on drums when they rock it up a notch (and Pat Waters whenever he books them at Schmiggity’s).

“I love playing in both bands, both Worried Men and Heads All Empty, but they do have some differences,” says Gibbs, who’s been in Steamboat for 35 years. “Worried Men likes to take the songs and give them a little kick in the rear. The tempos may be a little faster. We’re guitar based, without any keyboards, so Randy Kelley and I share lead guitar solos in certain songs. Randy has been known to play harmony guitar lines over some of my leads as well.” Gibbs also stresses that they’re not strictly a Dead cover band, even though they love playing them. “We enjoy playing the Dead but also play Santana, Phish, Beatles, Guy Clark, Jimmy Buffet, Western swing and more,” he says. “We’ve been a band for 25 years, so we’ve been around the block a time or two.”

That block has resulted in a unique, tight sound, no matter who they’re covering. “They’ve worked out some cool arrangements and guitar harmonies for Dead songs and non-Dead songs alike that are always fun to be a part of whenever I get to join them,” says Waters, who always has a big grin on his face when he gets to pound the drums behind them. “One of the band’s main strengths is its variety of songs and genres. The Dead songs are great, but they really round it out for people who aren’t totally into the Dead.”



## Campout for the Cause

Want a weekend of camping with friends and getting down to great tunes? After a hiatus since 2019, Campout For The Cause finds its new home at the historic Hutchinson Ranch in Salida, Sept. 19-20, with a special welcome pick and early camping on Sept. 18. Nestled in the Sawatch Range and brought to you by the same team behind WinterWonderGrass, BajaWonderGrass, and RiverWonderGrass, this family-friendly festival offers an escape with music, a yoga barn, workshops, late night pickin’, Camp Coletrain ‘pop-ups, and more. It features 15 bands across two stages, alongside local food trucks, a coffee bar, creekside workshops and wellness activities.

“Life today is ever-consumed with being busy, hurried, missed and thrown away,” says organizer Scotty Stoughton, who first created the event along the Colorado River following a fire at State Bridge Lodge. “Campout inspires us to slow down and remember what’s truly important in life: community, family, conversation, being outside, laughing and remembering the gift that is this moment.”







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# PARTY TIME

## Best Spots to Catch Free Tunes

### Where the Beats Meet the Peaks

Around here, live music isn't just a vibe – it's practically a mountain sport. From twangy bluegrass pickin' to Grateful Dead covers that make you question what year it is; Steamboat's music scene brings the soul, the stomp and the summer groove. And the best part? You can keep your wallet in your fanny pack – it's all free. Yup, your ears won't be charged a dime.



### Keepin' It Free Summer Concert Series (Howelsen Hill)

Like to get down? There's no better place than Howelsen Hill's Free Summer Concert Series ([keepinitfree.com](http://keepinitfree.com)), where the hills are alive with the sound of...well, some seriously good jams. Bring a blanket, grab your dancing shoes (or don't, we're not your mom), and claim your spot on the lawn or up by the stage. Hit the food trucks for your pre-show fuel, then sip something cold from the beverage tent while the music does its thing. "There's a lot of energy in town around these shows, and we're proud of the lineup we've put together," says organizer John Waldman. And the envelope, please:

#### June

**21 Andy Frasco & The U.N. | Opener: Graham Good & The Painters**

Kicking off the season is Andy Frasco & The U.N., a high-energy performance combining a creative combo of rock, blues and funk.

#### July

**19 Julian Marley & The Uprising | Opener: Mighty Mystic**

You'll be jammin' aplenty at this one as Julian Marley, son of Bob, brings his island vibes to the 'Boat with his house band The Uprising.

**31 Daniel Donato's Cosmic Country | Opener: Bonfire Dub**

Brace yourself. After two years rocking the stage at WinterWonderGrass, Daniel Donato has built a reputation in the jam band scene through a unique and energetic mix of country, psychedelic rock and improv into his "Cosmic Country" sound.

#### August

**31 Brothers Comatose | Opener: Little Moon Travelers**

Hailing from the West Coast, Brothers Comatose brings a modern twist to traditional bluegrass with fast picking and soaring vocal harmonies. And opening is Steamboat's own Little Moon Travelers.

