

# TRAVEL



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Wildlife conservation center has the goods.



**TAKE A SPIN THROUGH 'ACCIDENTAL WILDERNESS' IN NEW ENGLAND**  
Quabbin Park in is one of the many pleasures that reward visitors to western Massachusetts.

**BOTTOM'S UP IN ALEXANDRIA**  
Historic Beer Dinner is coming up.

ADVENTURE >> E10

ADVENTURE >> E7

DESTINATIONS >> E10

## ADVENTURE >> ROUGHING IT? NOT EXACTLY



PHOTOS BY STEVE HAGGERTY / DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Guests of Resort at Paws Up can saddle up and make the ride to the property's luxury tent camp, which is called the Encampment at Bull Creek.



### ARMCHAIR ADVENTURES >>

PAUL SULLIVAN

*Would you be willing to go back, be 18 again?*

**I**T'S AN OLD, favorite question, a bar-room standby and perennial conversation starter: Would you want to be 18 again, if you could?

Sure, it's silly. You are perhaps a multiple of 18—like me—and don't have that option. But it is entertaining to think about.

I mention it because five of us old (yes, both meanings of the term) friends were dealing with a hot day at a pub in Frederick, Md., last summer when I should write about it.

"Well," I countered, "What about it? Would you want to be 18 again?"

I went around the table. There were no takers.

This was too easy. I thought I'd have a little fun with it.

In the world of the impossible anything is possible. So I stipulated that the one condition in this time machine is that you could not be 18 again and know anything learned by the mistakes of a lifetime.

"So why wouldn't you want to be a healthy, vigorous 18, if you

SEE SULLIVAN, PAGE E11

# Play a luxurious game of cowboy in Montana

BY ANNE Z. COOKE  
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

**GREENOUGH, Mont.**—From where I sat, on a log in front of a crackling campfire near Bull Creek, deep in the heart of Montana's Lolo National Forest, all the world seemed wilderness.

Above us, the night sky was alight with stars. Beneath our feet, the piney scent of freshly scuffed earth summoned a long-forgotten memory, an echo from ancient days when primitive people gathered together after dark, not in front of a television but around a communal campfire.

Under any other circumstances, you'd have thought that the nine of us, a group of sometime-adventurers from California, New Jersey and Texas, were roughing it. But this was the Encampment at Bull Creek, the luxury tent camp run by the Resort at Paws Up, a guest ranch and resort 30 miles east of Missoula. Accessible only by horseback, the Encampment was a new concept, the kind I could get used to.

For most of my life, camping has

SEE MONTANA, PAGE E11



Newlyweds Tom and Brenda Sabin pet her horse, Hawkins, on the way to the Encampment at Bull Creek.

### HIT THE ROAD

#### parks

**RIDES CHANGING**  
Universal Orlando says Spidey will soon go high-def. The park announced plans Thursday to reanimate the Spider-Man ride in digital high-definition. Universal also said it will close its Jimmy Neutron-themed ride this summer and replace it with a 3-D attraction based on "Despicable Me."

#### transitions

**IRISH-AMERICAN MUSEUM ON MOVE**  
The Irish American Heritage Museum is moving 25 miles, leaving East Durham in the Catskills for Albany. It opened 25 years ago in the hamlet known as the "Irish Alps" for its Irish pubs and shops. It has been summer-only, but officials say it will switch to year-round in Albany.

# Snag a pop-up deal, take flight

BY JOSH NOEL  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The only reason I went to Prague not long ago is that I had been sitting at my computer on a Tuesday afternoon in February.

While I was hammering away at my keyboard, a tweet popped up touting a major sale to Europe on Delta Airlines.

A few clicks later, I had bought a round-trip ticket to Prague for an astonishingly low price—\$350. A few hours later, those cheap fares were back up in the more customary \$800 range.

Such unannounced and unadvertised pop-up sales are becoming more common, said George Hobica, founder of [airfarewatchdog.com](http://airfarewatchdog.com), whose Twitter feed was the one that tipped me off.

More typical, however, is

SEE AIRFARE, PAGE E7

### 5 RECENT POP-UP ROUND-TRIP FARES

- \$391**  
Washington to Honolulu on American Airlines
  - \$140**  
New York to Stockholm on Delta
  - \$191**  
Boston to Portland, Ore. on Delta
  - \$199**  
Newark to Las Vegas (for July travel) on Southwest
  - \$238**  
Dallas to Los Angeles (for July and August travel) on American
- Airfarewatchdog.com




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## SULLIVAN: Would you OK personal time travel?

