



# BLACKHAWK NEWSLETTER

## Board of Directors Update

### Important Links:

- [Blackhawk Web-site](#)
- [Blackhawk Face-book](#)
- [Covenants](#)
- [Driveway and Building Compliance Forms](#)
- [Contact Information](#)
- [March 21, 2020 Minutes/February Financials](#)

The Blackhawk Board of Directors held a meeting by teleconference on March 21, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. . The full Minutes of the March meeting and the Financials can be accessed on the BHR website through the link on the left.

The Roads committee reported that bids would be sent out to three local contractors for grading and applying new road base. The EMC stated that revisions were being made to the CSFS grant after its acceptance. The Communications committee explained that the website had been revised and updated, and that all owners would be signed up to receive Announcements. In the future, no hard copies of the newsletter will be sent out to save money as it will be available on the website.

A Gate Committee has been formed to suggest various options for a front gate to be voted upon by the owners at the annual meeting. They will meet in April. (The meeting was postponed because of Covid-19.)

## CSFS Grant Update

by Brad Brooks, EMC Chair

As you learned in the previous Blackhawk Ranch Newsletter, we have been fortunate enough to have been awarded a Colorado State Forest Service Matching Grant. However, because of the governor's Covid-19 "Stay at Home" mandate, everything is pretty much on hold at present with the CSFS offices and especially the Team Rubicon veterans, who are valiantly helping communities fight the pandemic.

The project has three elements, or phases. Phase 1 consists of commercial mastication. CHD Excavating will cut and grind smaller trees, vegetation, and slash into a mulch. Phase 2 consists of work done by the national volunteer group, Team Rubicon, and Phase 3 involves work done by BHR volunteers. Some of these phases will take place simultaneously.

## Things You Need To Know

**Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering for activities that support the CSFS matching grant – every minute will go toward satisfying BHR labor matching requirements! Please contact either Brad Brooks or Susanne Bloomfield to volunteer for this unifying project**

**We Need You!**

## PROJECTED TIMELINE

### Funding date–October 2020 Phase 1

Using CSFS prescriptive guidance, contracted mechanical mastication of the proposed project area on grades that will allow the safe operation of equipment. Garlon 4 Ultra treatment post-mastication by trained BHR volunteers.

### Jun–Oct 2020 Phase 2

Team Rubicon will deploy up to 5 two-man sawyer teams and 5 additional workers to begin handwork on the steeper slopes of the project treatment area. Project duration is 3 days of work. BHR volunteers will chip the slash generated by TR activity and cut/stack fuel wood generated; continue until October 2020.

### April 2021 – October 2021

Contract mastication will continue as weather permits until mastication is completed to the satisfaction of CSFS and Blackhawk Ranch.

### Sept 2020–May 2023 Phase 3

BHR to continue the removal and thinning of trees and understory as per the CSFS prescription to complete the designated 30 acre treatment area.

### Project workflow end May 2023



For more detailed information on the "Scope of Work" for the CSFS Grant, visit the BHR website. (<https://www.blackhawkranch.org/new-emergency>)

# Day Tripping

By Judy Nance

Looking for another interesting day trip? Take a drive out to La Junta, Colorado, to visit Bent's Old Fort. We headed east towards La Junta on Highway 10, and in downtown La Junta, we grabbed lunch at Lucy's Tacos. We ordered tacos, and they were delicious. The prices are very reasonable, ranging from about \$4.00-\$8.00 for everything. A very large order of chili cheese fries is only \$6.00.



We then headed out to Bent's Old Fort, located about 6 miles east of La Junta, for a few hours. This reconstructed adobe fort was built in 1833 by brothers Charles and William Bent and Ceran St. Vrain as a trading post for buffalo hides with the Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes. Kit Carson was a hunter for the Bents, and he regularly stayed there. Although the post existed for a short sixteen years, it was the only permanent white settlement on the Santa Fe Trail and provided trappers, explorers, and the U.S. Army a place to buy supplies, repair their wagons, and obtain food, water, and protection. The fort was abandoned in 1849 when a cholera epidemic struck the Plains Indians, and the brothers moved the post to Fort St. Vrain on the South Platte.



and the brothers moved the post to Fort St. Vrain on the South Platte.

In the summer, living historians recreate life as it would have been in the 1840s. Since it was in the Fall, we were the only visitors and had a wonderful time wandering around the Fort, and visiting with the employees and guides. Actually, the off-season is an excellent time to have a personal tour and be able to ask a lot of questions.



