



# BLACKHAWK NEWSLETTER

## *BOD Meeting Update*

The BHR POA Board met on January 27, 2024. Art Jackson, treasurer, reported that the Operational Budget has \$91,720.19 that includes 2024 dues and the Forest Service deposit of \$31,842.51. The budget will be readjusted to account for this deposit. There are \$9,100.33 in delinquent dues. Jim Nance Roads Chair reported that work continues to reduce the grade on the intersection of South Mountain Drive and Rugby Mines Road from 23% to 13% at a cost of approximately \$15,000. He noted that road base in 2024 would be applied to Darby Spur, Corey Spur, west of Darby Spur on Rugby Mines Road, near the end of Bear Spur, and near the intersection of Wapiti Drive and Pinon Spur. Brad Brooks, chair of EMC, stated that he is now working on the Community Ten-Year Wildfire Protection Plan. He reported a number of road incidents because of the snow and mud. Art Jackson is updating our Policies & Procedures to remain compliant with CCIOA. Nancy Pasternak and Jim Angelillo will review and revise new compliance measures: septic system permits, well registrations, work permits, and copies of Certificates of Occupancy. Under New Business, the board is investigating ways to provide WiFi to all areas of the Ranch. The full minutes can be accessed from the link on the left.

### *Important Links*

- [Blackhawk Website](#)
- [Blackhawk Facebook](#)
- [Covenants](#)
- [Driveway and Building Compliance Forms](#)
- [Contact Information](#)
- [BOD Meeting Minutes and Monthly Financials](#)

Editor: [Susanne Bloomfield](#)  
Reporters: Nancy Pasternak and Rayann Brunner.

## *Snow Removal on Blackhawk*

by Kelly Alcorn, Snow Captain

I am writing this on a beautiful, snowy day here on Blackhawk Ranch. If only none of us had to leave our homes on these snow days! The Snow Captain's job is to arrange for a snow removal vendor to help keep our roads safe for travel in a properly equipped vehicle when it snows. We have contracted with a company out of Trinidad, B.A.M.M., for snow removal on our roads this year. They had a tour of the Ranch with some of the POA Board members in late summer, agreed on a contract, and then waited for the snow to fly! The decision for snow removal on Blackhawk Ranch can be challenging. If snow is predicted over night for the following day, the vendor is contacted the night before to make sure they are in the "ready position." We have cameras placed around the ranch with property owners' permission to help evaluate snow depth.

## *THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW*

*The BHR Dues Deadline has passed. Overdue interest & fees began accumulating February 1, 2024.*



There are currently cameras on the following properties: Bloomfield, Alcorn, Brooks, Nance, and Kenney. Two more will be placed around the Ranch. When snow begins overnight, it's very helpful to use these camera views early in the morning, so no one has to get up and go outside to measure snow at 4 a.m. I can rely on these for a first look and have a pretty good idea of what is needed. If the snow on the roads (not your yard or your deck) measures six inches (the height of a license plate) or more on the ranch, B.A.M.M. is contacted. B.A.M.M. has a grader parked at our main entrance and the driver comes from Trinidad, warms up the machinery, and starts moving snow by 6 a.m. so some residents can get to their jobs.



Please be mindful that this is not a perfect process by any means, and with a new vendor there is still a learning curve even when the driver is armed with maps and lists of roads. Alex and his assistant, Dannie, start by plowing the main roads — 4 Mile Canyon, Rugby Mines, Lower Mine, and Wapiti — followed by the lateral roads. Sometimes they will need to make a first swipe to make the roads passable, returning the next day to clear more and widen. Sometimes they cannot widen a road if there is nowhere to put the snow. They are not required to work at night or during a blizzard due to safety concerns. B.A.M.M. has been willing to make things right as a new provider, and we have been satisfied with their answers to our questions and concerns so far. They certainly worked hard during the last storm of

20 inches on the road!

