

June 15, 2024



BLACKHAWK NEWSLETTER

BOD Meeting Update

Important Links

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Bloomfield, Marian Brooks,

Mary Stading

The BHR POA Board met on April 27th, 2024. Roads chair Jim Nance described several plans to improve the BHR roads. EMC chair Brad Brooks advised that the CWPP team has made some progress, but are struggling due to recent resignations in cooperating agencies.

At the June 1st meeting, Jim said that he will be unavailable through the summer, so Brad Brooks and Ron and Kelly Alcorn will make any required decisions in his absence. Brad stated that reports for the May 7th fire were posted to the BHR website. At both meetings, Treasurer Art Jackson reported that the ranch is operating well within it's budget. Access the links on the left for the full meeting minutes and the financials.

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

The Blackhawk Annual Meeting will be held at the La Veta Mercantile on August 24, 2024 at 9:00am. An information packet will be mailed out soon!

Musical Fourth of July Parade and Rolling Party

by Anne Ebie



We are extending a cordial invitation to all Blackhawk Ranch owners and visitors to the inaugural Musical 4th of July Parade and Rolling Party!

The party will commence at the Ebie's (parcel #163) at the end of Twin Ridge Dr. on July 4th at 11 AM, where mimosas and bourbon will be provided as we

assemble. The parade will kick off with a short march around the Ebie's driveway circle to a live rendition of the Star Spangled Banner (in the key of Bb). Any musicians wishing to participate in the marching band should plan to attend a rehearsal hosted by Dan Ebie at parcel #163 on July 3rd at 4PM. Any instruments welcome!

The parade will then proceed by vehicle (car, truck, ATV, UTV, tractor, horse, etc.) to the Lovely's (parcel #164) where we will have cold beer, beverages, water, fruit and a light appetizer. From there, we will proceed to the Swinchoski's (parcel #166) on Gonzales Canyon View, where there will be another break for Buffalo hot dogs. The parade will continue down Gonzales Canyon View to Four Mile Canyon, then on to Bear Paw Spur to the Ryan's (parcel #112) where Sloppy Joes and sodas will be provided. Then the parade will proceed back up Bear Paw Spur to Four Mile Canyon to the cul-de-sac on Wapiti, the Butters's (parcel #48), where we will enjoy beer and popcorn. Parade goers are encouraged to bring lawn chairs for the refreshment stops, as we do not want to break the parade formation.

From the Butters's, the parade will proceed back down Wapiti to Four Mile Canyon, then on to Rugby Mines Road, where the parade will end at the Brunner's (parcel #146). The Brunner's will provide salads, desserts, sangria, and beer. Ray Butters, as master of ceremonies, will award prizes for most patriotic vehicle, animal, and person.

A Facebook event will be created for RSVP's. Hope to see you all there!

Meet Your Neighbors

by Rayann Brunner



Tim and Sidney Kurtz are some of our newest neighbors on Blackhawk Ranch, having moved on to Lot 149 two months ago to the home formerly owned by Jim and Kim

Stevens. They joined us from Evergreen, Colorado, which both consider home. In fact, they met in school in Evergreen when they were in the 7th grade!

Tim has two sons in Colorado, and Sid has a daughter in Colorado and a son in Kansas City. Tim has seven grandchildren! They initially began looking for a home and property in the area after Sid's daughter moved to Trinidad. Both Tim and Sid are remote workers, still working full-time from home, and it occurred to them they could work from anywhere. They knew they wanted land, so they began looking for properties last July.

They first saw the listing for the property on BHR last August, and from August to January they kept coming back to the listing. Finally, in January, they made the decision to visit the property, and they had the good fortune of getting a tour of the home and property from Jim Stevens. As you may know, Jim built the house himself, and not only did he do a great job, but he was justifiably proud of his home. Per Tim and Sid, Jim really sold the home to them through his personal tour. They appreciated Jim's commitment to building a quality home, and they liked the fact they had a well, generator, and all the amenities they needed to move right in.

Now that they are settled, Tim and Sid are enjoying ranch life and working remotely from their home. Sid is Operations Officer for the Evergreen National Bank and Tim does AutoCAD drafting for a land surveyor. Tim and Sid have two cats, and when they are not working, Tim enjoys photography, and Sid enjoys bird watching. They both love the quiet and the people, and they have become regular attendees at ranch socials where we all enjoy getting to know them.