The park collects a Living History fee of \$3 for adults and \$2 for 6-12 year olds, but children under 6 years age are free. The park collects a \$5 person event fee (fee subject to change) for anyone over 6 years of age during major events, which include the Santa Fe Trail Encampment, Hispanic Heritage Day, Native American Heritage Day, Old Fashioned 4th of July, Fur Trade Encampment, and the Traditional Holiday Celebration.



To encourage visitors to explore America's natural beauty, rich history and culture, the Secretary of the Interior announces Fee Free Days each year. Entry fees into national park sites will be waived on the following dates in 2020, although camping fees still apply for those parks that have camping facilities.

January 20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

April 18 - First Day of National Park Week/National Junior Ranger Day

August 25 - National Park Service Birthday

September 26 - National Public Lands Day

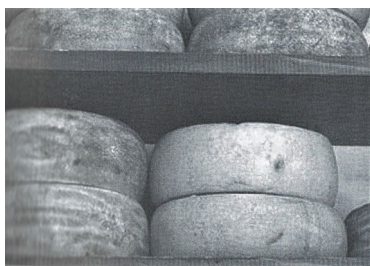
November 11 - Veterans Day

In 2012, *Colorado Life* magazine published a great article about Bent's Old Fort with lots of photos, both current and historical (<http://www.coloradolifemagazine.com/Bending-History-at-Bents-Old-Fort/index.php?cparticle=3&siarticle=2#artanc>).

There is so much history to uncover, and it is so close to Blackhawk Ranch. Please check their seasonal hours of operation, especially during this health crisis.

## *A Moment in Time*

By Nancy Pasternak



Did you know that Huerfano county had a cheese factory many years ago? It was located in La Veta and operated from 1927 to 1938 and again from 1941 to 1949. The county had its agricultural heyday less than a century ago and was inhabited with hundreds of small farms, and agriculture was second only to coal mining. Each farm had a few cows to produce milk for their families, and with the invention of refrigeration after World War I, dairy products could be transported to distant markets. Dairy farming became a thriving business.

The factory doing business as the Colorado Cheese Company began producing a mild Longhorn-type cheese, and by 1928, butter production was added as 8,000 pounds of milk were being delivered every day. The stock market crashed in October of 1929, and many banks were failing by 1932. The factory closed in the autumn of 1938 as prices for farm products plunged, and some farmers lost their farms.

When World War II, started it changed the cycle of supply and demand, and the factory became operational again under new ownership by 1941. At that time, Huerfano and Las Animas counties had a large European population that wanted a style of European cheeses made in part with goat's milk. New cheeses were introduced, Romano and Ricotta, made from a blend of cow's milk and goat's milk. By 1945, Colorado Cheese was one of the largest employers in La Veta with 15 workers. In 1946 the business was selling its products to 32 states and Canada. After the war ended cheese sales were steadily declining and operational costs were rising. The last kind of cheese to be sold was a long round Italian type covered with wax in 1948. By Spring of 1949 the Colorado Cheese factory had closed for good.

Today a portion of the factory still exists and is located behind the Code of the West real estate office on Main Street. It is currently being repurposed into an assisted living facility with 16 apartments and is under the administration of La Veta Village, Inc., a non-profit organization. For further information the organization may be contacted at [www.lavetavillage.org](http://www.lavetavillage.org) or 719-742-3510.

## *Know Your Neighbors*

By Pat Henry

In this very strange time of the pandemic, I have learned that my neighbors are more cautious and private than ever. So after having some rejections, and some folks who like me, tend to forget to listen to their voice messages, Beatriz Weivoda graciously agreed to tell me some the story of their move to Blackhawk Ranch.



Joe and Beatriz will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on October 31st this year. The couple experienced "love at first sight" when they met in the Dominican Republic in 1968 and share a very strong Catholic faith. The couple lived in Rochester, Minnesota, for 29 years in a large home on 73 acres. They talked about making a change and moving to the mountains. Joe saw an ad in the *Wall Street Journal* by Land Properties and arranged a date to come to look at the available property. On their way from Minnesota, they explored other parts of Colorado. They were looking in Northern Colorado when a snowstorm struck in June 1997. They later looked at a property at Hatchett Ranch where they made a tentative offer. However, Joe felt that the area was too dry and did not have enough trees, but the view was beautiful.

"As soon as we got to Blackhawk Ranch and walked out on this little plateau where we could see the mountains and were surrounded by trees, we knew we had found our place." They began building their house in 1998 and finished the following year. Joe had been moving their furniture down from Minnesota in multiple trips. When the house was finished, they were moved in and settled within a week. Beatriz remarked that her favorite thing about living here is "the pure air of the mountains." The couple has put their home on the market and hope to move to a smaller property in Arizona.