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Lack of legs doesn't stop this athlete

"Have skateboard, will travel" might be the motto adopted by Kevin Michael Connolly, who was born without legs.

One of three children, when Connolly was born in Helena his family dealt with his disability with a mixture of pugnaciousness and innovation. His father, a fan of the television series "MacGyver," came up with devices to help his son face the challenges he faced every day.

Connolly's life has now included university, love and exotic adventures. He learned to mono-ski and was embraced by a group of bearded mountain enthusiasts who called themselves Dirtbags and delighted in Connolly's embrace of alpine adventures. As he traveled around the world, using a skateboard to get around, people struggled to understand what had happened to him, suggesting war wounds, animal attack or industrial accidents. Some saw in him something akin to holiness.

This forced him to reconsider who he was and what part of his life always would be a part of others.

The stakes he encounters everywhere he goes led Connolly to an art form. He has taken more than 30,000 photographs of people staring at him.

—Tribune staff



"Double Take: A Memoir" by Kevin Michael Connolly is published by Harper Studio, \$15.

NEW CDS

- TUESDAY**
- Laurie Anderson, "Homesland"
 - Cowboy Junkies, "Remin Park"
 - Devo, "Something For Everybody"
 - Dave, "Thank Me Later"
 - Foals, "Total Life Forever"
 - The Gaslight Anthem, "American Slang"
 - Light Pollution, "Apparitions"
 - Sarah McLachlan, "The

- Laws Of Illusion", "The Slave Miller Band, "Bingo!"
- Papa Roach, "To Be Loved"
- Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers, "Mojo"
- Pitbull, "Armando"
- Ozzy Osbourne, "Scream"
- Stewart, "Kicks"
- We Are Scientists, "Barbara"

NEW DVDS

- TUESDAY**
- "The Book of Eli"
 - "When in Rome"
 - "Youth in Revolt"
 - "Collapse"

- "Burma VJ: Reporting from a Blessed Country"
- "Happy Tears"
- "Sex Positive"

ON TOUR

- BOISE**
- Jerry Joseph, June 19, Old Idaho Penitentiary.
 - Rockstar Energy Mayhem Festival, July 14, Idaho Center Amphitheater. Tickets \$39.50 Visit www.idahocenter.com.
 - Todd the Wet Sprocket, July 27, Knitting Factory. Tickets \$25 to \$55.
 - Vans Warped Tour, Aug. 13, Idaho Center Amphitheater. Tickets \$32. Visit www.idahocenter.com.

- CALGARY**
- Lith Fair with Sarah McLachlan, Cobie Callait, Erykah Badu, Sheryl Crow and Sugarland, June 27, McMahon Stadium.
 - Iron Maiden, June 27, Pengrowth Saddledome. Tickets \$57, \$77 and \$102.
 - Rihanna, July 6, Pengrowth Saddledome. Tickets \$26.25 to \$112.50.
 - Bon Jovi, July 14, Pengrowth Saddledome. Tickets \$81.75 to \$181.75.
 - Kid Rock, July 16, Pengrowth Saddledome. Tickets \$52.25 to \$83.75.
 - Rings Starr & His All Star Band, Edgar Winter and Rick Derringer, July 28, Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. Tickets \$97 to \$170.
 - Juliette Lewis, July 29, Republic Nightclub.
 - Michael Buble, Aug. 18, Pengrowth Saddledome. Tickets \$61 to \$133.

The Web site for tickets to Canadian shows is www.ticketmaster.ca

- GEORGE, WASH.**
- Lith Fair featuring Sarah McLachlan, Sheryl Crow and Cobie Callait, July 3, the Gorge. Call 800-745-3000.
 - Kings of Leon, July 17, the Gorge. Tickets \$36 to \$50. Call 877-598-6659.
 - The Avett Brothers, July 20, Bing Crosby Theater. Tickets \$30 to \$35. Call 800-825-SEAT.
 - Vans Warped Tour featuring Dropkick Murphys, The All-American Rejects, Pennywise, Reef Big Fish and Sun 41, Aug. 14, the Gorge. Tickets \$36. Call 800-745-3000.
 - Dave Matthews Band, Sept. 3-5, the Gorge. Tickets \$48.50 to \$70.

