

BAR LAZY J GUEST RANCH

Our 2025 Winter Newsletter!



It's that time of year again for a quick update from the ranch and the Bar Lazy J herd!

*Warm Wishes and Snowy White Greetings From
Parshall!*



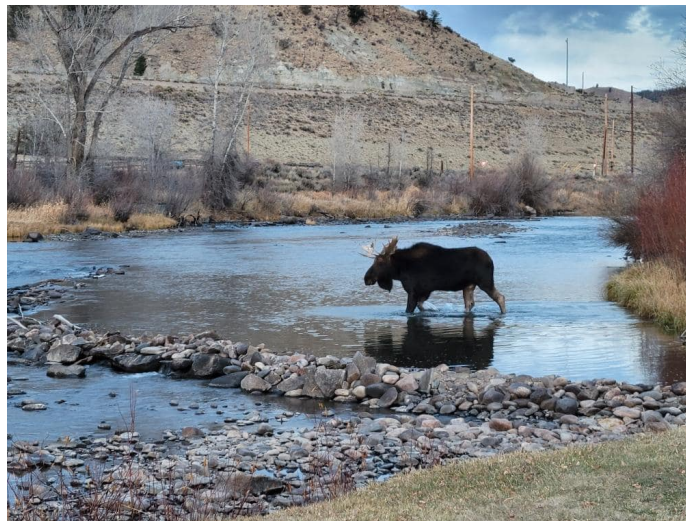
HOWDY FRIENDS!

As I sit here looking out my kitchen window, I find myself reflecting on the past 30 years that Jerry and I have spent as owners of the Bar Lazy J Guest Ranch. It hardly seems possible how much has taken place in both our lives and with the ranch itself. We have evolved as guest ranch owners and our commitment remains to provide our guests with a western experience that touches their lives while maintaining the authenticity of this old ranch. We continue to strive to meet that challenge with a passion for this lifestyle that centers around good old fashion hospitality. We are very proud of the outcome. It has brought us countless friends from all over the world along with a group of incredible staff members that have become our cherished "ranch family". Little did we know when we took this huge risk and left our successful careers, dumping everything into this ranch, that it would far surpass our dreams, hopes and desires. We are so very fortunate to love what we do and live it every day!

Today is a snowy day and you can't quite see the ridge lines of the peaks surrounding this valley. We

never know if it will be a few inches or if it will result in a foot or two. But the unpredictability keeps us prepared for anything that mother nature decides to bring our way. Overall, it has been a very mild winter, both with temperatures and snowfall. While we certainly experienced our fair share of negative temperatures, we had a surprising week of 50+ degrees in early February that confused all of us--including the horses. Plenty of snow still to come as we move into Spring, but the extreme cold should soon be behind us. As always there has been plenty of blue Colorado skies and sunshine that has kept the herd fat and happy. It is fun to see the horses basking in the sun or running and playing with their best buddies. Their true personalities always emerge during the winter months and they can be amusing to observe.

Seeing the ranch under a blanket of snow is an entirely different experience. It is beautiful and so peaceful. Eagles soar overhead and deer bed down among the buildings. It's the opposite of the hustle and bustle that exists throughout the season. We can sense the winter rest it's getting in preparation for the next season, which will be filled with life and activity. As we enjoy the sun glistening off the freshly fallen snow, the ranch is gorgeous. You can't help but smile thinking of all the lives it has touched over the last 113 years. If only the trees and buildings could talk--but we'll continue to tell their stories so that generations to come can feel that same peace we all feel pulling down the drive. Love, **Cheri**



OFF SEASON AT THE RANCH

It is always amazing how it takes a full three weeks to open the ranch, but it only takes a few days to put it to bed! This past Fall was spectacular, with great temperatures and outstanding color. Because of the fantastic weather conditions, the closing was quick, and Jerry and Cheri were able to take off on an adventure in their camper van. They headed out to cross into Canada taking a portion of the Lake Superior Circle drive and ending in Michigan at their lodge on Loon Lake. They saw countless waterfalls and beautiful colors the entire way with mild temperatures and beautiful wooded campsites right on Lake Superior. The dogs were very content to travel and camp along the way before landing back in Michigan for time with family and friends.

