



BLACKHAWK NEWSLETTER

Important Links

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Editor: [Susanne Bloomfield](#)
 Reporters: Nancy Pasternak,
 Rayann Brunner, Mary Stading.

BOD Meeting Update

The BHR POA Board met on March 30, 2024. Treasurer Art Jackson reported that because of the repeated heavy snowfall since the beginning of the year, plus the possibility of another spring snow and early winter snows, removal costs for 2024 could reach \$22,000, over budget by at least \$12,400. Last year's budget came in 7.2% under budget by \$6,074.87, and there was also grant income of \$31,842.50 for a total of \$37,917.38. Jim stated that his 2024 road projects include some culvert cleaning and road base applied to the following areas: towards the end of Four Mile, at the intersection of Four Mile and Bear Paw Trail, Darby Spur and 3/10 of a mile west of Darby Spur on Rugby Mines Road, a couple of loads on West Ridge, the south side of the hill south of Pinon Spur, and a half mile before Timber Drive. In his EMC report, Brad Brooks explained that a team to rewrite the CWPP was chosen and the effort to rewrite the BHR 10-Year CWPP is now in full swing, but since it is a very large project, he anticipates that it may be as late as May or June before it is completed and approved by all of the agencies and stakeholders involved. Access the links on the left for the full Minutes as well as the Financials.

New Newsletter Editor

by Susanne Bloomfield

After editing the *Blackhawk Newsletter* since its beginning on September 1, 2014, I am retiring, and Amber Laugesen, one of our newer residents, will be taking over. Interestingly, that same year, Cissy Severance began the Facebook page and Art Jackson created our new website. However, I will still be contributing Newsletter articles, chairing the Weed Committee, and helping with the Emergency Management Committee, so I will still stay active on BHR. I would like to thank all of those who helped over the years, contributing articles, ideas, and editing suggestions.



Everyone will be receiving a short questionnaire soon asking for input on *Newsletter* content, delivery, and scope. We especially need everyone to update their email addresses with tammy@shoeboxsbas.com if you wish to continue to receive newsletters. Please respond to help us improve "your" newsletter. In addition, you may contact the new editor with any questions, suggestions, or ideas for articles at amberlaugesen@gmail.com

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW
The Blackhawk Annual Meeting will be held in La Veta on June 8, 2024. Registration at 9:00 a.m. & General Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Call for Candidates

by Paul Brunner, Vice-President

This year, our annual Blackhawk Ranch POA Meeting will be held on June 8, 2024, at the La Veta Mercantile. We look forward to seeing many of you there, and we hope it will be a productive and informative meeting. Soon, you will be receiving your meeting packet via mail, and in the packet, you will find a ballot for the election of three new board members.

If you have thought about running for a position on the Board, now is your opportunity. We will have three vacancies this year, and I hope you will consider putting your name in for election.

If you are interested, please send a statement of interest and a brief biography to Tammy Smith at tammy@shoeboxbas.com. **Statements are due on May 1, 2024.** The statement will be included in the annual meeting packet. The statement should include information on your qualifications and why you believe you would be a good fit for the Board.

Serving on the Board for BHR is a great way to have your voice heard in our community. Each board member serves a two-year term, and the Board has 6 regular meetings a year with notices posted to our website, plus occasional meetings to discuss urgent matters. We value the input of all our property owners, and we appreciate the me and sacrifice our volunteers make to improving our community.



A Good Year for Noxious Weeds

by Susanne Bloomfield, Weed Chair



All of the snowfall that we have received this winter will be wonderful for the trees, prairie grasses, and wildflowers on Blackhawk Ranch this spring. Unfortunately, the weeds will thrive, too!

Colorado state law requires control of all noxious weeds. Although all property owners are responsible for the inspection and control of noxious weeds on their own properties, the Blackhawk Ranch Board, assisted by volunteers, has assumed the responsibility of spraying for these weeds along the road setbacks (30 feet from the center of the road on each side) twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall. With the help of volunteers, we spot spray noxious weeds, using Millstone herbicide to manage infestations. Individual property owners may rent a POA backpack sprayer filled with herbicide to help control weeds on their own properties.