FROM PAGE E12

could?" I insisted, again posing it directly to each of them.

There was surprising unanimity. What it came down to is that we all—yep, me, too—knew what idiots we had been in those late teen years.

And the three guys among us went further. We knew we had been darned lucky just to survive that testosterone-fueled part of our lives.

The automobile, in particular, had almost been our undoing. Not once, but many times.

How we had made it through college, into adulthood, not to mention the other huge phases of life like parenting or military service, was a mystery.

**WE ALL—YEP, ME, TOO—KNEW WHAT IDIOTS WE HAD BEEN IN THOSE LATE TEEN YEARS.**

Our parents were from an earlier era, their lives disciplined by the deprivations of the Great Depression. They had little idea what it meant to turn teenage boys loose in cars. If they had only known!

A long life lies ahead at 18 for most Americans, and even now there is enormous opportunity in it. That part of doing it all over again would be great.

But those mistakes! Those absolutely stupid, embarrassing, painful and sometimes costly errors! We had all made them, not once but many times. But here's the point: We had all learned so much from them—learned the hard way.

We had all gone on to raise families, and spent so much time, effort and money trying to shield our own offspring from making those same painful errors in their lives.

Our order of beers and burgers came. The conversation shifted to other things. But I kept playing with the thoughts we had talked about.

Inevitably, my thoughts turned to my parents. They are gone now, but as I grew and learned, Mom's and Dad's lives appeared to change, too. Over a lifetime, I discovered in their lives an incredibly deep and complex set of problems and struggles.

And with this new understanding came a powerful new appreciation of my folks, and of the way they had tried to deal with their challenges.

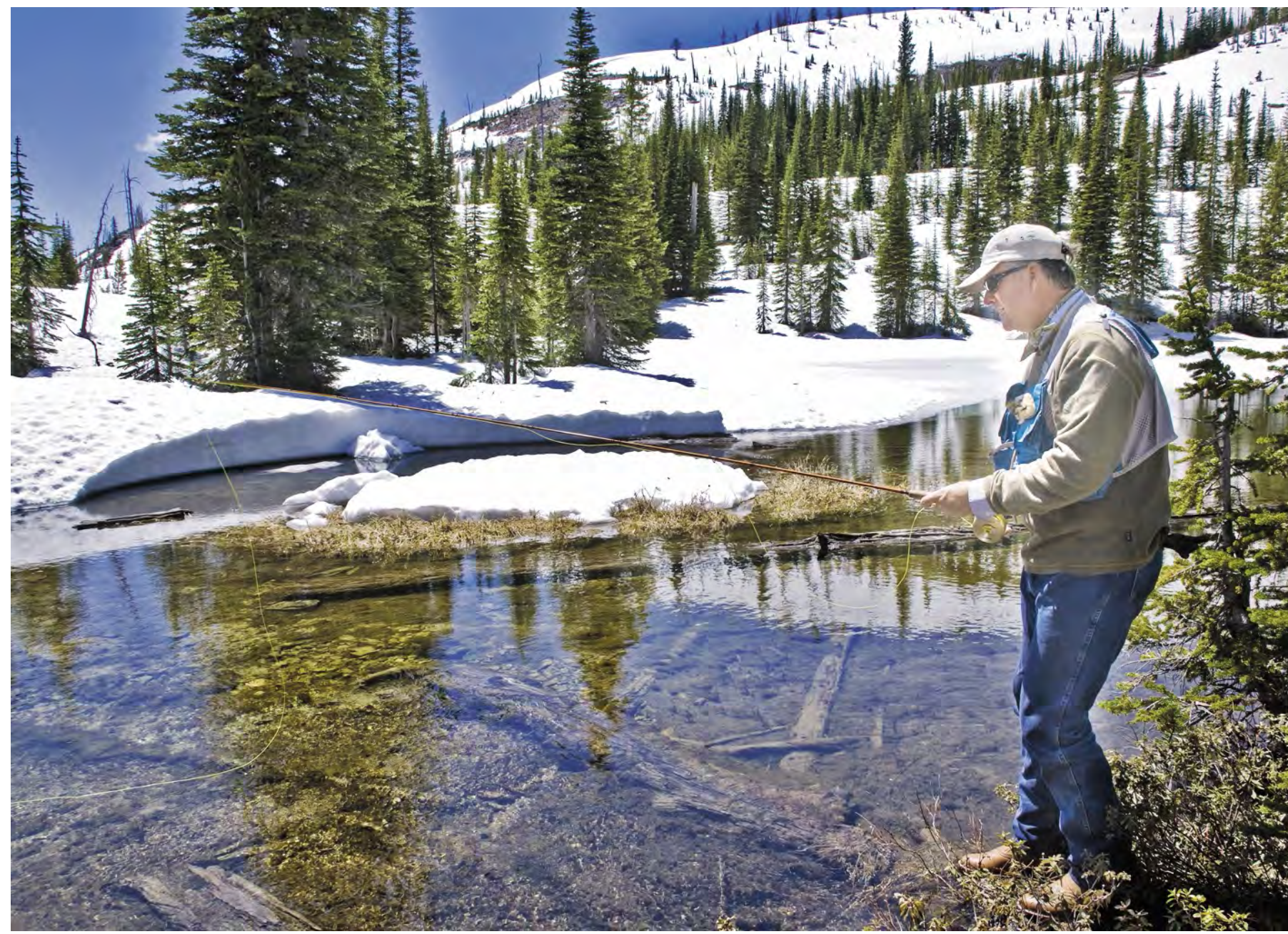
Eventually, I came to an understanding that while the culture and the technology has changed, the core problems of living and growing and raising a family remain largely the same for each generation.

