



BLACKHAWK NEWSLETTER

BOD Meeting Update

The BHR POA Board met on October 14. At the October meeting, treasurer Art Jackson reported \$56,710.89 in the operational budget, and Jim Nance, Roads, discussed reducing the slope, the "slide," on Rugby Mines Road. Brad Brooks advised that the reimbursement from the CSFS grant could go toward road improvement. Brad also stated that 15 pickup loads of mitigation area firewood was delivered to the Huerfano County LEAP program, and that 54 gallons of Garlon 4 had been sprayed on part of the newly mitigated area of Wapiti.

At the December 2 meeting, Jim Nance, Road Chair, reported that Mike Ferrero will begin work to reduce the steep grade of Rugby Mines and South Mountain intersection the week of December 4th. Current financial accounts as of December 1, 2023 are Operational \$38,678 and Reserves \$66,706. The 2024 budget was approved. We anticipate receiving \$31,842 grant reimbursement soon.

Important Links

- [Blackhawk Website](#)
- [Blackhawk Facebook](#)
- [Covenants](#)
- [Driveway and Building Compliance Forms](#)
- [Contact Information](#)
- [BOD Meeting Minutes and Monthly Financials](#)

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Seasons Greetings and Merry Christmas

The holiday season is about miracles, personal transformation, and the emergence of all those gifts of the spirit, which are key to our happiness and peace. It is a time when we welcome higher thoughts and feelings to replace material considerations and anxieties that rob our energy and lead to needless suffering.

Since joining the board, Debra and I have continued to expand our knowledge, appreciation, and understanding of the history and neighbors in our beautiful Blackhawk Ranch. Our continuing goal is to serve wherever we see a need.

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW
BHR Annual Dues must be paid by January 31, 2024, or interest will begin accruing monthly.

In the spirit of turning our focus from things that don't ultimately matter to those that do, we are reminded of the dedication of so many helpful neighbors that have



served in the past and with whom we currently serve on the BHR POA Board. I say with "us" because although not serving in an official capacity, Debra is my muse, and continues to inspire me to keep going every day, exploring together new concepts of health and wellness.

The greatest gift we can give is to honor the gift of life by taking care of ourselves, in body, mind and spirit. This transformation enables us to more properly care for others, strengthens our faith in love and opens our hearts to miracles which are the very fabric of our universe. I look forward to serving with you in

the new year and assisting the other dedicated BHR POA Board and committee members whom we now call our friends. Our special heartfelt appreciation goes to:

*** Nancy Pasternak, a longtime BHR homeowner who has tirelessly served many years on the Board. Don't underestimate her petiteness! She is a dynamo!

*** Past president, Brad Brooks, we call him the "Philosopher." He always has an ancient wisdom or quote with which he inspires the group and encourages honest ethical leadership.

*** Jim Nance, the Fireman safety expert turned "Road Guy". Just visit any mountain or remote community and you will return to our roads with a newfound appreciation for our "Road Guy."

*** Art Jackson the "Numbers Cruncher and Web Master!" The hours this guy dedicates to crossing every T is beyond amazing.

*** Paul Brunner, our resident "Psychology Expert" keeps us balanced and in tune with the way people think.

*** Susanne Bloomfield, the "Professor" and word whiz! We so appreciated her work on keeping us all informed through the newsletters, and to her big-hearted hubby Terry who has jumped in to lend a helping hand in so many ranch capacities.

*** Not to be missed are the loving and supportive spouses: Marian, Wendy, Rayann, Judy, Clay, and my rock Debra Lee

*** The committee members of the EMC, and our very own Snow Queen Kelly Alcorn, along with **everyone** that volunteered for mitigation and ranch projects

The Board always welcomes "Big Ideas" to be considered for BHR improvements or implementation into its policy and procedures.

May you be blessed with peace and joy in your world this holiday season.

Navigating Blackhawk in Winter

by Brad Brooks

It is now officially snow season on Blackhawk Ranch, despite the warm sunny weather we have been having. With the continuing influx of new neighbors who may be unfamiliar with our roads, our weather, and/or winter driving off the pavement, we thought we might cover a few items that may well help you this winter.