### Stranahan's Free Summer Concert Series at Steamboat Square

Because one free concert series just isn't enough, this concert series takes place at the base of the mountain in the heart of Steamboat Square with that après-everything energy. Grab a drink, listen to the opener at 6 p.m., and then settle in for the main event at 7:30. Artist announcements are still on their way, but here are the dates you'll want to mentally block off immediately:

**July 4, 11, and 25; Aug. 1 and 30.**





# Snowbowl Free Summer Concerts

Wednesdays unless noted.

## June

- 4 Bonfire Dub
- 11 Aaron Golay & the Original Sin
- 18 The Hip Snacks
- 25 Constant Change
- 29 Sunday SuperMagick

## July

- 2 Nik Parr & the Selfless Lovers
- 9 Chuck Briseno Band
- 16 Heads All Empty
- 23 Cousin Curtiss
- 27 Sunday Headliner: Bella Band, Nathan Graham
- 30 Arts Fishing Club

## August

- 6 Colony Funk
- 13 Lowdown Brass Band
- 20 The Burroughs
- 24 Sunday Wish You Were Pink
- 27 Selasee & the Fafa Family

## September

- 3 The Fretliners
- 10 The Runaway Grooms
- 17 Magic Beans
- 24 Jimkata
- 28 Sunday Putting the Giant to Sleep End of Season Bash, 2-8pm  
Headliner: Taylor Scott Band  
Plus: Wordan Jilson & The Wild Bunch,  
Eric Delaney's Taste Test, Speak of the Devil

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# PARTY TIME



## Strings Summer Lineup

Celebrating its 38th season, Strings Music Festival has a great list of shows this summer, from classical musicians to Grammy-nominated contemporary favorites. "We are thrilled to present an exceptional lineup this season, from Grammy-winning artists like Mary Chapin Carpenter and Brandy Clark to legendary performers such as Lucinda Williams and John Oates," says Strings' Elissa Greene. "It promises to be a vibrant celebration of music that truly makes summer in Steamboat special." And the drumroll please:

### June

27 Mary Chapin Carpenter  
/ Brandy Clark, 7pm

28 Opening Night:  
Contrasts in Classical  
7pm

29 BoDeans, 7pm

### July

2 An American Story  
Featuring Chee-Yu  
7pm

5 An American Tapestry  
in Bras, 7pm

6 Brent Rowan and  
Friends, 7pm

10 Bruce Cockburn, 7pm

11 Houndmouth, 7pm

12 The Guild of Strings  
Music Festival's Kitchen  
and Garden Tour  
9am-3pm

12 Palaver Strings with  
Nicholas Phan, 7pm

13 Tab Benoit, 7pm

16 Anderson & Roe, 7pm

17 John Oates, 7pm

19 Manhattan Chamber  
Players, 7pm

20 Lucinda Williams, 7pm

22 Chris Isaak, 7pm

23 Weiss Kaplan Carr Trio  
7pm

24 Firefall, 7pm

26 Harmonic Dialogues  
7pm

27 Rhiannon Giddens &  
The Old-Time Revue  
7pm

30 Trios of Passion, 7pm

31 Pure Prairie League  
7pm

### August

1 Jarabe Mexicano, 7pm

2 Czech, 7pm

3 Mountain Grass Unit  
7pm

6 Strings Unbound, 7pm

7 Top House, 7pm

9 Orchestra Finale:  
Rhapsody in Blue, 7pm

10 Morgan James  
Symphonic Soul, 7pm

13 Cliburn Gold Medalist  
7pm

14 Atlanta Rhythm  
Section, 7pm

16 Jon Muq, 7pm

19 Crystal Gayle, 7pm

24 Allen Stone, 7pm

### September

19 Hot Tuna, 7pm

### October

4 Dawes (duo), 7pm

### November

7 BUGS, 5:30pm

**Free Programming:** Strings is also pleased to announce free programming with Music on the Green at Yampa Valley Botanic Park, Twilight Yoga in Strings Festival Park, and an Open Rehearsal for families and friends. Info: [stringsmusicfestival.com](http://stringsmusicfestival.com).





