

## Blackhawk opens equestrian center

Valley County's only equestrian center is now open at the Blackhawk community southwest of McCall.

The 25-acre, Blackhawk Equestrian Center currently operates from two recently renovated barns with 13 horses, including two fillies born on May 17.

Construction is complete on a new 150-by-200-foot outdoor riding arena.

Blackhawk will host an equine event-filled weekend for the public on July 8-9 to introduce the center to the McCall community and celebrate recent additions.

Activities include a free catered barbecue, along with free trail rides and youth riding lessons that can be scheduled by calling (208) 634-6774.

"McCall has always been a

spectacular area for horseback riding, but an equestrian center has been a much-needed missing component," says Rick Luna, CFO of Blackhawk Partners LLC. "All of us at Blackhawk are extremely pleased to see the Equestrian Center come to life. Horse lovers who live in the area should find it a real asset."

The Blackhawk Equestrian Center is located at the south end of the 1,551-acre residential community. Construction on the center's permanent buildings and other facilities will begin within two years.

At completion, the center will consist of an indoor and outdoor arena, including multiple areas to honor western, dressage, reigning and English riding, along with alternative aspects of riding. In addition, there

will be a round pen and boarding facilities for Blackhawk residents.

The new arenas and round pen will be open to the public, complimentary on the first visit, then for a nominal fee thereafter.

Miles of riverside and forested trails exclusively designated for horseback riding will also traverse the Blackhawk property, connecting to hundreds of miles of Forest Service trails just across West Mountain Road. A corresponding trail system on the Blackhawk property will be reserved for hiking and mountain biking.

Jessi Dammerman, a lifelong horse enthusiast and skilled rider, manages the center. Dammerman is also fully sponsored by Blackhawk as a barrel racer in the ICA Rodeo Circuit.