Know the 6" Snow Plowing Trigger – Blackhawk Roads will not be plowed unless roads reach 6 inches of snow. That means you will be driving on unplowed roads if less than 6 inches are on the road.

Know Blackhawk Roads –

Download a map from the Blackhawk Website and learn the roads you most frequently travel. Learn which roads you should avoid during snow events, etc. If you run off the road and are unable to tell someone where you are, how can you expect anyone else to find you?

Know who to call – If you are stranded on Blackhawk, and not injured, try to reach an Emergency Management Committee member – names and phone numbers are on the refrigerator magnet that you get each year. If you are not in range of phone service try to find an area where you can use your phone, but stay close to your vehicle and main roads.





**IN CASE OF FIRE OR
MEDICAL EMERGENCY
2023-2024**

*** FIRST, CONTACT 911.**
* Next, immediately report your 911 call to a Blackhawk Emergency Team coordinator by text or phone call:
Brad Brooks (719-252-5621), Terry Bloomfield (308-991-8264), Jim Nance (559-917-6239), or Ron Lovely (832-457-0925)

Know how to be “helpable” Did you know that there are specific tow points and jacking lift points on your vehicle? Read your owner’s manual and learn where those are. Do you have a tow strap/chain, battery cables, gloves, a blanket, and a short shovel? Not everyone who comes along has these. **Have you “geared up?”** Navigating unpaved Blackhawk roads during winter (especially at night) can be challenging.

Roads here are maintained to a level that a high-clearance, 4-wheel drive vehicle, with aggressive snow tires (or chains) can make it off and on the ranch. The less of those items you can bring to bear, the more of a challenge you will have.

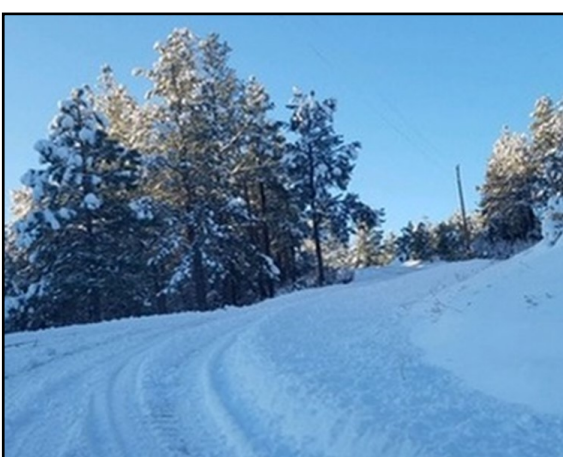
Do you have experience in driving on unpaved roads in snow or ice? Take it slow and easy until you gain some experience. You might want to try to achieve a balance between the snow depth and your experience before deciding to leave the ranch in a snow storm.

Do Not Attempt to tow trailers, RVs, or other vehicles on the snow covered, steep roads of Blackhawk. The same advice goes for any 2-wheel drive vehicle (car, van, or truck). Most delivery truck drivers (moving vans, furniture/appliance delivery trucks, propane delivery trucks, etc) will not know the snow conditions on Blackhawk. If you have a delivery scheduled during or immediately after a snow storm, please consider rescheduling it.



Do you know Blackhawk weather? Whether you live on the ranch or are wanting to come visit your property during the winter months, please check the weather as part of your preparation for navigating our roads. There are three very accurate weather stations installed across our ranch that are online 24/7. You can connect to them using the links provided on the landing page of the Blackhawk Website. Just a little advanced weather information can make a difference.

Don’t leave someone stranded – Blackhawkers are a very friendly and helpful lot. We live in a pretty, but isolated slice of paradise. To the extent you are able, do not leave someone stranded on a cold, snowy road. If you are not able to help, find someone who can. If recovery is not practical for those on the ranch, let’s work to find a towing company like JM Tire (719-738-2150/ 719-859-4282 towing) to get them back on the road.



Snow-Day? We realize that there are several of our neighbors who work off-ranch each day. We plan our snow plow work to help them reach their jobs in spite of the weather. Same goes for those who have important appointments off-ranch that cannot be missed. However, there are going to be some days where no matter what we do, we may not be able to get the roads passable in time to meet those appointments. Try to remember where you live and plan for a snow day now and then.