- SEATTLE**
- Concrete Blonde, June 24, Showbox at the Market.
 - Josh Ritter, June 27, Showbox at the Market. Tickets \$22.
 - Old 97's, June 30, Showbox at the Market.
 - Melvins, July 6, Showbox at the Market.

- SPokane**
- Henry Rollins, June 22, Big Crosby Theater.
 - Jewel, June 24, Knitting Factory. Tickets \$56.
 - Jason Jett and the Blackhearts, July 14, DAA Northwest.
 - Big Head Todd and the Monsters, July 24, Pavilion Park.

“ Unlike many photographers who don't venture off the backcountry, (Bouda) isn't afraid to go deep into the backcountry. He has a great eye, a great sense of composition and an awesome ability to preserve a scene exactly as we experienced it. ”



BRET BOUDA PHOTO

ABOVE: Preston Park includes the junction of Siyeh and Piegan pass trails. Looking back toward Logan Pass is a superb view dominated by Mount Reynolds. The upper ridge of Piegan Mountain shelters Piegan Glacier on the right. BELOW: Bret Bouda has spent years photographing all aspects of Glacier National Park, including its wildlife.

Focusing on the photographer Glorious glimpses of Glacier

By NANCY REECE JONES
For the Tribune

The vast expanses of the American West have special meaning to Bret Bouda. An artist whose forte is large-scale panoramic photography, Bouda grew up in Czechoslovakia and treasures freedom as only one can who has known communist rule.

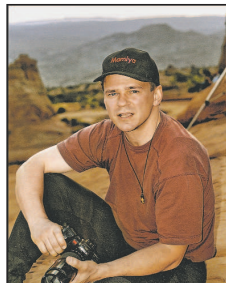
"Freedom, both of the body and soul, means everything to me," he said. As a promising young athlete in the 1970s, he'd had a better situation than most. However, an injury ended his decathlon aspirations and set in motion a desire to emigrate to a country that offered more opportunity than his restrictive homeland. In 1981, at the age of 21, he made the daring choice to defect.

He's never looked back. He lived for 10 years in West Germany, gaining a master's degree in construction and running a successful construction company. When the Berlin wall came down, he returned briefly to Prague, but quickly realized it no longer felt like home.

He struck out for Australia, but instead of finding a place to settle, he found love. A year later, on New Year's Eve 1995, he married his wife Karen, a fellow traveler who grew up in Ohio.

A new homeland

The couple moved to the United States and took up residence in Salt Lake City. "I'd always been drawn to the American West," Bouda said. "As a child I loved



“ Glacier is my core. It's my destiny. —Panoramic photographer Bret Bouda ”



BRET BOUDA PHOTOS

See PHOTOGRAPHER, 6L

Glacier exhibit

"Glorious Glacier," an exhibit of photographs and other items, is on display daily through June 30 at the Great Falls Public Library. Many of the items come from the personal collection of Ken Robison, a retired U.S. Navy intelligence officer and historian at the Overholser Historical Research Center in Fort Benton.

The free exhibit begins to the left of the checkout counter. Six display cases comprising the exhibit are located on the library's first floor, with other cases found near stacks where the audio books are located.

Robison's exhibit features wood carvings by John Clarke, artwork by Winold Reiss, photographs by T.J. Hileman and a variety of other photographs, publications and artwork.

Volunteers dig into a plot to create 1,000 New Gardens

By GAIL SCHONTZLER
Bozeman Daily Chronicle

BOZEMAN (AP) — Max Smith leaned on his shovel, looked over an entire backyard where he and fellow volunteers have ripped out the lawn, and grinned.

"We're helping people get off the grass," he said. Smith, 20, a Montana State University student with a scruffy ponytail and warm smile, has founded a group of college students, community environmentalists and church members called 1,000 New Gardens.

Their goal is to create 1,000 new gardens in cities across Montana. They want to tear out lawns and replace them with vegetable gardens so that more people can grow their

own organic food. Smith's dream is to see at least one vegetable garden on every block in Bozeman, which would encourage and inspire neighbors to do the same. He also wants to create a sense of community, a support group for gardeners.

"We're trying to make our food system really democratic, by pushing back barriers to growing our own food," Smith said. "We're making food production accessible to everyone — like a Victory Garden." The 1,000 New Gardens seems inspired partly by the Victory Garden self-sufficiency of World War II, and partly by the back-to-the-land movement of the 1960s, the save-the-Earth ideals of the 1970s and the current national local-foods movement.