With both sides of about 34 miles of roads to patrol, we desperately need more volunteers, if only for the setback along the road on your own property. Current volunteers who have agreed to help my husband and me include Art and Wendy Jackson, Brad and Marian Brooks, Nancy Pasternak, and Cricket Sutter. BHR will furnish and mix the herbicide for volunteers in a container that can be placed in the back of any UTV, a large, four-wheel ATV, or even the back of a pickup truck. Attached sprayers on long hoses will reach into the roadsides. Individual backpacks are also available if you wish a smaller sprayer.



If you would like to volunteer to help spray weeds on even a segment of the Ranch roadsides, contact me: stbloomfield@hotmail.com.

Noxious Weeds on BHR

The most common weeds on Blackhawk Ranch include [Scotch Thistle](#) (top photo), [Common Mullein](#) (second photo), [Houndstongue](#) (third photo), [Russian Knapweed](#) (bottom left photo), [Canada Thistle](#) (bottom middle photo), and [Musk Thistle](#) (bottom right photo). Noxious weeds can grow several feet in height and act like ground cover, rapidly consuming large areas of land and killing native grasses. Please visit the [BHRPOA website](#) for more information on noxious weed management on Blackhawk Ranch.



Resources:

[Noxious Weeds | Blackhawk Ranch Property Owners Association](#)

[Colorado Department of Agriculture - Noxious Weeds](#)

[Noxious Weed Species](#)

[Colorado Weed Management Association](#)

[Huerfano County Noxious Weed Plan](#)

[Las Animas County Weed Management Plan](#)

[Blackhawk Ranch Noxious Weed Management Plan](#)

A Moment in Time

by Nancy Pasternak

Did you know there are six state and national parks within 100 miles of Walsenburg, and that the oldest state park in Colorado is Lathrop State Park just a few miles west of Walsenburg? It has over night camping spots and two lakes (one for power boats and the other for canoes, kayaks and floating devices), plus a public golf course and café, visitor's center, and spectacular views of the East and West Spanish Peaks. The visitor's center number is 719-738-2376.

There are two state parks near Trinidad. Fisher's Peak State Park is the newest park in the state, and Trinidad has the Trinidad Lake State Park. At Trinidad Lake there are boat ramps and 73 modern campsites for RVs and tents. There is a state-of-the-art children's playground, and a group picnic area that can accommodate up to 60 with tables, grills, fireplaces, and electricity in lighted shelters. There are 18 miles of trails, including 1.5 miles that are ADA compliant. Horses are allowed on the South Shore Trail. There is a visitor's center and retail store. For more information call 719-846-6951.

About 20 miles from Raton, New Mexico, you will find Sugarite Canyon State Park on State Highway 72. Fishing is allowed in the two lakes, Lake Alice and Lake Maloya. There are two campgrounds, Lake Alice and Soda Pocket. Lake Alice has full hook ups, but Soda Pocket does not. Boating, hiking, horseback riding, and hunting are allowed in the park. For more details call 575-445-5607.

La Vista campground near Lake Isabel is located in the Beulah Valley northwest of Colorado City on Highway 165. The campground is next to the lake, and fishing, canoeing and kayaking are allowed. Brown and Brook trout are stocked in the lake. There are 25 camping sites located in a meadow on the west side of the lake. Some sites are ADA accessible. Shady pines and aspen trees are scattered throughout the campground. At 8,600 elevation, the area provides for cool summer days. The 15-mile Cisneros Trail is open to ATV riders. For more information call 719-269-8500 or for reservations: 877-444-6777.

Great Sand Dunes National Park is about 20 miles north of Alamosa, Colorado. For a seven day pass it cost \$25.00 per vehicle. There is a visitor's center with bathrooms and showers nearby. Sand boards and sleds can be rented in Alamosa. The visitor's center number is 719-378-6395.