A Moment in Time

by Nancy Pasternak

Do you know much about the Christmas feasts and wintertime fun in Huerfano County since 1876? That was the year Colorado earned its nickname as the “Centennial State” when it reached the qualifications for statehood in 1876.



Judge Luz Gonzales described his 70th Christmas celebration in Walsenburg as having no toys, no elaborate gifts, or even bright decorations in 1876. Christmas was observed by feasts that often took weeks to prepare that included meat and plenty of beans and wheat. Most commodities were obtained by trading. Baking soda was a luxury, and women dug the crust of earth from around a soda spring to use in baking. Wheat was ground by hand. Coffee was made with one-fourth coffee beans and three-fourths dried peas. Many candles were made to brighten long winter nights. Clothing was spun from wool raised on the ranch. Paper sold for 25 cents a

sheet, and he remembers writing his letter to Santa on a dried pelt.

The La Veta Hotel in 1889 offered the following Christmas dinner menu, including barbecued trout, rabbit, prime rib of beef, braised elk champignons, duck meringue, antelope, young pig, mashed potatoes, baked sweet potatoes, and chicken salad. Desserts featured ice cream, apple pie, mince pie, plum pudding, and fruits.

In 2010, Alys Romer offered the following Christmas dinner menu at the La Veta Inn, including Duck L'Orange with Grand Marnier, white and wild rice pilaf, prime rib of beef with oven roasted potatoes and vegetable medley, homemade soup, tossed salad, and house-baked bread. Desserts featured homemade pies, Tiramisu, Yule Log, and chocolate sponge cake covered with a ganache. You can still enjoy Alys' cuisine at Alys' Restaurant on South Oak Street in La Veta.

In the early 1900s, families would entertain themselves with ice-skating and riding shovels in the snow. And in the evenings the neighborhood kids would build bonfires and roast wienies and ice skate. They had to learn to be creative, as the radio hadn't even been invented yet, and it also instilled a “sense of community” in the coal camps.



Amtrak Southwest Chief

by Rayann Brunner

Certainly one of the limitations of living at BHR is the fact that it is a bit of a jaunt to the airport. If you are looking for an easy way to do a weekend getaway without having to drive or get on a plane, check out the Southwest Chief Amtrak train out of Trinidad. Recently, I took Amtrak from Trinidad to Albuquerque. One of my favorite musicians had a show at the El Rey in Albuquerque, and I knew I did not want to miss it. Since I honestly do not love to drive in the winter, I booked a reservation on Amtrak. For \$50 roundtrip, I was able to travel from Trinidad to Albuquerque, enjoy dinner and a concert with friends, and head home the next day.

The Amtrak station in Trinidad is located close to downtown. It is an unmanned station without a shelter or benches, so keep that in mind. However, it was easy to find, and there was plenty of available parking. Throughout the morning, Amtrak sent me several text messages with updates on the status of my train. It arrived about 16 minutes late, and I boarded with three other people.

If you book a coach class seat, you are assigned a seat when you board the train. I was fortunate to land an upstairs window seat, so I was able to enjoy beautiful views of Fisher's Peak State Park, Raton Pass, and Sandia Peak before arriving at the downtown Albuquerque station. Throughout the trip, the conductor pointed out items of interest and wildlife sightings.



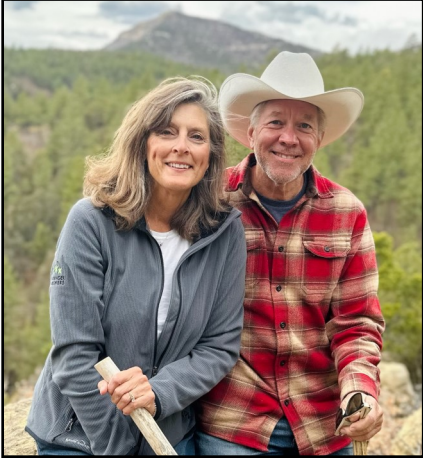
On the train, there is a café car for purchasing snacks and drinks. I must say, I was pleased to enjoy a lovely Chardonnay while reading a book and viewing the scenery. The seats are spacious and comfortable, and each seat has an outlet for charging devices. The Albuquerque station is located right downtown near many great hotels and restaurants, making it an ideal getaway without the need for a car.

