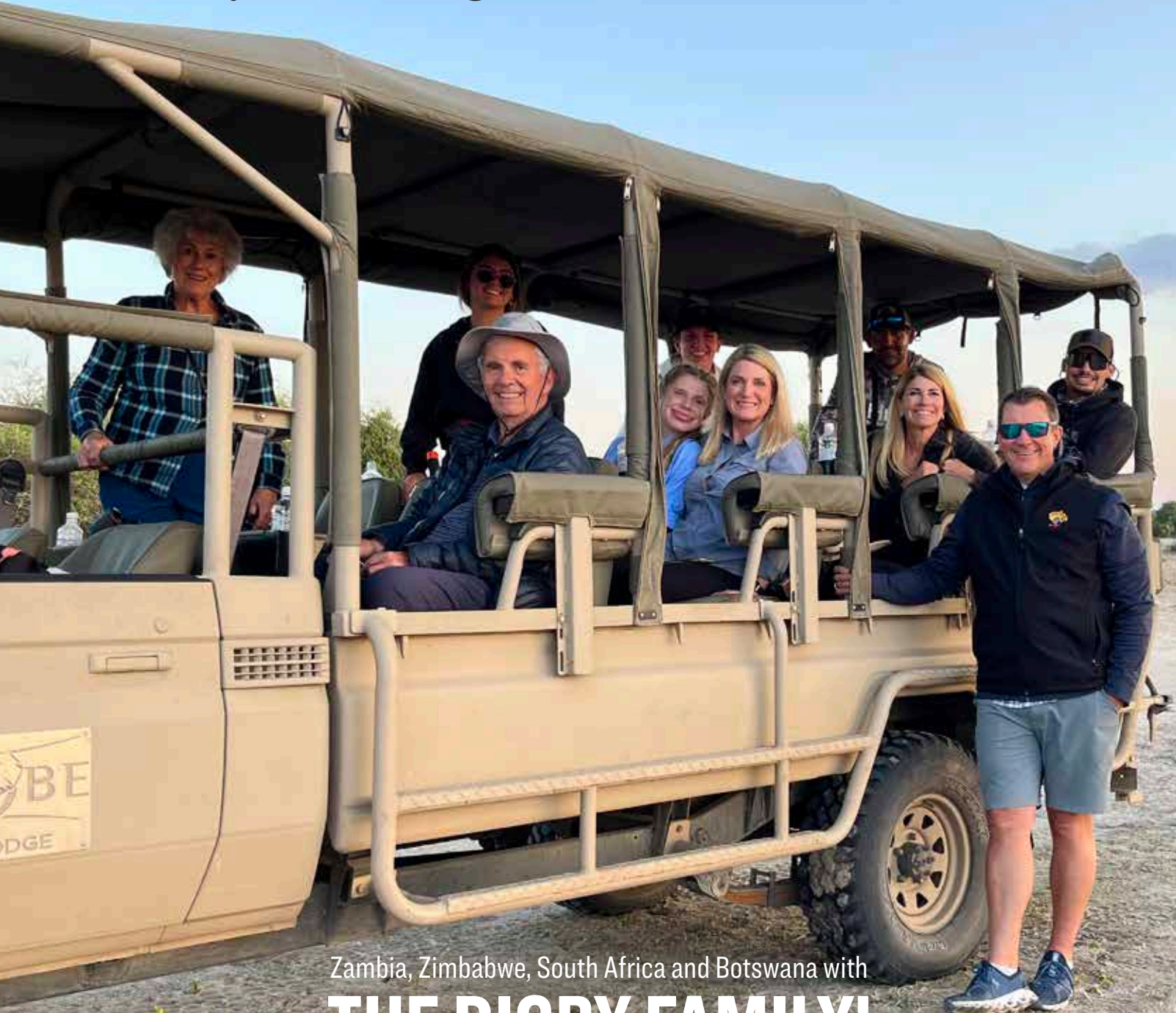


STROLL

Cherry Hills Village



Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Botswana with

THE DIGBY FAMILY!

DELIVERING NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS

MEET CARSON



Have you noticed the distinct sound of bagpipes in the neighborhood this season? If so, it's probably my 13-year-old son, Carson, playing some tunes. Our family moved to Cherry Hills Village last November, and we have loved that Carson can play his bagpipes in our backyard during the nice weather.

Most people say something like, "Huh – that's not your typical wind instrument" when they hear Carson is a bagpiper. But Carson became intrigued with bagpiping when he was in the first grade and heard local bagpiper, Lise Neilson, playing at a Presbyterian Church service on Reformation Sunday. After the service, she patiently showed Carson her bagpipes and explained how they worked. He was hooked!

We weren't sure how to proceed from there since 6-year-old Carson was about the size of a set of bagpipes, but Lise referred us to the Colorado Youth Pipe Band. The Colorado Youth Pipe Band (CYPB) is a nonprofit music education organization that teaches kids between 6 to 18 years how to Highland dance, drum and bagpipe through weekly lessons and band practice. (You can check them out at www.cypb.net — they are always welcoming new members, and kids don't need to have prior music or dance experience to participate.) Carson has been involved with the Colorado Youth Pipe Band for the past seven years. He loves the fun and sense of community the kids feel as they gather for lessons each week. The band got two first-place prizes at a pipe-band competition in August, and the sense of pride and accomplishment they felt was heartwarming. As parents, we love that he feels a sense of commitment to the group, which inspires him to practice his pipes regularly and show up to lessons each week. Finally, Carson loves the opportunity to give back to the community by sharing the music he plays on the bagpipes.

MCCONNELL!



To do this, Carson has been volunteering his solo bagpiping skills for events supporting important causes like honoring military, seniors and patriotic events. Some events he's played this year include the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary "Blessing of the Fleet" (promoting boating safety at Chatfield Reservoir), a charity golf event raising money for mental health services for veterans, and at a Flag Day ceremony at a senior

retirement community. One really neat thing that happened this past year is that he was asked to play his pipes with Lise Neilson at the very same church service where he first saw her play the bagpipes seven years earlier.

The bagpipes are a dramatic instrument that generate so many different emotions. It's been really special to see the past several years of Carson's hard work and dedication mark these important and meaningful occasions for people.