## Neighboring Concert Venues

Sure, our local music venues are great and all, but a few of our other mountain town neighbors also have outdoor concert halls that are worth visiting for when you want to get out of dodge. Behold, a snapshot of a handful of our faves:

**Gerald Ford Amphitheater (Vail):** This outdoor venue gets surprisingly good bands, with this year's lineup including Michael Franti, Steel Pulse, Wilco, the Black Crowes and more. To get there, most concert-goers walk from the parking center downtown along Gore Creek, whose sound keeps time with the music.

**Pros:** Not a bad seat in the house with awesome-sauce amphitheater seating; great acoustics; pretty cool architecture; "mule" cocktails of all types; grassy hill where you can spread out blankets; late-night pizza slices at Vendettas.

**Cons:** Tickets can be a tad pricey; attendants keep you from loitering in the aisles; hard to work your way up to front row.

**Nearby outdoor action:** Kayak Gore Creek and/or Dowd Chutes; bike path from Avon up to Vail Pass; steep mountain bike trails on mountain; hiking galore in Gore Range.

**Info:** [www.grfavail.com](http://www.grfavail.com)

**Jazz Aspen Snowmass (Snowmass):** Held every September, this annual right of passage for Aspen-area locals is filled with acts a step up from those laying down licks in Routt County – which is only fitting for a place that has parking attendants for Lear jets. Hint: work your way up the far-right side to get close to the stage.

**Pros:** One of the best music line-ups in the Rockies; views of the Elk Range (and Capitol Peak); a VIP area to die for (especially when you see the price tag); complete spectrum of people watching.

**Cons:** More crowds than you might be used to; VIP zone takes up a third of the space; usually must shuttle up from the Intercept Lot.

**Nearby outdoor action:** Paddle the Shoshone section of the Colorado on the way by (or surf the Glenwood Wave downtown). Staying in Snowmass? Ride their mountain bike trails, including a quickie near the Two Owl Lift filled with "line" names: Lowline to Viewline to Deadline to Highline.

**Info:** [www.jazzaspensnowmass.org](http://www.jazzaspensnowmass.org)

**Lake Dillon Amphitheater (Dillon):** Offering some of the best concert views in the state with vistas of Lake Dillon and the snow-capped peaks of the Tenmile Range right from your seats, the Lake Dillon Amphitheater is Steamboat's go-to, alternate, outside concert venue. This year's line-up includes the likes of Alison Krauss, Train, Yesterday – The Beatles Tribute and more.

**Pros:** What's not to like...you're on a lake; a true outdoorsy concert setting feeling; you can even take in the show by listening from a boat on the lake!

**Cons:** Parking's a bit of a pain (hint: bring a bike); evening shows can be a bit chilly; you still have that long drive home over Rabbit Ears unless you can find a place to stay or camp along the way.

**Nearby outdoor action:** Paddle and/or fish Lake Dillon, Green Mountain Reservoir, or the gold-medal Blue River; bag Silver Couloir on Buffalo Mountain (if you can get up early enough and there's still enough snow); bike paths all over; skiing A-Basin if it's been a big year.

**Info:** [www.dillonamp.com](http://www.dillonamp.com)

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# PARTY TIME

## Downtown Happy Hours

Done schussing and angling for some après? There's no shortage of HHs in town. The only problem: finishing your day's adventure in time. Following is a roundup of ones to hit downtown:

### 8th Street Steakhouse

4:30 to 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to close daily;  
8thstreetsteakhouse.com

### Aurum Food & Wine

4 to 6 p.m. daily; aurumsteamboat.com

### Back Door Grill

3:30 to 5:30 p.m. daily, all day Sundays  
upstairs at the bar; thebackdoorgrill.com

### The BARley Tap & Tavern

5 to 7 p.m. daily; thebarleycolorado.com

### Besame

4 to 5:30 p.m. daily;  
besamesteamboat.com

### Brass Kitchen and Bar

3:30 to 5:30 p.m. daily;  
brasssteamboat.com

### Commons

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sun.-Fri.;  
steamboatcommons.com