I have learned a lot as the new Snow Captain, and I continue learning. I still don't know all the nicknames like the "T", the mule shoe, and the slide. Each snow is different and decisions need to be made. I truly wish that each road could be plowed at the same time, but it just doesn't work that way. Plows cannot be everywhere at once, and we want them to clear the snow as efficiently as possible. Thanks again for your patience. Our goal is for everyone to be safe on the roads here at Blackhawk Ranch.

## Road Report

by Jim Nance



The roads on Blackhawk Ranch can always be challenging despite the efforts of the BHR Board to make them safer. The major project that we completed this year was the repair of the 4 Mile Canyon "slide," reducing the grade percentage from 16% to 11%. Trees were also cleared to allow more sunshine on the roadway to melt the snow and ice. We are also in the process of completing the repair of the Rugby Mines "slide" at South Mountain, lowering this grade from 23% to 13% when completed.

Although we have had no reported incidents at those two locations, we continue to have many vehicle issues throughout our Ranch.

Please check on the road conditions before arriving and keep in mind that if the road looks impassable, it probably is. Always plan for difficult situations, carry extra food/water/warm clothing, and have some equipment to help you out of your predicament. Tow ropes or chains and even car floor mats would be useful.

Also, remember that computer road mapping software does not always recommend the best and safest route. It appears that most of the unfortunate incidents during bad weather are a result of poor choice, insufficiently equipped vehicles, and driving too fast. Although many residents on the ranch are willing to help, it may be difficult to reach someone as there are many areas on our ranch without cellular service. Always tell someone you are coming and about what time you expect to arrive.

This year, 2024, should be a very good for road maintenance. We have a slight increase in our annual road budget with some additional funds from the BHR Board's fire mitigation efforts in a joint cooperative effort with our state firefighters.



Projects currently

planned for this year include the following:

- ◆ Adding road base to Rugby Mines, 3/10 of a mile west of Darby Spur, including some parts of Darby Spur. This is a very well known and slippery area in the winter with multiple vehicle incidents.
- ◆ Finishing up the Rugby Mines "slide" at South Mountain.
- ◆ Completing additional road work on South Mountain.
- ◆ Straightening out a portion of the "S" curve on Rugby Mines.
- ◆ Repairing a small section of Bear Spur, very messy in the winter.
- ◆ Repairing a smaller slide project on Corey Spur. It is one of the steepest on the Ranch.
- ◆ Adding road base on a short section of Wapiti south of Pinion Spur that is very slippery in the winter.
- ◆ Adding road base on 4 Mile Canyon from Timber drive 1/2 mile north. This will finish road base on 4 Mile Canyon from the North Gate to Timber Drive.
- ◆ Regrading many sections, including the north end of 4 Mile Canyon and many others.
- ◆ Cleaning more culverts.

It is difficult to say that all of these projects will be completed this year, as there are many things that may come up during the year. However, I am excited about the projects scheduled for this year and hopeful for a few others as well.

***\*\*Please be mindful of our road maintenance signs placed for your safety.***

***\*\*Please report any unsafe conditions.***



## *A Moment in Time*

by Nancy Pasternak

Did you know that the Works Progress Administration, (WPA) completed many infrastructure projects and buildings in Huerfano and Las Animas counties during the depression years of the 1930s? The WPA was established by executive order on May 6, 1935, during President Franklin Roosevelt's first term in office as part of his New Deal plan to create jobs and lift the country out of the Great Depression. During its 8-year existence, the WPA put 8.5 million persons to work until 1943 at a cost of 11 billion dollars. By 1943, 650,000 miles of roads, 125,000 buildings, 75,000 bridges, 8,000 parks, and 800 airports were built in the "lower 48" as Alaska and Hawaii were not admitted to statehood until 1959.

One project was completed on Blackhawk Ranch, a stone wall that can be seen from Four Mile Canyon Road. This wall bordered a dirt road connecting the area at the top of the "Camel Back" to County Road 312/Rouse Road. A remaining portion of this wall can be seen on the north side of Four Mile about half way down from the intersection with the letters "WPA" carved into the stone. Check it out!