Not to be overly philosophical about this, but life is one unending process of learning how to live . . . well, life.

Maybe that's why I always liked that old saying, "Too soon old, too late wise."

There are no re-takes on life.

Paul Sullivan of Spotsylvania County, a former reporter with The Free Lance-Star, is a freelance writer. Email him at [PBSullivan2@cs.com](mailto:PBSullivan2@cs.com).



MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

Tom Sabin fishes in Deadhorse Lake, at 7,200 feet. The area is still snowbound in mid-June. Breathtaking scenery and active pursuits are top draws for guests of the Encampment at Bull Creek in Montana. And the best part? There's no heavy lifting required on this luxury camping trip.

## MONTANA: Indulge in a cowboy adventure with big dose of pampering

FROM PAGE E12

meant getting down and dirty, usually on a budget. We've pitched tents in Colorado rainstorms, canoed across choppy Minnesota lakes and battled clouds of Canadian mosquitoes. We've subsisted on raisins and freeze-dried dinners and scoured pots by lamplight. But camping at Bull Creek is as organized as a Victorian tea party.

"You're going to love it," said Tira Beary, at Paws Up's main lodge, as she checked our family in to a three-bedroom cabin, our base camp for the duration.

"Camping's twice as fun when you don't have to do any of the work," she said.

### GIDDYUP!

The next day dawned bright and clear, a prescription for sunscreen. Hastily exchanging names with the four other guests on the ride, we piled into a shuttle van for the 27-mile drive to the horse corral and trailhead.

Stuffing our water bottles, cameras and aspirin into the saddle bags, we mounted our horses while wranglers Tyler Beach and Mike Billingsley rushed from horse to horse, tightening cinches and adjusting stirrups.

The horses, accustomed to the 12-mile walk on a trail that crossed three mountain ridges and four rushing streams, patiently fell into line behind Beach. I found myself near the rear in front of Billingsley.

With the corral receding behind us, we headed through the trees for a seven-hour ride that wound through the deep shade of old forests, crossed burned-out moonscapes (scenes of the previous year's forest fires), climbed alpine



Guests and employees toast newlyweds Tom and Brenda Sabin (holding champagne flutes) at The Encampment at Bull Creek, Resort at Paws Up, Greenough, Mont.

valleys and ascended rocky canyons. In midafternoon, we reached the Monture River, following it into camp.

### 'WELCOME TO BULL CREEK'

"Well, look at this," said Danny Clark, riding next to me as we crossed the meadow, scattering the family of deer whose territory the camp invaded. "I wonder which one is ours," he said aloud after sighting the tents.

Hearing us, Curtis Davey, the camp boss, an energetic and good-natured man in a checked shirt who was splitting wood, put down the ax.