Paul and I plan to do this trip more often for weekend getaways. Let us know if you would like to join us!

Meet Your Neighbors

by Rayann Brunner

In talking with Steve and Roxi Clauson, it is apparent that their five grandchildren are the biggest joy in their lives. Abigail (16), Levi (13), Ella (11), Micah (9) and Ben (7) are regular visitors to BHR, and they are the primary reason why the Clausons ended up as our neighbors. But their story goes back decades before they found themselves sharing a little piece of our paradise.



Steve and Roxi met when Steve was 17 and Roxi was 15 – they are truly high school sweethearts! They met in Nebraska, went to college at the University of Nebraska Omaha, and raised their children in Nebraska for many years. However, when they lost their home to a devastating flood in 2019, it was time for them to move on. Fortunately, they already owned property in Arizona, so they moved what belongings were remaining after the flood and settled in Arizona.

Although the Clausons love Arizona, where they continue to maintain a home, their hearts were in Colorado with their daughter, Amanda, son-in-law, Justin, and grandchildren who were living in Pueblo. On a visit to their daughter's home in Pueblo, while sleeping in the basement on a slowly deflating air mattress, Roxi got on Zillow to see what sort of properties

were available for sale nearby – and she found Blackhawk Ranch. Roxi says that on the drive to see the property they kept going...and going...and going...and she was laughing saying, "No way. I can't believe there is a house out here?" Fortunately for all of us, they fell in love with the house and property and quickly made the decision to purchase Lot 170.

They intended for BHR to only be a summer home, but Steve told Roxi, "I can't be the grandpa I want to be in Tucson," so they made the decision to spend more time in Colorado, and eventually bought a home in Pueblo in addition to their BHR home. When asked why they first chose BHR, they mentioned that they appreciated the sign that said "A Covenant Protected Community," knowing it meant the properties were looked after and cared for. Now that they have been here for a few years, they appreciate being in nature, the wildlife, and especially the community and the attitude of neighbors helping neighbors.



In addition to their grandchildren and daughter, they also have a son, Eric, who works in logistics for a trucking company in Omaha and enjoys playing golf. Eric loves coming to the ranch and frequently tells his mother to "Watch out for bears!" When they are not spending time with their family, the Clausons are passionate about traveling and by the end of the next year, they will have been to all seven continents! They just recently returned from a trip to Antarctica, which Steve says is his favorite trip they've made, but Roxi says her favorite was a trip to India. Although they are certainly world travelers, they also love to spend time at BHR where they enjoy being outdoors, hiking their property, spending time with friends, reading, and gardening.

Exit 30 BBQ & Café

By Rayann Brunner

I like to consider myself a bit of a green chile connoisseur. We grow them, cook with them, make our own green chile stew and put green chile in just about anything. We also enjoy trying various green chiles when we are out and about on our dining adventures. Combine that with the fact we love a good diner breakfast and Exit 30 BBQ and Café quickly became one of our favorites breakfasts once we found out about this hidden gem.

Located off (you guessed it!) Exit 30 along I-25, Exit 30 is located inside of the double wide trailer that also serves as the office for the RV park on which it is located. It is an odd location to be sure, but with the awesome diner food they serve, the location can be overlooked. When we visit, my go to is the breakfast burrito with hot green chile. Their definition of "hot" varies from one batch to the next, so order this with caution as some days it is very spicy. The burrito is also huge so expect to share with your dining companion or take home leftovers. Paul goes for the biscuits and gravy with scrambled eggs (and half of my breakfast burrito). We've always both been pleased on every visit. We have also enjoyed their burgers and other sandwiches, and everything is always wonderful. Exit 30 also sells pints and quarts of green chile to go, and we rarely walk out the door without one.

Despite the awesome green chile and fantastic food, it is worth noting that Exit 30 is small and often only staffed by one or two people. This means service and food can be slow, so go with an attitude of patience when you are not in a hurry. The wait is worth it and so is the drive.