On weekend workdays, the volunteers huddle in a circle before starting work, Smith said. Everyone bends down and recites the 1,000 New Gardens oath: "I, with my hand in the soil, pledge to cherish, protect and heal the earth; to create a better world for all; to begin right now; to strengthen the feelings of self-reliance, community and gardening; to inspire a new generation to use their green thumbs for better health, nutrition and community."

"We are one people, we have one common dream, we share one planet, we are responsible for the future. We are gardeners!" The Bozeman group's first



AP PHOTO

See GARDENS, 6L

Max Smith, a volunteer with 1,000 New Gardens, works at the site of the new Bozeman community garden just west of City Hall.

Photographer: Captures park in all its panoramic splendor

FROM 1L

watching the classic western movies."

He lost no time becoming familiar with the national parks within driving distance. But when he visited Glacier National Park in 2004, he knew immediately that he had found his spiritual homeland. The Flathead Valley, framed by mountains, evoked the landscape of his youth and spoke directly to his heart.

"When I first drove into Kalispell the night of June 24, 2004, it was cold and pouring rain — but I just knew I'd found my true home, a place I'd never want to leave," Bouda said. "All it took was three days in Glacier, and I told Karen we were moving here."

The Bouda family, which had expanded to include sons Jamie and Andrew, pulled up stakes in Utah and bought a home in Kalispell.

Six years later, his passion for Glacier National Park has only increased.

"Glacier is my core," he said, "It's my destiny."

It is also his prime photographic subject.

Bringing the park to the people

Tom Esch, a Kalispell attorney and close friend, has hiked countless miles of Glacier's trails with Bouda.

"Unlike many photographers who don't venture off the Going-to-the-Sun Road, Bret isn't afraid to go deep into the backcountry," Esch said. "He has a great eye, a great sense of composition and an awesome ability to preserve a scene exactly as we experienced it."

Bouda's ability to capture the essence of Glacier's grandeur led to the selection of one of his pieces as Glacier National Park's official Centennial photograph. Titled "Ancient Quiet," it conveys the primordial feel of the towering cedars along the popular Trail of the Cedars. It's part of a series of 100 that comprise the "Timeless Light Centennial collection."

That collection, among dozens of other stunning views of Glacier, is featured in an ongoing exhibit at Glacier Park International Airport.

"Bret is the first artist in our Art in the Airport program," airport director Cindi Martin said. "Our airport is often the first and last experience for visitors to the area, and we want to make a lasting positive impression. Bret's exhibit is doing just that — people are awed by his work and we've had very complimentary response to the show."

One of the most arresting images is the 14-foot-long photograph of Lake McDonald.

While Bouda's work is displayed around the Flathead, including the Kalispell Regional Medical Center, Ironhorse Golf Club and Kalispell City Hall, it's also finding its way into people's homes. After seeing the airport exhibit, Helge and Carolyn Ringdal of Martin City selected six of



BRET BOUDA PHOTOS

Hikers along Swifcurrent Pass Trail have a tremendous view of Heaven's Peak.



BRET BOUDA PHOTOS

ABOVE: Visitors at the Prince of Wales Hotel can soak in a stunning view from the comfort of the lobby. RIGHT: Historic red gear jammers still travel the park's roads.

Bouda pictures available

To purchase books and other products, including the Declaration of Independence poster, visit Bret Bouda's website at www.digitalbroadwaypublishing.com or call him at 406-471-1536.

the "Glacier Classic in Black & White" series for their dining room.

"He's a true artist, no doubt about that," Carolyn Ringdal said.

Artistic focus

Photography always has been a passion for Bouda, who had his own darkroom when he was 12. He came from a family of artists — his grandfather was a painter and his prints are either mounted on acid-free foam core and framed in a hardwood frame or stretched on wood frame in gallery-wrapped style.

"I want people who see my work to feel as if they are right in nature, to feel a direct connection with the scene," Bouda said. Customized prints start at \$700

medium." He eagerly embraced the shift to digital technology that revolutionized photography in the late 1990s. It was this change that enabled him to transition into becoming a full-time professional photographer by 2007.

He works with high-end media, producing large, fully customized giclee prints on canvas. He uses a Nikon D2Xs camera, and his prints are either mounted on acid-free foam core and framed in a hardwood frame or stretched on wood frame in gallery-wrapped style.