### The Corner Slice

4 to 5:35 p.m. daily; thecornerslice.com

### Cypress

3:30 to 5:30 p.m. daily;  
cypress-steamboat.com

### E3 Chophouse

3 to 5 p.m. daily; e3chophouse.com

### How Ya Doin' Pizza & Eats

4 to 5:30 p.m. daily,  
howyadoinpizzaneatz.com

### Johnny B Goods Diner

3 to 5 p.m. daily; johnnybgoodsdiner.com

### Laundry Kitchen & Cocktails

4:30 to 5:30 p.m. daily;  
thelaundryrestaurant.com

### The Lounge E3 Kitchen + Social Club

3-5 p.m. daily; e3lounge.com

### Mai Thai

3 to 6 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday;  
maithaimenu.com

### Mambo Italiano

4 to 5:30 p.m. daily; mambos.com

### Ocean Dragon

3 to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday;  
oceandragonchinesesushi.com

### Off The Beaten Path

4 to 6 p.m. Monday ~ Saturday, 4 to 5 p.m.  
Sundays; steamboatbooks.com

### Old Town Pub & Restaurant

3 to 6 p.m. daily; theoldtownpub.com

### O'Neil's Tavern & Grill

3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. to midnight  
daily; oneilstavernandgrill.com

### Primrose

4-6 p.m. daily; primroseteamboat.com

### Salt & Lime

3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and 10 to 11 p.m. daily;  
suckalime.com

### Schmiggity's

8 to 9 p.m. daily; schmiggitys.com

### Seedz

2 to 5 p.m. weekends; seedz-café.com

### Sunpie's Bistro

3 to 6 p.m. daily; sunpiessteamboat.com

### Table 79 Foodbar

4 to 6 p.m. daily; table79steamboat.com

### Tahk Omakase Sushi

4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wed.- Sun.

### Taco Cabo

4 to 6 p.m. daily; tacocabo.com

### Vaqueros

2 to 6 p.m. daily; vaquerosmexican.net

### West End Sports Grill

4 to 6 p.m. daily; thewestendtavern.com

### Yampa Valley Ice House

3 to 5:30 p.m. and 9 to 10:30 p.m. daily;  
yampaice.com

### Yampa Valley Kitchen

4:30 to 5:30 p.m. daily;  
yampavalleykitchen.com

## Bonus: Late Night Happy Hour

### 8th Street Steakhouse

Happy Hour deals daily  
from 8:30 p.m. – close

### O'Neil's

Happy Hour that runs  
from 10 p.m.-12 a.m.

## Happy Hour Snapshot



### Cheap Cheers

#### 8th St. Steakhouse

Grill it yourself at 8th Street Steakhouse, where you're the chef and the happy hour hero. From 4:30–6 p.m. and again at 8:30 p.m. (because why stop once?), get down with: \$7 Steak Burgers, Stuffed Mushrooms, and Truffle fries so fancy they don't need a dipping sauce (but they have one anyway); \$6 martinis, well drinks, and wine; and \$2 off all beers. This place serves steakhouse swagger without the steakhouse sticker shock.

### Corner Slice

Monday through Friday, 2–5 p.m. is basically adult recess at Corner Slice. Stick around for open mic Wednesday and live music Saturdays, where your beer buzz might just inspire you to sing Blink-182 like it's 2004. Imbibe in \$2 cheese slices; garlic pretzels and cheesy bread because carbs are happiness; and \$5 shots, including Jameson, Stoli-O, Rumpleminze and Jager Bombs – aka the Holy Grail of “I should probably eat first.”

### Backdoor Grill

Originally a to-go window, now a full-on burger beacon. It's lowkey, laidback and dangerously good. Bonus: you can totally say you went “around the back” and not sound sketchy. From 3:30–5:30 daily, you can crush burgers, beers and boneless buffalo wings that bite back.

### Johnny B Good's Diner

Happy hour but make it dessert first. Every day from 3-5 p.m., grab a slice of pie for just \$3.99. Yes, really. Think Banana Cream, Key Lime and more sweet seduction, then pair it with an adult milkshake like the Georgia Peach (with peach schnapps and actual peaches), or Adult Root Beer Float (with Not Your Father's Rootbeer, because you're someone's questionable influence).