While many of our staff headed back to school and back home, several took off on some adventures of their own! Jordan, Taylor and Tammy had quite the adventure in Utah spending time in the parks hiking and camping--but the highlight was a 55 second freefall while sky diving in Moab with views of Arches and Canyonlands! We love to see our ranch family enjoying time together even in the off season --and particularly love it when they land safely. Abilene made the same jump two weeks later, so the apple doesn't fall far from the tree!

Abilene is in her freshman year at Colorado Mesa University doing her pre-nursing requisites. It seems like just yesterday she was riding in her stroller on the ranch and now, officially the same age as her mom when Tammy started at the ranch, she'll be wrangling for a 2nd season at the

barn. Coyer is a sophomore and has been spending his evenings and weekends rebuilding an old ranch truck, dirt biking (yes, even in the snow) and working at the local power sports store "Power World". He's loving all that he's learning and we love the additional mechanical skills he's picking up because we could sure use a great mechanic around here! Both boys were extremely helpful on the ranch last season. They worked on grounds and assisting guests checking in and out each week. Jamos is now an eighth grader and besides running cross country, has also started his wrestling season. You'll barely recognize him when you see him--he's grown a ton this year and has long surpassed his mom and Granny in height (although that doesn't take much) and is gaining on Bosspappy and his dad! Chad continues as patrol lieutenant at the Grand County Sheriff's department. He manages all the deputies on patrol along with many other aspects of the department--all while overseeing maintenance and projects on ranch. So truly every day is filled with surprises and challenges! And of course, Tammy is forever working away in the office, taking reservations, marketing and completing the hiring for next season to name just a few tasks she handles. Jerry always said there was more to do in the off season in the office than during the season and it's the truth. Tammy has happily taken over that role and along with managing her family and property in Utah--she's a busy lady, but somehow keeps things balanced.

We had several other staff stay on ranch this winter as well! Kat has been taking excellent care of our herd during the off season. Her job becomes the caretaker--dropping feed, checking for injuries and adjusting feed schedules while monitoring their overall health. She works with Tammy and Chad on any problems or concerns as they arise. With over 100 horses, there is always something going on and we're grateful for her excellent care of each of them this winter. She will be returning as our Head Wrangler for the upcoming season and we couldn't be happier!

Taylor, Jimmy, Sarah and Adam are all also staying on ranch this winter. They are all working outside jobs and managing to get some travel in during the off-season months. We are very excited that they will all be returning for the 2025 season and truly enjoy getting to spend some extra time with them outside of our work season to celebrate holidays and share some extra laughs. It was fun to have them help us with our Christmas Carrots this year!



Tammy, Chad, Jordan, Jerry and Cheri attended the DRA/CDGRA convention in Scottsdale, AZ the end of January. It is always full of great information and wonderful to see so many of our cherished colleagues from this industry. We share ideas and trends within the industry. Both Jerry and Cheri have been involved on the two boards since 1998. This is the first season they have stepped away, but Tammy has become a member of the Colorado board and Bar lazy J is still represented well in the industry. We have felt strong about staying involved and doing our part to help guest ranching continue for future generations to enjoy. Cheri remains involved in the horse safety program, running seminars and training wranglers, while Jerry designed the Preservation Fund Program for the Dude Ranchers association and Foundation and continues to consult on its development.

After the convention Tammy, Chad, Jerry and Cheri managed to take a little side trip to Sedona for some sunshine, hiking and good food. And how could they miss a stop in the town of "Jerome"? We recommend a stop in this old silver mining town if you're in that area. It's built on the side of a mountain and it's full of character, fun shops and restaurants.

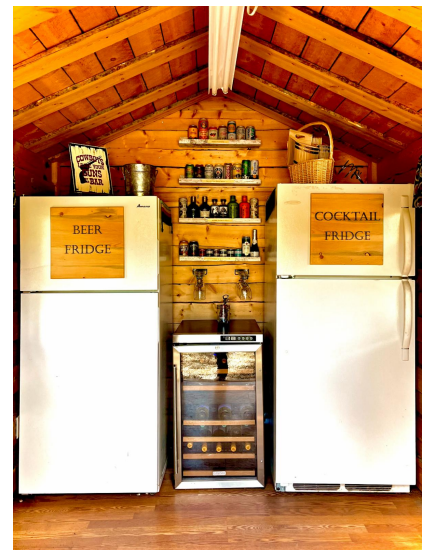
As we wrap up the last few months of winter, Jerry and Cheri will head to Oregon to visit their daughter Leslie and Sandy in Eugene before continuing to Carlsbad for a few days with friends. Cheri is looking forward to Tampa at the Women's Final Four in April. And the Yurich family will be

spending some time working on their Utah property and getting things ready for the staff who start arriving the first week of May--it won't be long now!