Meet Your Neighbors

by Rayann Brunner

David Burton had long thought about purchasing a rural property, and the Covid pandemic was a contributing factor for Amber and Adam Laugesen to partner with him to pursue the purchase of their property. At the time, Amber and Adam were living in Lakewood, Colorado. David, Amber's brother, was living in Texas, but his heart was in Colorado. He had always loved Colorado and the mountains, so when Amber was browsing Zillow one night, looking for any place that seemed as though it would have mountain views, she came across the listing for Lot 92 on North Mountain.

When Amber first saw the listing, her thought was "No way can the views be this good," so she and Adam drove down from Lakewood to see the property, and David purchased it sight unseen in 2021. David did not actually see the property he had purchased until two weeks before closing. The three of them packed up and moved from Lakewood and Waco to finally fulfill their dream of living on a rural property in the mountains.



Now that the three of them have been residents of BHR for a few years, they not only love the amazing views, and the quiet, but they also love the community. They appreciate how helpful everyone is, and they use the word "blessed" to describe how they feel about living in our community.

Prior to moving out to BHR, David served in the military where he was deployed to Iraq. He retired from the Army and now enjoys blacksmithing, working in his wood shop, and enjoying the peace of BHR. Adam previously

worked for Lockheed Martin where he worked on the Mars Helicopter, the flight test instrumentation team, and other space programs. Amber is a licensed cosmetologist who is in the process of developing her own skincare line featuring natural ingredients that she hopes to eventually grow in a garden on their property.

All three of them enjoy video games, and Adam was previously #6 in the world at Guitar Hero! Amber and Adam also enjoy singing and acting, and they are hoping to get involved with a local theater in the area. In the meantime, Amber will be exercising her creative side as she takes over BHR newsletter duties from Susanne Bloomfield who has put together this newsletter for the past 10 years. Thanks to Susanne for all her hard work, and thanks to Amber for stepping up to volunteer in the BHR community. We are always grateful for our awesome neighbors who do not hesitate to jump in and make our community a better place to live.



Sangre de Cristo Art & Conference Center: Part II

by Mary Stading



Have you been to the Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center? If not, you are missing out. As a bit of history, the creation of the Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center first began in 1964. In just eight years, working tirelessly through many struggles and a devoted group of Pueblo citizens, the Art Center came to fruition.

The Center was a major civic improvement for the business area of Pueblo. Before,

as visitors exited from Interstate 25 onto the Santa Fe exit, there was a huge junk yard with massive piles of tires, an automobile parts store, and a semi-abandoned old building. The positive impact of the building of the Arts Center cannot be over emphasized.

Before the Arts Center was open, the board contracted with Keith Willis to have him offer dance classes. Within three weeks of the opening, other special activities were offered, such as weaving, painting, leather tooling, and ceramics.

The Art Center opened its doors on June 4, 1972. The Art Board's goal was to "imagine a diverse home and center for the arts in Pueblo." Financial support came from the United States Congress and Senate, grants, and matching funding from the Department of Commerce. This meant Pueblo County had to come up with \$750,000 beyond its other request. State grants and private monies were secured to complete the Art Center, so local, county, city, and Southern Colorado Economic Development District support was essential.

When the Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center opened in 1972, the vision for the new community center was that of a multi-dispensary center for the arts. The original two building complex housed a single gallery, a five hundred seat theater, studio/classroom spaces, a dance studio, and a conference/banquet facility to provide income.



In July of 1972, along with Pueblo Parks and Recreation, the Arts Center produced "West Side Story" for its first Summer Musical. The production was said to be a delight to the audience. Other dance productions are held regularly.

One of the Art Center's focuses was on art experiences for children. Their goal of providing children with quality art experiences has been one of the core Art Center values.

In 1983, the community built the Buell Children's Museum. This was designed for children ages three to thirteen. The goal of the Children's Museum is "to focus on the arts, science, and history, giving participants the tools to think and act creatively and to stimulate and expand each person's interest through interactive and intriguing educational activities."

With its diverse galleries, classes, and theater events, the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center (sdc-arts.org) has something for everyone.

