



# BLACKHAWK NEWSLETTER

## 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 Bruner

## BOD Meeting Update

The BHR POA Board met on August 5, 2023, at the home of the president, J.P. Angelillo. Art Jackson, treasurer reported that June expenses totaled \$6,250.00 for management expenses and road maintenance costs and the year to date expenses were \$23,727.54. Road Chair, Jim Nance stated that among other projects, he has plans to apply 4/10ths of a mile of road base between Darby Spur and Fisher's Peak Drive, and have some work done on the "slide area" near the intersection of South Mountain Drive and Rugby Mines Road. The next meeting of the BHR Board of Directors will be on Saturday, October 14, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. If you wish to attend, contact [president@blackhawkranch.org](mailto:president@blackhawkranch.org). Links to the minutes and financials can be accessed on the left. Access the links on the left for the full Minutes as well as the Financials.

## Weed Patrol

by Susanne Bloomfield, Weed Chair

October is the perfect time to attack the second growth of noxious weeds, especially musk thistles



and mullein, since we had a cool, wet spring. If either have already headed out with seeds, it is best to cut the seed heads off and dispose of them in a plastic bag. The weed committee is also making a second, fall spraying of the weeds bordering the BHR roads.

## THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW



## A Special Community

By J.P. Angelillo, President



I have yet to meet everyone in the Blackhawk Ranch. Therefore, I am not fully aware of what is important to each of you and why you chose to live here. This is my first term on the Board, after living two and a half years on the Ranch, and I have to say, it is a wonderful place to spend our time. It is quiet, beautiful, unique, and somewhere Debra and I call home. We wake every day thinking we are at an Airbnb and wonder when our checkout date is.

I wanted to let everyone know that being on the Board has opened my eyes to how differently we all might see the Ranch, and especially the duties of the Board. Every member of the Board, from the first Board to today's Board, are volunteers. Whatever amount of time that is required to make the Ranch run smoothly and whatever it takes to try and meet the property owner's needs is what we do. Can we make every property owner happy, all the time? No. But, we try.

Even if you are not on the Board, you are part of the community. A special community. One that is extremely different than most places we have all lived throughout our lives. Challenges exist that one doesn't face in the city or suburbs. Just shopping for your groceries, buying something from the hard-

ware, or attaining medical care can take three hours or more. Even trying to find good workers to help maintain your property can present a dilemma. But we live here because we find it to be a special place. It gives us each a feeling of wonder each day we look out at our 35+ acres. Some days we have wildlife in our backyard. Some days bring beautiful sunrises and sunsets. Other days bring some crazy winds. Each day is different but filled with joy and serenity.

That all said, I would like to know if there are any requests from the property owners that the board should be aware of. Some might say this is opening up Pandora's box. Even though we might not be able to accommodate wishes from all the property owners, I feel it is important to at least ask. So, if you do have something on your mind, or a recommendation or request, please feel free to send your thoughts to [president@blackhawkranch.org](mailto:president@blackhawkranch.org). I will do my best to respond in a timely manner, or in some cases, I may have to ask another Board member to respond for me, depending on the topic.

In closing, I want to reiterate one thing. All those that live here full time; all those that use their property seasonally; and even those that might never visit, all have a duty to make BHR a friendly, peaceful, and safe place to live. This includes being fair, reasonable, and honest. It also includes being respectful and understanding. It is not easy to live here as I said earlier. Everything that we must do to maintain our living conditions takes far more work than if you live in a city or suburb. We need to be lenient with each other while we follow our dream to live here. And, it is a dream. A wonderful, beautiful, and peaceful dream. Treasure your time here.