RANCH IMPROVEMENTS AND ADDITIONS!

This old ranch requires constant love and care. We use the winter months to work both on repairs and upgrades. Our new maintenance man, Jake Haskins, is already at work replacing kitchen counters in the main lodge and doing some repairs in the staff quarters. He will continue refacing the exteriors of the guest cabins. Last season we added a few enhancements to the island including some new furniture and metal artwork. Our guests have loved the park-like ambience and additional fishing space that opening the island area has provided. The views down the river are spectacular and the screen house has become a favorite spot to sit back with a book or beverage (or both!) and relax while listening to the river. It doesn't get much better!



This will be our second full season with the Bar Lazy J Liquor Post up and running! We are so happy

we can provide this service for our guests. Along with domestic and local craft beers, you'll also find a selection of wines, pre-made cocktails and an assortment of seltzers. Remember to stop in after a ride for a cold beverage or grab a bottle of wine before dinner and we'll just add it to your bill at checkout.



Some of you may be aware that wolves were recently released back in Colorado and Grand County was the first to receive them. While beautiful animals, our local cattle ranching neighbors take precautions to deter loss of their livestock during the spring and summer months. We love to support local Colorado families and the fine steaks and burgers our guests enjoy on the ranch are all from a local cattle ranch. As part of our relationship with them, they've asked that we ride with our guests as often as possible through their cattle herds to leave horse and human scent and deter wolves from coming too close. This property spans thousands of acres through some beautiful country and we'll be adding the "Range Watch" ride this year as we track the herd and check on them during their summer and Fall turnout.

And in addition to that, be on the lookout for some cows on ranch--both new in the petting farm and in our horse program! It's been several years since we offered a cattle experience in addition to our rides, but we're currently working with a local ranch to hopefully have some steers back on the ranch for the season to do some penning and other activities. And the cutest fluffy mini highland cross ever will be joining the petting corral animals this spring--we can't wait for you to meet him! We'll post more updates about both on the ranch Facebook page and ranch blog on our website as we sort those details--so be on the lookout!



And last of all, we'll be adding a Wednesday afternoon family art activity that will be open for everyone to enjoy! Come join us for decorating horseshoes! We'll be upcycling ranch shoes from the ranch herd (don't worry--we'll clean them first haha) and provide an array of materials that you can use to give it your own special touch. Take it home to bring you luck the other 51 weeks of the year until you can make it back again!

HELPING OUR SMALL BUSINESS

With credit card fees on the rise, we always appreciate the consideration of payments that do not incur additional fees for our small business. Still, we understand the convenience of paying by credit card which is why we want to keep that option open to guests who prefer it to other methods. Beginning this season, a 3% convenience fee will be added if opting to pay by credit card. Or you may choose to pay the regular balance by cash, debit card, check or ACH payment. We wanted to let our guests know about this change well in advance so they had an opportunity to decide how they would like to make their final payment. We apologize for any setback this may initially cause, but hope this change will allow us to maximize our return back into the ranch, our herd and ultimately our guests.



A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

The history of the Bar Lazy J significantly contributes to the "magical" quality of the ranch. Like today, the original owners also offered their guests a chance to escape to a "simpler life" than the busier towns they were from. We wonder what they would think of how much busier the world has become the past 100+ years! But mostly, we hope they would be pleased to know how the ranch still offers that same opportunity for folks from around the world to disconnect from the hustle and bustle and reconnect with themselves, friends and loved ones. This ranch has been defined by its rich history and of course, the owners who have helped develop its story along the way.