"I want people who see my work to feel as if they are right in nature, to feel a direct connection with the scene," Bouda said. Customized prints start at \$700



and go to \$5,000, depending on size and framing.

Affordable mementos

Although large-scale photography is Bouda's trademark, his small-format books have found their way into many hearts and homes.

He's published four books: "Glacier Classics in Black & White," a black-and-white photographic book of the park; "Glacier Park Wide," featuring 24-inch-by-7-inch panoramic views; "The Magnificent Seven," which celebrates the natural beauty of Glacier

and six other western national parks; and his most recent, "Jammies-to-the-Sun: A Tribute to the Red Buses of Glacier National Park."

Bouda is especially excited about his latest book because of his love for the iconic red buses and their drivers, known as jammers.

"Those gear-jammers, who got their name because of how they had to negotiate mountainous terrain, have contributed so much to the park and its visitors over the years," Bouda said, "and I wanted to honor this tradition."

In Great Falls

The Great Falls History Museum's new Glacier National Park exhibit showcases the park in a new light.

"With this exhibit, people are going to see how the park has transformed from the beginning of its development in 1910," said Jim Meinert, the museum's executive director.

"For this exhibit, we collected entire scrapbooks of families going to Glacier and letters written back."

The museum also is collaborating with the Montana Railroad Museum to display a model of the Great Northern Railway train cars used to help show off the park to the rest of the country.

Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

His books are primarily pictorial, making them accessible to an international audience without the need for translation. All books are hardcover with glossy laminated jackets and, with the exception of "Glacier Park Wide," in 8-inch-by-8-inch format.

They sell for no more than \$14.90.

"I don't make a living with my books," Bouda said. "I see them as my way of sharing my love for Glacier and the West, of paying love on the amazing legacy of the park system for the enjoyment of others."

Home of the free

Bouda's passion for Glacier is matched only by his enthusiasm about becoming a naturalized American citizen in 2000.

"Bret embraces what it is to be an American," said Esch, "and the American values, particularly the enduring sense of freedom, carry over into his art in the big dramatic skies and landscapes."

An avid reader, Bouda has amassed an extensive collection of books on American history, and he occasionally teaches classes on communism in local private schools.

He considers the Declaration of Independence "the greatest document ever written." Recently he created a poster of it for his sons as a teaching tool. To make it as genuine as possible, Bouda replicated it in a 22-inch-by-28-inch image — as close as possible to the size of the actual document — put it on parchment, and used an authentic Colonial-style frame.

The final product proved so impressive that, with the prodding of Esch, Bouda decided to add it to his online store.

"After all," he said, "we're living in a new sort of revolutionary times and we need to be sure that this document is in the eyes of people at all times."

"What I know is that I'm so grateful to be in a country where I can express myself freely without fear of reprisal. With the help of my camera, I can convey that vast sense of freedom I feel and awaken it in others."

Learn a lesson from murderous hamster

By MARC MORRONE
McClatchy Newspapers

Question: My son is allergic to dogs, but he really wants a pet. We thought of getting a guinea pig.

However, his sister wants one as well, and sharing does not seem to be an option in my house. Can we keep two guinea pigs together in one cage?

Answer: When I was a child, we kept two hamsters together in one cage. Mine killed my brother's. I have been reminded of this at every family get-together since then.

In most cases, however, guinea pigs are very social animals and are happiest when kept in pairs. It can be a same-sex pair — two males or two females. If it's a male-female pair, one or both should be spayed or neutered to prevent unwanted babies. It doesn't matter, as they get along quite nicely together.

Just be sure to get a larger cage than you may have gotten for one guinea pig, as two together can be quite active when they play.

Question: What is the best flea control for my bunny? He stays indoors and is potty trained, but I saw a flea on him when I was brushing him the other day. I think the fleas came in on one of my dogs. I use Frontline on my dogs. Can I put a few drops of it on the bunny also?

Answer: Being so close to

PETS Q&A

the ground, a bunny is in a very good position to get fleas. Frontline is harmful to bunnies and should never be used on them. I hear varying reports about the safety of other flea controls on these animals, but I prefer to err on the side of caution, and I keep all of these products away from my bunnies.

You can get flea sprays for bunnies that use the active ingredient pyrethrin. This is toxic to insects and fish but harmless to warm-blooded mammals. Just spray the bunny all over, being sure to reach the skin. Keep it away from his face and eyes. After the bunny is dry, comb him all over with a flea comb to get rid of any dead fleas.