"Welcome to Bull Creek," said Davey, grabbing my horse's bridle. "We're expecting you. When you've straightened out the kinks in your legs, get a cold drink and tell me about your ride."

At first glance, the Encampment at Bull Creek, accessible only by foot or on horseback, reminded me of the photos taken of 19th-century mining camps. Wet socks and towels hung on poles, storage containers

stood next to the cook tent, and a pile of firewood lay in the dirt.

Ten tents were pitched along the creek, five of them reserved for guests. The cook tent, really two large attached tents, stood in the middle, heated by an old-timey wood stove.

Long counters held crates of groceries and three propane stoves next to boxes, pots, frying pans and utensils stacked on two rows of shelves. At the rear, water from the creek supplied a purifier, the sink and a long drain board. A slab of wood served as lunch and dinner table, with benches long enough to seat seven on a side.

Two luxurious outdoor showers near the creek delivered enough hot water for a short but decent scrub, while the privy, with two canvas-shielded stalls, stood 100 feet away at the end of a narrow path. The stables, improvised for the summer, consisted of the corral, a long hitching rail and a shed for storing saddles, bridles and girths.

### SETTLING IN, RELAXING

Our duffles, delivered earlier by mule, had been placed in the tents, each outfitted with two canvas-slung cots made up with fresh linens and down quilts. We hung our coats on a nail, put the flashlight and topo map on the nightstand, dug out the mosquito lotion, and the housekeeping was done.

In the corner stood a compact stove and a stack of firewood, to be laid and lighted at bedtime by one of the wranglers.

Camp living is lovely when you don't have chores. We petted the horses, practiced fly-casting in the meadow, read a book in the shade, and hiked up the hillside.

At mealtimes, we hung out in the cook tent, laughing as the wranglers ribbed the cook, Sonia Carrillo, and one another. Carrillo, 38, who's been cooking for hunting and camping parties for 15 years, made good use of quality meats and produce sent up from Paws Up's restaurant, producing broiled steaks, salads, sauces, vegetable dishes

### WANT TO GO?

**GETTING THERE:** The Resort at Paws Up is 30 miles east of Missoula, Mont. The ranch is open year-round on 37,000 acres, at 3,700 feet elevation, with 12 miles of Blackfoot River frontage. Contact: 800/473-0601; [pawsup.com](http://pawsup.com).

**WHAT TO DO:** Warm-weather activities include riding lessons, trail rides, river rafting and tubing, spa treatments, hot-air ballooning, rappelling, fly-fishing, kids' camp, country-clay shooting and backcountry camping. The Encampment at Bull Creek, one of the most popular outings, is \$800 per person per night for three days and two nights. It's available May to October.

**AT THE RANCH, COST:** On-ranch lodging for 170 guests ranges from luxury log homes to meadow homes and in three luxury tent cities. Two-bedroom homes start at \$1,176 per night and include three full meals daily, airport pickup, 24-hour bell staff, an on-property electric cart and other amenities. Add \$75 for each child 11 and younger.

and cake, with wine or beer.

On our second day in the Encampment, Davey organized a horseback ride to Dead Horse Lake. We—most of us, anyway—kept our nerve as the trail navigated 50-degree slopes, teetered on cliff edges, jounced over rocks and roots, and crossed a melting snowbank suspended over the rushing Middle Fork of the Monture River.

Our last campfire came and went too soon. Meanwhile, the rest of our family had relaxed at Paws Up, enjoying the patio barbecues, al fresco spa treatments, bike rides and kayaking on the Blackfoot River. I'm sure we had a better time than they did. But to each his own.

### WHITE HOUSE SEEKS TO BOOST TRAVEL

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The White House on Wednesday sought to reassure travel industry leaders that the United States cares about tourism and hopes to push the industry as the country recovers from a

recession that left many without the means to spend as much on vacations and business trips.

Valerie Jarrett, senior adviser to President Barack Obama, told executives at the Global Travel & Tourism Summit that the U.S. wants to help make travel easy and safe, attract international visitors and spur business.

"All of these investments stem from a single belief: If it's easier to travel through the United States, more people will choose to do so," Jarrett said.

Global tourism took a big dip in 2009, with visitors around the world spending a combined \$283.5 billion less than they spent in 2008.

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