The original three owners came from England. James and Florence (Brownie) Ferguson decided to purchase the ranch, then known as Buckhorn Ranch, in 1904. James was a businessman and Florence a socialite, but they lacked ranching experience and engaged Edgar Messiter as a partner when they met him in Denver. This was perhaps the most significant decision they could have

made. E.M., as he was known, lent charm and practical ranching, hunting, fishing, riding, carpentry, and mandolin playing skills to the ranch. The three new ranch owners operated a hunting lodge for a limited time, but after being urged by friends to do more, the Buckhorn Ranch was opened to the public in 1912.

Unfortunately, James became ill and passed away. While we don't know more details than that, E.M. and Brownie were soon married and the one thing that became clear, is the two of them were made for each other. Both were skilled horse riders who loved to hunt, fish as well as play polo and croquet on the lawns. They also maintained the social graces, serving four o'clock tea every afternoon in formal attire. They would prosper and the ranch became a huge success for the next three decades. It was E.M. who applied and registered the "bar" and "lazy j" brand that would eventually become the ranch's name.

Please take a moment to look at the history wall and showcase in the library room if you haven't, the next time you come. Much of Edgar and Brownie's influences are still present at the ranch today and we continue to find evidence of what it meant to them and their guests. Join in on Tammy's walking history tour that recaps the development of the ranch from 1904 to the present. Rumor has it....Edgar has never left the ranch. His presence can still be felt as he watches over things. It's our greatest wish to continue the legacy of warm hospitality they offered their guests at Bar Lazy J from the very beginning.

A SPECIAL CELEBRATION

In September we took the opportunity to recognize and celebrate Tammy Yurich for 25 years of service to the Bar Lazy J. She started out as a kids' wrangler, planning to spend just one summer with us! But she quickly fell in love with this lifestyle and over the last 25 years, has become such an integral part of this place. Working down at the barn, she met Chad and just a couple of years later, they married and have since raised their three kids here. She and Chad now manage the ranch and have given us the opportunity to step back and enjoy the fruits of our labor. During that celebration we surprised her with her dream horse--a handsome 5-year-old black and white Gypsy Vanner gelding. We still aren't sure how we managed to HIDE him for four days-- it was a bit stressful! But it was worth the work to see the look on her face when we surprised her during a special dinner on the last night of the season--and we loved that our last week of guests got to share that priceless moment as well. Welcome to Bar Lazy J **Guinness** and congratulations on 25 years Tammy!! Thank you for all you have done and do for this ranch every day and in the future. We love you!



HORSE PROFILE

We are so blessed with an outstanding herd. They are truly the heart and soul of this ranch and we love them all for their unique personalities. There is a perfect horse for each and every one of our guests. And while you sadly won't be able to take them home (sorry)--they, or another excellent companion, will always be waiting for you on your next visit!

Our friends at Heritage Livestock continue to be an excellent source for purchasing horses for the ranch and this year we were able to welcome several new members to our herd. Early in the season, **Deuce**--a 6-year-old big bay gelding, along with **Boone**--an 8-year-old sorrel gelding came to the ranch. They are perfect for experienced riders and have fit right into the herd. In September, two beautiful mares arrived: **Indigo**--a 5-year-old blue roan (that Kat would love to

steal) along with **Calypso**- an 18-year-old red roan, both perfect for our teen program. In late September we were able to attend the Colorado Horse Sale and came home with an additional five horses. **Midnight**- a very handsome 7-year-old black gelding has a sweet disposition and loves people. **Sky**- a big 9-year-old grey gelding, will be great for some of our taller guests **Paladin**- a good size 8-year-old chestnut gelding, loves the trails. **Jolene**- a 12-year-old beautiful sassy grey mare. And lastly, **Black Jack**- a small black gelding perfect for teens and kids. The Colorado Horse Sale horses, along with the two roan mares, will start out the season with the wrangling staff learning trails and our program. But our guess is they won't take long to fit right in and be ready for guests. Kat has enjoyed getting to know their personalities and is looking forward to introducing them to the trails this Spring!

SHE RIDES FOR THE BRAND!