Welcome to BHR, Tim and Sidney!



Birds on Blackhawk Ranch: Part I

by Susanne Bloomfield and Marian Brooks

Many Blackhawk residents have bird feeders across the Ranch, and they enjoy making lists of the different birds that visit. Over thirty different kinds of birds have been sighted on Blackhawk Ranch. In the next two articles, we will share with you the many beautiful and unique feathered visitors who share our forests and meadows.



Most people are familiar with these common birds that we see regularly on our Ranch: Robins, Brewer's Blackbirds, Ravens, Stellar Jays, Mourning Doves, Red-Tailed Hawks, Chipping Sparrows, and even Wild Turkeys and Turkey Vultures.



Hummingbirds are the ones who excite people the most, especially in the spring, with some residents having as many as six feeders that these tiny birds buzz excitedly around. Four species of hummingbirds can be seen in Colorado: the Broadtail (top left) the Rufous (bottom

left), the Calliope (top right), and the Blackchinned (bottom right). The most common are the Broad-tailed, and the Rufous, who usually arrives a little later than the others, around July and August. The less common species are the Calliope and the Blackchinned hummingbirds. Watchers note a definite "pecking order" among these tiny birds as they vie for a position on the feeder with the Rufous Hummingbirds being the most aggressive.



The Bird Conservancy of the Rockies suggests that if you wish to feed the hummingbirds that you keep the feeder very clean, replacing the solution every three to five days, more often in hot weather. Fermented or moldy sugar water may cause the hummingbirds not to return to your feeders. To prepare hummingbird nectar, mix one part pure white cane sugar with four parts water. If you want to make large quantities, boil the solution and refrigerate it. They caution not to add red food coloring or honey, as the honey could result in the bird's death.



Another colorful family of birds found on Blackhawk are the Grosbeaks that arrive in Colorado from Mexico. They are seed-eating passerine birds belonging to the finch family. Their large seed-cracking bills allow them to crack even the toughest fruit and seeds. Black oil sunflower seeds are their favorite food at bird feeders, but they also forage on grasshoppers and beetles, and they love to splash in birdbaths or shallow ponds.



These birds are known to be very aggressive to any species that get too close to their feeders, and even the females will attack another female if she gets too close to her male partner.



The Blackheaded Grosbeak (top), the Evening Grosbeak (center)

and the Rosebreasted Grosbeak (bottom) build such flimsy nests that the eggs can often be seen from the bottom. The male and female often take turns incubating the eggs. Evening Grosbeaks feed mostly on seeds and buds while Blackhead Grosbeaks will eat insects as well. The Rosebreasted Grosbeak often returns to the same breeding area every year.

Bear- Proofing Your Environment

By Mary Stading



Black bears lived in the foothills and forests of Colorado long before humans arrived. Black bears and humans are trying to share space with an ever-growing human population. It is only natural

that human- bear encounters are on the rise. Get into the habit of being bear-responsible. It's like recycling, at first it takes a little effort but soon it becomes a better way to live.

Here are a few tips from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife:

- Be responsible about trash and bird feeders.
- Burn food off of barbeque grills and clean after each use.
- Keep all bear-accessible windows and doors closed and locked, including home, coolers, garage, and vehicle doors.
- Don't leave food, trash, coolers, air fresheners or anything that smells in your vehicle.
- Pick fruit before it ripens and clean up fallen fruit.
- Talk to neighbors about doing their part to bear responsibility.

If a bear comes near your home, do your best to chase it away. Yell, blow a whistle, clap your hands and make other loud noises. NEVER approach a bear!



Most conflicts between bears and humans can be traced to easy-to- access human food, garage, pet food, bird food or other attractants. When bears are unable to find food, a bear's natural drive to eat can overcome its wariness of humans. Never leave trash or recyclables out overnight.

You can get a bearproof home audit check list from Colorado Parks and Wildlife. CPW will also provide deterrents such as M-80s that can be used to scare off a bear. (<https://cpw.state.co.us/>)

What should you do if wildlife gets too close to you, and you get scared?

BE SMART!

S - Stop! – Do not run, if you do the animal may chase you.

