

Around Town

Glacier Bank event

Glacier Bank of Columbia Falls hosts its Customer Appreciation Day today (Thursday) from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Everyone is invited to stop in for free hot dogs, hamburgers and cake. You can enter to win a wooden bench rocker.

Farmers' market

The weekly farmers' market is held today (Thursday) from 4 to 7:30 p.m. at the corner of First Street West and Seventh Avenue West, a block off Nucleus Avenue in uptown Columbia Falls.

There will be vendors with booths featuring vegetables, fruits, etc. as well as prepared food vendors. Musical entertainment will also be featured.

Stamp Club meets

The Glacier Stamp Club will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 2 at the LDS Church, located at 1380 Whitefish Stage Road. For questions or directions, call 752-6110. Visitors and guests are welcome to attend.

Chamber golf scramble, BBQ

The Columbia Falls Area Chamber of Commerce holds its end of the summer barbecue and golf scramble on Sunday, Sept. 7 at Glacier View Golf Club in West Glacier. This is an opportunity to relax after a busy summer. It is the one time of year that the Chamber membership and friends get together for fun.

The 9-hole golf scramble begins at 2 p.m., and the cost is \$12 per player. There will be a barbecue at 4 p.m. with a choice of steak or chicken for \$15. Make your reservations by Sept. 3. Call 892-2072.

Valley Voices start

Valley Voices Community Choir begins its fall semester on Monday, Sept. 8. Practices are each Monday from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Flathead High School Choir Room in preparation for their Dec. 13 concert.

Come at 5:30 p.m. the first practice for sign-up and music distribution.

Membership is open to all teens and adults who enjoy singing choral music and will be committed to a regular rehearsal schedule. Auditions are not required.

For more information, contact Joan Lundy, 257-3046, or Dorothy Kendall, 752-0353.

Chamber meeting

The first gathering of the fall for the Columbia Falls Area Chamber of Commerce features the September membership meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 9 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the North Valley Hospital Community Room at 235 Nucleus Ave.

School District 6 Superintendent Michael Nicosia is the guest speaker, and he will welcome the new teachers in the district. The teachers attending will be introduced.

Cost of the luncheon is \$10, including gratuity, and reservations are not necessary. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Bret Bouda photos, inset: Chris Peterson

Avalanche Lake, Glacier National Park.

G l a c i e r Black and White

By CHRIS PETERSON
Hungry Horse News

He escaped from communism. Traveled the world. And now has made a full circle. Photographer Bret Bouda says that Kalispell and Glacier National Park is much like the home he left years ago.



Bret Bouda

Bouda has recently self-published a book of his favorite black and white photos of Glacier Park, entitled "Black, White, Glacier Classics."

Bouda's panoramas of the Park are taken with a digital camera, converted to black and white and in some cases, stitched together electronically for the full field of view.

Digital or not, the prints still exhibit the same rich blacks and sharp contrast of traditional black and white film.

Bouda said he's worked in black and white all his life. He grew up in former Czechoslovakia, defecting from Communism to West Germany in 1981 as an athlete on a visit.

His cousin, Milan Janata, a well-known commercial photographer, got him interested in the craft. But getting good equipment in a communist country was difficult unless you had money — and he didn't.

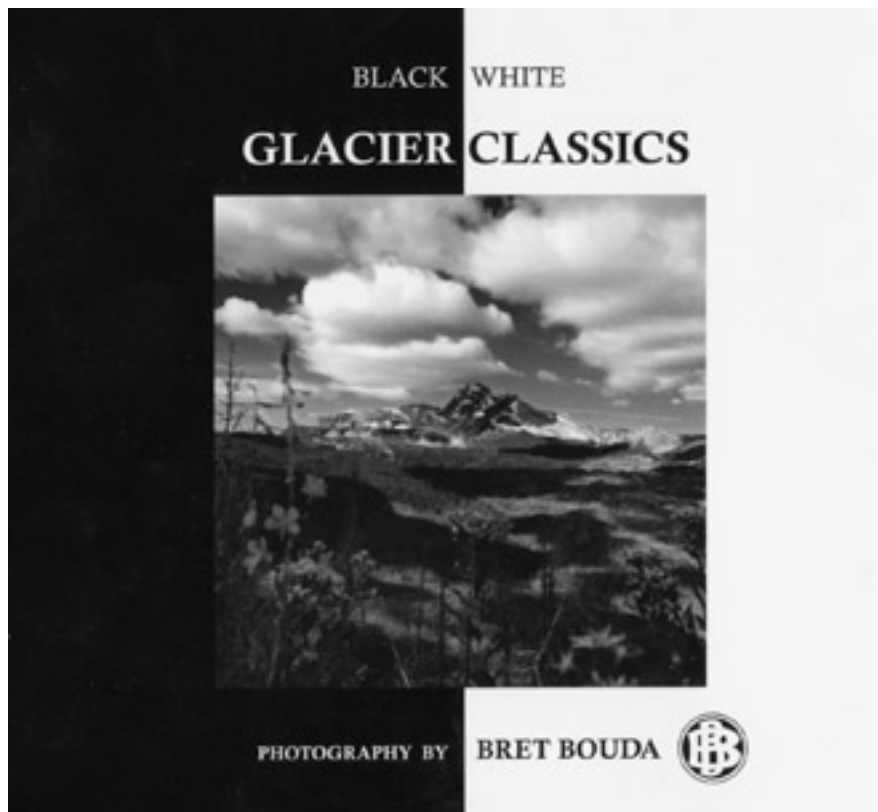
That's when he learned that equipment wasn't everything.

"It's not by equipment only," he said. "It's about framing a vision and how you see the world."

Bouda didn't make a living at photography. In Germany he got a master's degree and started his own construction firm where he did well. When communism fell he moved back to Prague and in 1994 left there for Australia and met his wife Karen, an American. They moved to the states and she held a job in the medical field that required traveling all over the U.S.

So Bouda did just that, but visited national parks taking photos as his wife went to conferences.

They eventually moved to Salt Lake City and Karen, in 2004, gave him a birthday gift — a trip to Glacier Park. The rest is history. Bouda fell in love with the place and they moved here in



2005.

He decided to become a full-time photographer this year, releasing the book just recently.

He hopes to sell a million copies. He

is not kidding.

He notes it's all marketing and Glacier is an international peace park. If just a fraction of the lifetime visitors to the Park purchase a book, he thinks it

possible to sell a million.

Right now the run is much shorter than that. Rome wasn't built in a day.

Bouda's book is small — he said he made it that way to keep the price down. But the prints he makes are huge.

They grace the walls of Glacier Park International Airport, Kalispell Regional Medical Center and Kalispell City Council's Chambers.

Bouda likes the print making process. It gives him complete control of his craft, he says.

Recently he overheard some folks in the hospital talking about his photos, admiring the craft.

"This is the reward," he says.

Bouda is also considering another picture book on historic places in Kalispell — a then and now look. He's also considering a book on the Park's glaciers.

He believes everyone is a photographer.

"Everyone has their own eye, their own vision," he said.

Bouda's book retails for \$14.99 and is available in local bookstores.

It was edited by Kalispell attorney Tom Esch. You can also view his work at www.digitalbroadway.com.



Big Prairie, Glacier National Park.