Jordan Bush came to us from Florida three years ago as our Lodge Hostess and it certainly did not take long for us to realize her talents and management skills. We had been considering restructuring and adding a Hospitality Manager position to our team, but we knew it needed the right person to take on this rather involved position. Jordan was just what we were looking for -- both with her skills and bright personality!! She did an excellent job setting the tone for this new position with her top-level hospitality for our guests and great management skills working with the staff. You can find her in the kitchen or housekeeping helping the crew, answering questions for the guests, organizing the breakfast ride, sending people down the zipline and of course making delicious cocktails for the social hour. In her off time, she loves to hike, horseback ride and enjoy everything outdoors. In the off season, she has been heading to southern Arizona to another dude ranch where she had the opportunity to work as a wrangler this past winter--adding to her experience in even more aspects of guest ranching and she's loving it. We're so grateful for all Jordan does for us and our guests, along with the great energy and bright smile she brings to work each day. There is absolutely no doubt that she "rides for the brand"!

STAFF CHAT BOX

The very driving force behind this ranch is our extremely committed and dedicated staff. They are personable, hardworking and truly caring people. We love how they enjoy serving our guests and getting to know them throughout the week. Countless lifelong friendships have been formed between our staff and guest family over the years and we're constantly told that is a huge part of what makes a week at the ranch more than just a vacation--and more than just a job!



This will be our lead wrangler Kelley King's eighth season here at BLJ. Some of you may not get to meet her because she comes late and leaves early due to the fact she is Head of Special Education

at the local high school! But she is a very gifted young lady and we are so fortunate that she still spends her summers with us at the ranch. She has helped provide that magical experience for many years out on rides, with the kids program and for the past several years leading the evening line dancing. We're so happy she'll be back! And our new head of maintenance, Jake Haskins, arrived at the ranch this winter and is already hard at work with several special projects. We are glad to have him and his girlfriend Susanna as part of our ranch family this season. And we're excited for all our of returnees!

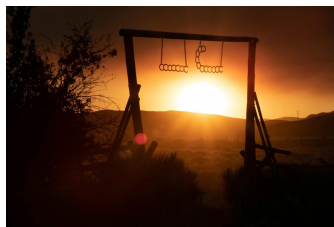
Here are our returning staff members for 2025:

Owners/Consultants: **Jerry and Cheri Helmicki.....30th season**
Ranch Managers/Owners: **Tammy and Chad Yurich.....lots of years!**
Ranch Kids: **Abilene, Coyer and Jamos.....their entire lives!**
Lead Wrangler: **Kelley King.....8th season**
Head Chef: **Adam Vosding.....6th season**
Children's Wrangler: **Abilene Yurich.....6th season**
Office Assistant/Kids Program: **Mac Moyer.....4th season**
Hospitality Manager: **Jordan Bush.....3rd season**
Barn Manager/Herd Caretaker: **Kathryn (Kat) Richardson.....2nd season**
Pastry and Breakfast Chef: **Kendra Boyle.....2nd season**
Sous Chef: **Isaac (Ike) Letender.....2nd season**
Lead Housekeeper: **Sarah Brenner.....2nd season**
Lead Server: **Taylor Bell.....2nd season**
Wrangler: **Jimmy Uren.....2nd season**
Maintenance/Utility: **Eden Bartolotta.....2nd season**
Ranch Crew: **Sophia Cox.....2nd season**

We are so very excited for the upcoming season! It won't be long before our new and returning staff will arrive and begin the process of getting the ranch open and ready for our first guests arriving the end of May! We're anxious to have all the horses back and begin the process of getting "this old ranch" open and ready for its 113th year! We feel that same "magic" you do each time we get to welcome someone for the first time or 20th time. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share it by being our guests and becoming much more than that. Once you've spent a summer with us here at Bar Lazy J—you're forever a part of its rich history and our ranch family! We look forward to being on the trail with you very soon!

HAPPY TRAILS!

*Cheri & Jerry
and the Yurich Family*





Plan Your Visit!

If you didn't get in the books for 2025 and would like to join us--don't fret! We still have just a few spots left so please send us a message or give us a call. We would love to see you back at the ranch! We also allow holds up to two years in advance, so we're currently taking reservations for 2026 (which is filling fast) and 2027 as well!

Give us a call at **970-725-3437** or email the ranch at **info@barlazyj.com** and Tammy would be happy to help!

Bar Lazy J | 447 County Road 3 | Parshall, CO 80468, CO 80468 US

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