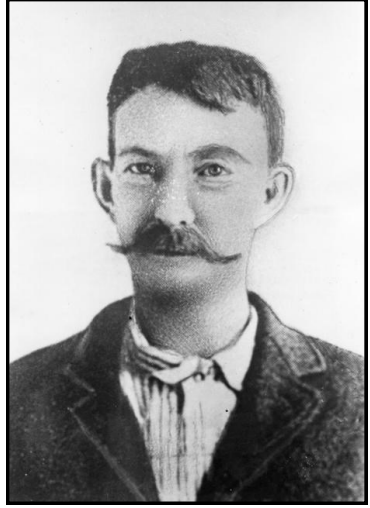
## A Moment in Time

by Nancy Pasternak

Did you know that the man who shot and killed Jesse James once lived in Walsenburg? Bob Ford, the shooter, admired Jesse James, the Confederate war hero and outlaw, who was hiding out in St. Joseph, Missouri, in 1881 using the name Tom Howard. At that time, most of his gang members were either dead or in prison. James, in need of money, recruited Bob Ford to help him rob a bank in the summer of 1881. However, following that robbery, the \$10,000 bounty on James and instant celebrity for the person who captured or killed him proved to be too tempting for Ford. The legend of Jesse James came to an end on April 3, 1882, when Ford shot a single bullet to the back of James's head.

By 1885, Ford and his wife, Dot, had moved to Walsenburg where he operated a saloon and gambling hall on Seventh Street near his home at 320 West 7th Street (a small white house that has been a State Farm Insurance office for decades). Drinking and gambling were on the lower floor with a dance hall and "scarlet women" on the top floor. When Ford was drunk, he enjoyed shooting out saloon lights and streetlights. Some people say he was finally run out of town while others say he left for Creede, Colorado, when silver was discovered there. Ford and Ed Kelley had become deadly enemies over an incident in Pueblo. On the afternoon of June 8, 1892, Kelley entered Ford's tent saloon in Creede to enact revenge. He found Ford with his back to him and called out "Hello Bob," and as Ford turned around, Kelley unloaded his shotgun into Ford's neck. So, Kelley became notorious for being "the man who killed the man who killed Jesse James."

History enthusiasts who want to see physical evidence relating to Bob's rowdy behavior can go to the Francisco Fort Museum in La Veta, Colorado, and examine the bullet scars on Ford's original Walsenburg bar. In September of 2007, the movie *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Bob Ford* starring Brad Pitt was released into theatres. It was based on an historical novel by the same name published in 1983 by Nebraska writer, Ron Block.



## Meet Your Neighbors

by Rayann Brunner



The owners of Lot 166, Rick and Val Swinchoski, met me for breakfast recently at Exit 30 Cafe and warmly and openly shared with me the story of how they came to Blackhawk Ranch. Rick and Val were married 43 years ago on the Island of Guam. Val is semi-retired after 22 years of performing therapeutic massage. Rick retired from 20 years of military service including several Embassy duties and numerous submarines. After retiring from the military, Rick worked as a mail handler and a fork-

lift instructor for the U.S. Postal Service.

Rick and Val have two children of whom they are clearly very proud. Their daughter Jessica is a Project Manager in Colorado Springs, so they are able to see her often. Their son, Thomas, is a graduate of the Air Force Academy. Thomas is a pilot in the Air Force and was recently promoted to Major. Rounding out their family is a sweet rescue German Shephard, Loki, who has been known to make an appearance at social events on the Ranch.

When they decided to pursue a dream to purchase property in Colorado, Rick and Val were living in Vermont. With the help of their daughter, they begin researching options, and they were immediately impressed by the BHR roads, the unrestrictive covenants offered by BHR, and that BHR was a Fire Wise community. They purchased their property on September 11, 2020, sold their home in Vermont, and moved to Colorado. Since becoming part of the BHR community, the Swinchoskis have been impressed with how warm and welcoming everyone has been, and they love the sense of volunteerism on the Ranch with neighbors helping neighbors and the Ranch as a whole. When asked about their favorite part of living at Blackhawk Ranch, they were split between the community and the views.

Currently, working on property improvements on their land occupies much of the Swinchoski's free time. When not improving their property, they enjoy cars and antiques. They are members of the Porsche Club, and they have a side business buying and selling antiques in Colorado Springs.

The Swinchoskis look forward to building on their property in the future, but for now, they love to spend time working on it, making improvements, enjoying the views, and socializing with their neighbors. They are active in the BHR community, and their friendly personalities and willingness to help others makes them a wonderful asset to the Ranch.



