

Breakaway Youth Ranch

~ FALL 2025 ~

A Wise Leader and Friend

In May of this year, we said goodbye to our dear friend **Nolan Murphy**. He not only was a wonderful neighbor, but he



was a wise, godly friend that believed in the dream of what Breakaway Youth Ranch could become. In June of 2010, my husband and I had a crazy idea to start a youth ranch. We wanted to share the love of Christ with hurting kids by allowing them the opportunity to ride horses. When we needed a board of directors, Nolan was one of the first people we called. In Deuteronomy 1:13, Moses knew he needed help leading the people. He instructed each tribe to, “choose wise, understanding and respected men...” We knew Nolan loved God, loved people (big and small) and loved horses. He graciously accepted this position as a board member



and took a giant leap of faith with us, along with Ryan and Andrea Ward. We had no idea what God would do!

Proverbs 17:27, “A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, a man of understanding is even-tempered.” This verse fits Nolan well. He was such a kind, humble man that loved to serve others. He took great care of his animals and loved his church, friends and neighbors as if they were family. We had the privilege of knowing his wonderful wife Sandy also, before she went home to be with the LORD in 2007. Sandy loved horses, and Nolan loved anything Sandy loved. He was so fun to be around. Nolan had such a great sense of humor and was always up for something exciting! He loved trail rides, working cows, playing music on his steel guitar, singing, going for hikes, cross-country skiing, horseshoes, Dodger baseball, basketball, and football, just to name a few. Nolan was good at anything he tried, even the hoola hoop contest! He made caramels for us at Christmas, which was Sandy’s



Nolan would drive his tractor over whenever the horses needed hay.

recipe. He was one of the greatest examples of leading by serving. As we prayed about where to have the ranch, Nolan generously offered the 10 acre corner of his pasture. We saw God’s amazing hand bless Nolan in unimaginable ways by donating the property. Nolan was “all-in” for making this place a sanctuary for anyone that stepped foot here. He helped build the barn and office, pounded posts for fencing, hauled hay, helped lead music at events, and was great at keeping the cider press going at Fall Fun Days! Nolan was such a joy to be around. He



Nolan and his faithful horse, Skip, in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

made everyone feel like a friend. Proverbs 27:17, “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” Because Nolan loved Jesus and knew Him as LORD and Savior, we know we will see him again. As John 3:36 states, “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.” Nolan knew he was a sinner and believed Jesus died in his place. He loved the LORD and lived his life for Christ. 1 John 1:7, “But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.” We are so thankful for Nolan and the impact he had on us all. He is greatly missed and will never be forgotten, as we look forward to seeing him soon!

By Amanda Reichman

Horse of the Quarter: Elliot



Elliot is one of our most solid horses at the Ranch. He is one of our go-to-horses for young kids. Elliot is a small fella with long furry hair. He has a condition called "cushings" but is handling it well. He gets medicine everyday to help him stay happy and ready to work. Elliot came to us from a wonderful ranch in Waterloo where he was well loved and cared for with his buddy. When his buddy passed away, the family decided to donate him so he could have new friends, kids and horses. Elliot is one of the first horses to come say hi because he loves belly scrubs and is naturally curious.

Elliot loves to have relaxed riders on him. He needs good leadership from his rider but is easy to steer and willing to listen. He is such a blessing to our herd and to the kids that ride him. We love his friendly nature!

Donations have been made to honor these special people:

Memorials: Simone Hockett, Nikki Leep, Esther Lantz, Bob Marx, Nolan Murphy

Birthdays: Jack and Brenda Sparlin, John and Tricia Richardson, Susan Richardson

Fall Fun Day

Sunday, October 12, 2025

5pm– 8pm

We want to honor Nolan Murphy and his leadership and service at BYR.

We will have a time to share stories and play music together.

Jam Session starting at 5

We have copies of music for some favorite gospel /country/ worship songs

Enter your world-famous Chili in the contest,**

Or Grandma's secret Pie recipe to win a prize,**

Or bring a Side dish to share

(Must arrive by 5:15 to be eligible to win a prize.)**

Join us for an evening of great fun, food and fellowship

Campfire with S'mores provided



Directions to BYR: Take exit 267 off I-90. Turn south and follow Cottonwood Rd. for

2.5 miles until you see the big red barn. Turn in and join us!

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