Another prominent and popular attraction built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, (the working arm of the WPA) is County Road 46 that takes you over Cordova Pass. The road is located west of Aguilar and Gulnare and can also be accessed from the west side just south of Cuchara. Before the road was finished in 1934, it had been used as an Indian trail and by pioneers as early as the 1880s. As you travel the 36 miles of dirt road, you will come to the Apishapa Arch rock tunnel built by the CCC through one of the dike walls that radiate out from the Spanish Peaks. At the top of the pass (11,005 feet), you will find the trailhead for the West Spanish Peak. Fields of wild iris and other wildflowers are scattered throughout the drive. The pass is not plowed in the winter and is not navigable from November to May or late May. The road is full of ruts and it is recommended that four-wheel or all-wheel drive vehicles be driven.



Fort Wootton was built in Trinidad containing seven stone masonry buildings. The grandstand and buildings at Fiesta Park were erected in Walsenburg along with the post office. Seven new bridges were built in Huerfano County to assist traffic during periods of flooding. The city hall in Aguilar was constructed by the CCC along with a gym/auditorium combination building for the school district. The Maitland Arroyo Bridge on State Highway 69 near Gardner was another infrastructure project that contains six 20- foot long spans with masonry abutments.

The New Deal was a "win-win" scenario for the citizens of this country and for the men and women who were employed, restoring their self-dignity, pride, and ability to provide for their families and themselves.

## *Meet Your Neighbors*

by Rayann Brunner



Ron and Kelly Alcorn are passionate about the outdoors with a love of hiking and biking, so moving to Blackhawk Ranch was a natural choice for them. Before committing to making their purchase here nearly two years ago, they went under contract twice on a house closer to town. In the end, that property was not meant to be their home, so they ended up here on BHR, Lot 124.

Ron and Kelly arrived at BHR from Littleton, Colorado, where Ron had a custom furniture business with a national distribution market, and Kelly worked as a Certified Medical Assistant. They have one son, Caleb, and a daughter-in-law, Anna. They also have

an 8 year old granddaughter, Madalyn. Although they love BHR, they admit that they miss living closer to their family. When I asked how long they had been married, they had to stop and think about it, but they are pretty confident it has been an impressive 41 years.

Ron and Kelly chose BHR as their retirement home because they loved the house, the peace and quiet, and they wanted to get away from the growth of the metro Denver area, especially the town where Ron was born and raised. They love all the stars at BHR! Now that they have been here nearly two years, they appreciate how wonderful, kind, and friendly everyone has been, and they love the access to the outdoors. They stay busy walking their dog, Obi, around the ranch and working on fire mitigation on their property.

When they aren't working on their property, or helping with the community mitigation on BHR, Ron and Kelly stay busy with golf (Ron) and gardening (Kelly). In addition to gardening on their property, Kelly also gardens on a plot at the Community Garden in Walsenburg. She keeps a worm farm with approximately 5000 worms! Currently, Ron and Kelly are training for a bike tour of Texas Hill Country where they will ride about 200 miles in just a few days.

This year, Kelly took on the enormous task of becoming the BHR Snow Captain. In addition to the need for securing a contractor, Kelly also took on this task in a year that has already seen multiple major snowstorms on the Ranch. We owe Kelly a huge thanks for her work on snow removal, and since we all know she is not doing this job alone, thanks also go out to Ron for being part of this terrific team working hard this winter to keep our roads clear. The Alcorns are a kind, compassionate, hard working couple, and we are happy to have them as part of our BHR community.

## Broadway Theater League of Pueblo

by Rayann Brunner

If you are a fan of Broadway Theater, you should know that just an hour up the road from BHR is the Broadway Theater League of Pueblo. Every year, several touring Broadway shows make a stop in Pueblo at the Pueblo Memorial Hall. We recently attended the Broadway tour of *Chicago*, and we were delighted with the experience.