## *Bear Facts*

By J.P. Angellio

On August 1, we hosted a Bear Facts presentation. Bob Holder, Colorado Parks & Wildlife Manager for Las Animas County and Spencer Gerk, Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) Manager for Huerfano County were our presenting guests, both experts on bears and their behavior. They covered everything from what bears eat, how to live harmoniously with them, to how dangerous it is to feed bears, and how to protect yourself. Please see these two videos that I took during the presentation. Thanks to Ron and Gail Lovely for initiating the event and Jennifer Kordick who put together the following summary.



- \*\*\* All tagged bears have two tags.
- \*\*\* All previously tagged bears that CPW is called to pick up will be destroyed.
- \*\*\* Things that are necessary when living in mountains: bars on house windows, car windows up all the way, cars locked, food up, bear spray for protection.
- \*\*\* Remember the bear isn't being a nuisance, it is being a bear, and some bears cause problems.
- \*\*\* Each tagged bear has a number. Try to get that number if you need a bear removed.
- \*\*\* Bears are in *Hyperphagia*, the period when bears are feeding up to 20 hours a day; one berry at a time, one piñon nut at a time, one chicken at a time.
- \*\*\* Noise does not necessarily detour bears. Some bears are not bothered by the noise. Noise + sting (i.e., rubber bullet) is what detours bears.
- \*\*\* If you don't have rubber bullets, Bob Holder or Spencer Gerk may be able to assist.
- \*\*\* Baiting bears is illegal.
- \*\*\* It is legal to trap, kill, or otherwise dispose of bears or mountain lions without a permit in situations when it is necessary to prevent them from inflicting death, damage, or injury to livestock, real property, a motor vehicle, or human life.
- \*\*\* If you kill a wild animal for one of the above reasons you also need to call Colorado Parks & Wildlife or 911 once you are safe.
- \*\*\* Some Colorado residents can purchase an Over-the-Counter (OTC) [Bear Rifle License](#) with additional tags for archery and muzzleloader seasons online through , in-person at CPW offices and sales agents.

Contacts: Bob Holder, Colorado Parks & Wildlife Manager, Las Animas County (719-680-1410); Spencer Gerk, Colorado Parks & Wildlife Manager, Huerfano County (719-989-1027); Colorado Parks & Wildlife (303-297-1192); and Colorado State Patrol (303-239-4501).

## *Wining and Dining*

by Rayann Brunner



When our youngest son turned seventeen recently, we let him choose where we should have dinner. For him, it was an easy choice – Fuel & Iron Food Hall in Pueblo. Opened in July 2023, Fuel & Iron occupies the historic Holmes Hardware Company building at 400 South Union Avenue. The concept of the food hall is to allow entrepreneurs to try new concepts, hone their recipes, and develop business management skills. As a result, the restaurants occupying the food hall are expected to change periodically providing a changing assortment of dining options. Fuel & Iron is set up with a central bar area serving beer,

wine, and cocktails and five unique restaurants, plus a coffee and ice cream shop with a large variety of offerings. Food and drinks are ordered from the individual vendors, and most vendors use a texting system to let customers know when their food is ready.

Currently, the occupants of Fuel & Iron are Solar Roast Coffee & Ice Cream, Mosh Ramen, Diavolo Pueblo Hot Chicken, Santa Fonda, Steel Crescent Kitchen, and the Hungry Buffalo. On our most recent visit, we chose to try offerings from Steel Crescent Kitchen and the Hungry Buffalo. From Steel Crescent, we chose the Muffaletta sandwich, which was delicious and easily serves two or more people. We also ordered a caprese salad, which was the special of the day and used a creamy and smooth homemade mozzarella cheese. From the Hungry Buffalo, we had the Colorado burger, a bison burger with goat cheese and roasted green chiles, and the Bison Slopper, an open faced bison burger, generously smothered in Pueblo green chile. Everything we had on this visit and previous visits has been fantastic, and we love the beautiful historic building that is home to Fuel & Iron. If you are in Pueblo, this is a great place to visit, and with generous hours, seven days a week, it is a convenient stop no matter when you are in town.