M - Make yourself look big. Put your hands over your head or pull your jacket or shirt out wide. Look as BIG as you can so the animal thinks you are too big to mess with.

A - Announce firmly, "Leave me alone!" This lets the animal know you are a person, and lets people around you know that you may be in trouble.

R - Retreat by backing away slowly. Do not turn your back on the animal.

T - Tell the appropriate people who need to know or report an incident to authorities about your encounter.

For more information or to report an incident call Wildlife Management, 719-989-1027 (Spencer, the Wildlife Officer for our area) or 719-561-5300 (main office).

Enjoy the outdoors and stay safe!

The Pueblo Creative Corridor

by Mary Stading

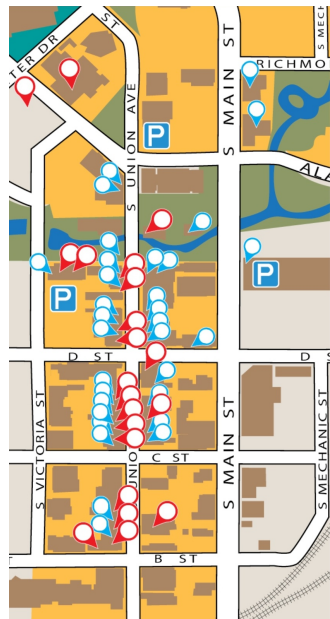


Each month since July 2007, the First Friday Art Walk has invited visitors to stroll along the Pueblo Creative Corridor to explore local art galleries and enjoy live musical performances on the first Friday of each month. The creative corridor includes parts of Downtown

Pueblo, the Union Avenue Historic Commercial District and the Mesa Junction areas where galleries, public sculptures and murals abound.

The Pueblo Creative Corridor's First Friday Art Walk begins at 5 P.M. on the first Friday of each month. The VanGO Art Shuttle buses travel around the Creative Corridor with step-on, step-off serving at 12 favorite locations. All activities associated with First Friday Art Walk are free.

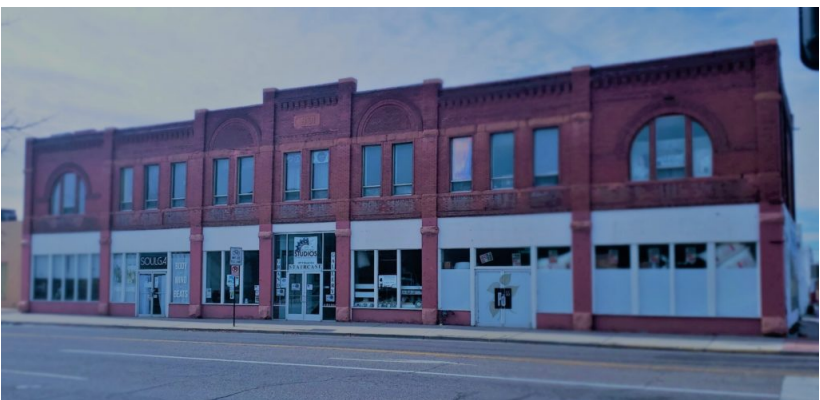
Pueblo's First Friday Art Walk provides more than paintings, photography, fiber arts, sculpture, glass and pottery. Many galleries and shops have special demonstrations of live art activities. There will be newly hung shows, refreshments, live music and entertainment. Participants can create their own free walking tour of a variety of locations by starting at one gallery, picking up a Creative Corridor Explorer's Guide and traveling on to another destination after mingling with the artists. There are many galleries in the Union District, and many restaurants and bars to enjoy, all within walking distance.



A map from the Pueblo Arts Alliance Explorers Guide

After my first "First Friday Art Walk", it was apparent that one cannot visit all 35 galleries in one evening. The VanGO shuttle has a route and schedule, but there were times when I waited fifteen or twenty minutes for the shuttle. With the distances between some of the galleries, or with inclement weather, I feel walking is prohibitive. When I do my next First Friday Art Walk, I will select my galleries, plan my route, and drive to each selected gallery.

Free guides are available in galleries and participating businesses. For more information, and the VanGO Route Map, visit at PuebloArt.org, Pueblo's First Friday Art Walk - Pueblo Arts Alliance, or www.facebook.com/PuebloCreativeCorridor



Pueblo Arts Alliance Studios & Creative Industries Collective