Pueblo Memorial Hall sits in Downtown Pueblo. Parking nearby is plentiful and free, and a number of good restaurants are within a short distance if you decide to make an



evening of it. The Memorial Hall is a lovely and ornate building with orchestra and balcony seating. It is a small enough venue that there would not be a bad seat in the house.

The Memorial Hall also serves snacks and drinks, including beer, wine, cocktails, and non-alcoholic drinks, all of which can be taken into the theater to enjoy during the performance. Snack offerings include pretzels, popcorn, and chips. For the performance of *Chicago*, a 15 minute intermission allowed the opportunity to grab a beverage and hit the restrooms with very little wait time for either concessions or restrooms, both before the show and during intermission.

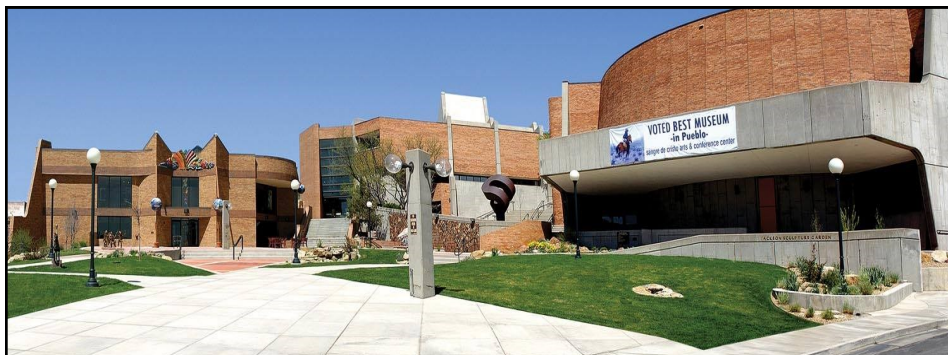
The Broadway Theater League has two more upcoming shows this Spring, so if you are interested, there is plenty of time to make plans. On Tuesday, March 19, *Come From Away* will be showing, and on Friday, April 19, there is a showing of *Little Women*. More information and tickets are available online: <https://pueblomemorialhall.com/event-genres/theater/>

## Sangre de Cristo Art & Conference Center: Part I

by Mary Stading

The [Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center](#) in Pueblo has numerous classes and offerings for every member of the family. Starting in January, I began a Wheel Throwing ceramics class. The class explored the basics of throwing pottery on the wheel. No experience was necessary. During the first few sessions, students had a chance to become comfortable with the medium, tools, and terminology of pottery. My class includes students who have never thrown a pot to those who have a greater skill level. Sarah Stanifer, the instructor, creates a safe environment to learn and express your creativity no matter your skill level. The community of learners has been supportive, inspiring, and fun. As I was exiting my pottery class, I came across an art class designed for veterans. They use various art mediums and disciplines.

The Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center has offerings for the entire family. Drop by and check out their events, classes, and theater presentations. Members are admitted free, Adults are \$10.00, Children are \$8.00, and Military and Seniors 65+ are \$8.00. Tickets can be purchased online. The Center is located at 210 North Santa Fe Ave, Pueblo, CO 81003 (719) 295-7200.



If you are interested in exploring your creative side at Sangre de Cristo, here are just a few of the upcoming offerings and events:

**Saturday, February 17th**

Art Expression, 2 pm to 3:30 pm

**Wednesday, February 21st**

Hand Building Clay Class, 3 pm to 5:30 pm

**Saturday, February 24th**

Art Expression, 2 pm to 3:30 pm

The Hellen Thatcher Galleries offers several upcoming exhibitions.

**February 2 to June 29, 2024**

"In the Round Sculptures and Textiles" from the collection of Western Art by Francis King

**February 2 to April 13, 2024**

"Landscapes of the Vessel" by Andy Nasisse

**February 2 to March 30, 2024**

"Photographic Fusion: Artistic Journey through Nature" by Kathi Drummond