### O'Neil's Tavern & Grill

Come for the Irish charm, stay because you're suddenly best friends with the bartender. O'Neil's dishes up happy hour twice a day – 3:30-5:30 p.m. and again from 10 p.m. until close – for anyone who believes the luck of the Irish starts with a great deal. It's cozy, it's loud in the best way, and the drinks go down smoother than your last attempt at an Irish accent. Drinks? Oh yeah. Try \$5 well drinks, \$2 off drafts, microbrews, and imports; \$6 wines; \$7 Dirty Duke (don't ask, just order); \$8 car bombs if you're feeling bold and vaguely chaotic; Bud Heavy + shot of Jameson for \$7, because subtlety is overrated. Food-wise, late-night cravings are satiated with Irish Mac and Cheese that's aggressively comforting; Jumbo Pretzels with mustard, which honestly should count as a meal; Fish and Chips, because when in doubt, go full pub; and a double burger for soaking up that second car bomb (wise move).

## Town's Cheapest Beer?

For this esteemed accolade, look no further than the good ol' White Rabbit bar and restaurant located at Gravity Haus on the mountain, which this winter rolled out a two buck Happy Hour for 16-ounce cans of Outlaw lager. Yes, you read that right. Just \$2 for a whole 16 ounces of crushable deliciousness, which – thanks to a special relationship with their distributor – they plan to continue rolling out all summer. Go ahead, buy a round for your friends.

– Haley Watkins



# GRATEFUL GEAR

## For Ruck's Sake

Want to partake in the latest mountain craze? Go ruck yourself. In short, rucking is like backpacking, but carrying weight intentionally. Based on the notion behind Peter Attia's book *Outlive*, which maintains that carrying weight is good for you, it's the latest rage, with companies like GoRuck now churning out packs dedicated to the cause. Try its Rucker 4.0 pack (20-liter, \$255), with a twenty-pound plate (\$115) and a ten-pound plate (\$75). Beefy, interior, Cordura sleeves hold the plates in place, meaning no sliding or bouncing around, with three-inch, padded straps spreading out the load. Bonus: Handles on the sides for trailside curls. Info: [goruck.com](http://goruck.com).



## FLAYQ

Yes, we think it's pronounced "flake," just like our powder that falls from the sky. Steamboat's newest apparel brand, founded by the husband-and-wife duo of Deb and Dave Larson, offers a full lineup of stylish, sustainable clothing. Every piece is handcrafted in Portugal from 100 percent organic cotton and natural fibers, as well as Portuguese flannel. "You see a lot of high-performance wear on the slopes here, which we love for those long ski days, but we also love our evenings and time with family and friends," says Dave. "We felt like no one was covering the casual market." Find it at Mountain and Company, Allen's Clothing and Ski Haus. Info: [flayq.com](http://flayq.com).



## Yampa Valley Northwest Colorado Great Outdoors Marketplace

Want gear? This marketplace lets outdoor lovers buy, sell and trade a variety of new and gently used items, all centered around great outdoors. The wares include outdoor apparel and gear for everything from hiking and fishing to skiing, camping and powersports. You'll even find gear for geocaching, bird watching and paddle boarding. Whether you're a seasoned pro or newbie, consider it a hub for connecting with fellow adventurers and equipping your next expedition. Info: [yampavalleyadventurecenter.com](http://yampavalleyadventurecenter.com).

## Bar U Eat

Founded in Steamboat by best childhood friends Sam Nelson and Jason Friday, and named after the quintessential Bar UE chairlift, Bar U Eat uses simple, whole, and organic ingredients (that you can read and recognize), including roasted oats, nuts and seeds, bonded together with Medjool dates and honey. Available in bites and bars, they're available in multi-flavors (our faves: Coffee Pecan and Peanut & Cherries) and are guaranteed to not leave you bonking. Bonus: the world's first-ever BPI-certified, plant-based compostable wrapper. "That's a huge step for us and a major move for our industry," says Nelson. Info: [barueat.com](http://barueat.com).



