By JEANNIE TYRRELL
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The Yosemite Climbing Association will be honoring local rock climber Brad Gobright on Jan. 14 with a book signing event — which will be the first of its kind for the Yosemite Climbing Museum in Mariposa.

The book titled “The Greater Fool” was written by Lucas Roman. Roman is a long-time friend and one of Gobright’s climbing partners.

“Brad got into a repelling accident in Mexico in November of 2019, so the book is a biography about his life,” said Yosemite Climbing Museum manager Hannah Fleetwood.

Fleetwood explained Gobright unfortunately died in the accident in Mexico and the Yosemite Climbing Association is honored to host the event to memorialize him.

“He was a Yosemite Valley legend for sure,” she said. Fleetwood also said she moved to Mariposa several years ago and started volunteering at the Yosemite Climbing Museum at the beginning of the year.

“I just stopped by the museum, just because I went past it all the time and I kept thinking I needed to stop and check it out,” said Fleetwood.

She said she walked in and met the Yosemite Climbing Association founder Ken Yager, and before long she committed to becoming a volunteer — which turned into a paid full-time position at the museum.

“Now I’m the museum manager and it’s been a lovely journey to be a part of. Seeing the museum evolve and grow with time has been exciting,” said Fleetwood.

When Fleetwood spoke about the museum’s upcoming exhibit dedicated to sharing Gobright’s climbing journey, she shared a personal story that connected her back to the climber himself.

“Gobright was pretty popular in the rock climbing community. I used to work in the gift shop at the Yosemite Valley Lodge, so I used to serve him everyday and it’s one of those things that hits close to home,” she said.

Fleetwood said the event in honor has been coordinated with the help of Gobright’s parents and Roman himself.

“They are going to be coming up to Mariposa. I think it will be a great opportunity for people to come listen to Lucas speak about Brad. Hopefully Brad’s mother Pam will do some speaking too,” said Fleetwood.

Fleetwood added drinks and appetizers will be available for attendees and the event will double up as a memorial for Gobright.

The exhibit will feature some of his climbing gear as well as images that were taken during his famous feats.

Doors for the book signing event will open an hour early for Yosemite Climbing Association members on Jan. 14, from 12 to 1 p.m. The event will be open to the general public from 1 to 4 p.m. Visit www.yosemiteclimbing.org for additional information about the event.