Question: Why does my cockatiel walk across the bottom of his cage but my canary just hops across the bottom like a person in a sack race? Is there something wrong with his legs, or do canaries do this?

Answer: Actually, there is nothing wrong with him at all. Most small birds do not walk by putting one foot ahead of the other like larger ones do. They are always in a hurry to get from one place to the next and, when you are so little, you can cover more ground faster

by hopping rather than taking little baby steps.

Hands off!

This time of the year, I get this phone call time after time, all day long:

"Hello, there is an abandoned baby bird in my yard. Can you help it?"

"Does it have feathers and are its eyes open?" I ask.

"Yes!"

"Well it is not abandoned and does not need help. Just leave it alone, and its parents will feed it on the ground."

"But it is in the middle of my lawn!"

"Well then gently scoop it into a shoe box and carry it to the back of your yard and place it under a bush so it is out of sight."

"But then the mother will not care for it if it has my scent on it" ... and the conversation goes on and on.

When baby birds leave the nest, they cannot fly. They flutter out and hide somewhere. The parents feed them one at a time for a week or so until they can fly. So if you pick one up and bring it indoors, you have effectively kidnapped it. In addition, you have broken the law. Wild birds can be cared for only by those who have federal and state permits to do so.

The best thing you can do for the bird is to get it out of plain view to protect it from predators.

Do not worry about leaving your scent on it (most birds have very little sense of smell)

Gardens: Sprout up around the state

FROM 1L

meeting in February packed the Story Mansion with students and community people excited about sharing the gospel of gardens. Since then, 1,000 New Gardens has held a seed potluck at the Lindley Center to exchange seeds and garden-planning tips.

On recent spring weekends, they've helped get nine backyard gardens started, torn out sod where necessary, and hauled about 15 truckloads of composted horse manure to gardeners who want to improve their soil.

They've torn out the lawn in the backyard of the city-owned Lamme Street house just west of the new Bozeman City Hall to make way for the city's third community garden.

The sod-cutter they used was "a jackhammer of a machine," Smith said.

The backyard will be transformed into about 21 garden plots, said Brit Fontenot, the city's neighborhood coordinator and assistant to the city manager.

"There's a large resident population in Bozeman that really digs gardens," Fontenot said.

The city has 30 or 40 people on waiting lists for its two existing community gardens, the West-lake Garden behind Van's County Market and the Langhorn Garden off Mason Street, Fontenot said. It's exciting, he said, to have a group that's motivated and ambitious to create the third community garden.

"We want to make the third garden a showcase," Fontenot said, "and show how cities can work with the community on projects that are grassroots." Actually, real grass roots are

something of an enemy to the 1,000 New Gardens movement.

"There's a place for lawns," Smith said diplomatically. But, he added, "I think in this country, lawns got really perverse. Slowly we lost that food culture. Now ... (lawns) are sucking up water, petroleum, resources. It's just a bad gig."

Smith, who is from Missoula, said 1,000 New Gardens started after he attended University of Montana classes on community environmentalism. He talked with a friend, Geoff Badenoch, about the need to preserve farm land around cities. Badenoch asked why they didn't look at the land inside cities that's unused or used for lawns.

In its first year last year, the original Missoula group created 30 gardens. Then Smith came to Bozeman to take advantage of a new MSU major in sustainable food and bioenergy systems. It

seemed fitting to him to start a chapter of 1,000 New Gardens here. Student environmental leaders supported the idea.

Gardening "becomes this addicting thing," Smith said.

Smith said 1,000 New Gardens also is hoping to work with the Gallatin Valley Food Bank to help low-income clients who want to grow food. He's also hoping to work with MSU to get partial tuition waivers for students who do a certain amount of volunteer work.

The biggest obstacle he's faced so far has been finding time for school work, his paying job at the Sweet Pea Nursery and organizing garden volunteers.

People have joined the group for a variety of reasons, he said. Some want to do something good for the environment, some want to know where their food comes from and some oppose giant herbicide and pesticide companies.

This Actual Marine Biologist* says:



King Crab is overpopulated!

Help solve this problem** by having the \$22.95 1 pound King Crab Special at the 3-D, which includes soup, salad, and a choice of sides!

*not an actual marine biologist
**the problem of a sad fate scientist

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