



# Charging Forward

By Corrine Casanova | Photos by Tommy Guy Photography

Michaela and Peter Picetti's family motto is charge it! I was intrigued. When I asked them what that meant, Michaela explained, "We tend to charge forward into things, not doing anything in small fashion. Everything we do ends up being a hit the ground running type of a situation. A few years ago, a home makeover turned into a complete gut and remodel—completely down to studs. And this spring, we bought a camper with the idea of completing some small upgrades. Soon, we were doing some serious renovating, and now we have a mid-century, Scandinavian camper." Peter elaborated, "Our vacations, too, involve a lot of planning, a lot of driving, and typically a lot of fishing. It's also meant to be ironic; last week, I was messing around with the dog, running in the backyard, and slipped and fell. Michaela yelled, 'you really charged it there, bud.'"

Michaela and Peter met in 2007 while attending The University of Montana in Missoula. They married in 2013 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where Michaela grew up. They have lived throughout the United States due to Peter's academic pursuits. First, around the Inland Northwest, and then for three years in Boston, as Peter obtained his MFA in poetry. They came to Reno six years ago when Peter was accepted into the Ph.D. program at the University of Nevada, Reno. Peter is completing his

dissertation on bibliography (a fancy word for scholarship about books and the printing press) and Renaissance poetry. In addition to finishing his Ph.D., he is starting his own construction company, PF Picetti Construction. I found it interesting that someone pursuing a Ph.D. in poetry would be passionate about construction. I soon discovered why. Peter smiled and explained, "I don't make anyone on the job site recite poetry, at least first thing in the morning. I have always loved



construction. I have a knack for dealing with complexities that accompany a custom home build. In an attempt at rationalizing a connection, I'd say both academic scholarship and construction require an intense attention to detail. It takes a great deal of drive and dedication to create something custom or unique—whether it be in academia or in construction." Michaela noted that Peter is the epitome of a renaissance man and that they embrace the importance of a multifaceted life. "Peter and I both enjoy the arts; we're both avid readers and writers in our own different respects. We enjoy the ballet and symphony. We love French cuisine. We also enjoy weekend camping and fishing, and Pete is an avid hunter."

"Even if you love fishing or hunting," Peter quipped, "you can still enjoy a little modern ballet."

"Michaela is also quite the intellectual, and probably a much better writer than I am," Peter laughed. Michaela has established quite a career as an account executive at MNG Partners, a boutique advertising, marketing, and public relations firm located in Nevada. Michaela loves working with business owners to understand and grow their business.

Michaela and Peter, though, couldn't be more excited to tell me about their infant son, Finn, and how he has become so foundational—rooting them in faith, in their careers, in Reno. Even Lola, their chocolate lab—a bird dog obsessed with pheasants and tennis balls—has found a new infatuation! "He's just been a little light for us and for our family in this difficult year. Being a new parent is a wild ride, but he is such a gift," shared Michaela, "Our hope for Finn is that he embraces the same well-rounded lifestyle that we try to live."

The Picettis purchased and renovated their camper just two weeks before COVID-19 hit. Peter said, "We camped an insane amount in the summer. So, in many ways, it was a blessing in disguise. We didn't just make the best of the situation; we had an awesome time. It turns out our son Finn is wired happy. We will drive throughout the night to get somewhere, pull a long weekend, and drive all the way back. He's a pretty happy dude in the car, hanging out with mom and Lola."

"We tried to find places off-the-beaten-path to stop for breaks," Michaela said, "so Finn could eat and roll around. Then we hop back in the car and he's good to go. We want him to be exposed to a myriad of new things as he grows up. No matter what we'd like to see for him and his future,



it's wonderful to see now that he's just the happiest kid—always has the biggest smile on his face. We really couldn't ask for anything more."

The Picettis shared their love for Reno and why they plan to stay here. "We love how Reno is encapsulated by these transitional spaces: the high alpine environment juxtaposed with the high desert. It amazes us how Lake Tahoe and Pyramid Lake couldn't be more different but are connected by an amazingly beautiful river, and we're in the middle." They also love Reno for its small-town vibe, with large market benefits. "When we moved to Boston, it was culture shock in a huge way. We didn't have a car, truly lived a pedestrian lifestyle, and quickly became accustomed. We were nervous about moving to Reno but fell in love with the culture. It's the best decision we could have made." They tell me Reno has afforded them the ability to live a well-rounded life. And a life in a wonderfully accepting community, as they assure me the people in Reno have been more welcoming than any other place they've lived.

It makes me happy knowing this supercharged family loves Reno and isn't moving anytime soon. There couldn't be a better time than now to live that philosophy of charging it!