## Meet Steamboat's Milk X Whiskey

Milk and whiskey might not sound like a good combo, but it is for new adventure gear and apparel company Milk X Whiskey, which designs gear for outdoor families. Their product line includes sun hoodies, tumbler grid fleece apparel, family tech apparel, hats, an adventure-proof diaper bag and more – all crafted to support family exploration. Here, co-owner Ryan Bramwell sheds a little more beta on the brand (info: [milkxwhiskey.com](http://milkxwhiskey.com)).

**Why'd you start it?** At a very young age, both our parents had us out camping. That's just what we did. That instilled in us a passion for the outdoors. After we had our first child we wondered whether we could keep on exploring with a baby. A lot of parents showed us that it's not just doable, but awesome. Thanks to our parents our passion for the outdoors runs deep and we wanted to share that with our kids – to see them be kids, explore, get messy and howl at the moon. It provides both children and parents with mental, emotional, physical and growth tools to live a happy life. When we began searching for products that fit our lifestyles and had the same quality as our own gear, we found the market lacking, especially for durable carrying gear. Great technical outerwear seemed to be an afterthought for many of the legacy brands, and we wanted to build something that gave parents something high quality and special.

**Can you tell us about your products?** We develop travel support systems and technical apparel to make outdoor experiences easier for every kind of family. We have pretty much the world's most durable backpack system, designed for new parents and to evolve with the family as they grow. We also have a great line of UPF 50+ sun hoodies and grid fleece hoodies for all members of the family.

**What do you like about basing the company here?** We moved our family here when my son was going into kindergarten. At the time I was running a design and animation company out of Denver. I've worked for many big outdoor brands and I wanted to build something personal to me – which is getting kids outdoors and growing them up in nature. I also wanted to build something that intersected with my three core foundations of creativity, technology and service. Steamboat has amazing outdoor sports, strong family and start-up cultures, and a magic blend of small town support, sense of community and outdoor youth programs. I wanted a place where I could be as much of a support as I am being supported.

**What's behind the name?** Milk is the nurturing side. Family is the most important. Having children isn't the end of our adventures but a whole new beginning. X is the crossroads when we find out we are expecting a child and make the decision to keep the outdoor adventure going. Whiskey is the defining trait of our fearless and fun-seeking attitude towards life. We find that adventure is the binding force in our love of the outdoors, living life on our terms, and now with our children. Plus, even though we are parents, we still like to party! MXW also has a sense of humor, inspires curiosity in the name, and has a bit more independent flair.



# LAST RUN

## Mustache Town USA?

Steamboat Springs Mustache Ride Celebrates All Things Follicle



COURTESY OF STEAMBOAT MUSTACHE RIDE

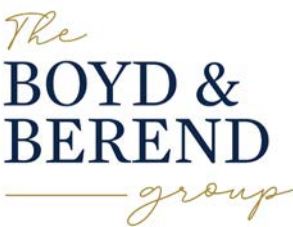
Let's just say that's a lot of 'stache and steeze. Cue up your best Tom Selleck or Ted Lasso as Steamboat's own Mustache Ride is back with its quirky, facial hair flair this October (giving the lip fur challenged plenty of time to prepare). A fundraiser for the Routt County Humane Society celebrating all things bicycle and follicle, the event shows that Steamboat riders have both panache and 'stache – at least for a day. What started as a fun pub crawl among friends has morphed into a whimsical, costumed and mustachioed barhopping, charity bike ride through town, bringing together the community's love for animals and follicles. "People love its

camaraderie," says the animal shelter's Julia Hebard. "They love dressing up in costumes, helping animals, and for some reason wearing mustaches." It all begins at Storm Peak Brewing's Bus Stop (in a new location at the Steamboat Grand) before the philanthropic pedalers ride off into the sunset to other restaurants and bars, ending up downtown. "There were only 20 of us the first year," says event co-founder Rob Peterson. "But it got bigger quickly and so we made it a fundraiser for the animal shelter." While it raises funds, it also raises the eyebrows of un-mustachioed onlookers. Info: [www.ssmustacheride.com](http://www.ssmustacheride.com)



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