

October 15, 2025



BLACKHAWK NEWSLETTER

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Message from Blackhawk Ranch POA President

Greetings to all!

My wife Sidney and I are very happy to be living on the Ranch, getting ready for our second Fall. We're still newcomers, but it sure does feel like home.

We do appreciate the new friends we have made, and the chance to be a real part of a community (which we did not feel in our past location). You have added value to our lives, and we hope the feeling is mutual.

The BHR Connect meetings have so far seen good input, and good ideas for the community, but attendance numbers could be better. Also, some items have come up that were deemed a topic for the Board to address or at least consider.

In light of all this, a couple of changes were proposed that might enhance the overall "Connect" experience:

- Reduce the number of Connect meetings to 3 times per year
- Coincide the Connect meetings with Board meetings- Connect to meet for 1 hour prior to a Board meeting

If you attend a Connect meeting or send an email prior to the meeting to be included in discussion, your ideas will go straight onto the agenda of the following board meeting, if needed. Otherwise, all comments will be included in the minutes of the Connect meeting and posted on the BHR website.

Your thoughts, concerns and ideas can be expressed directly to the board without having to wait for the next annual meeting.

The Board will attempt the dual meeting at our next meeting on November 22. Your feedback is welcome on this idea, and your attendance or other input is appreciated.

A couple of snow announcements:

- Mike Ferrero will provide snow plowing services for the 2025-2026 winter season. Mike now has three snow removal units. He said he is happy to be plowing the Ranch again. Give him a wave as you see him on the roads.
- Kelly Alcorn has stepped down as Snow Captain after several years. Ron Alcorn has graciously offered to take over that role.

I wish you all a wonderful Fall and a safe Winter. The Board meeting in November will be the last of this year – we'll reconvene in January.

Cheers,

Tim Kurtz
President, Blackhawk Ranch POA

Greetings from your Emergency Management Committee

by Brad Brooks

At our 4th Quarter EMC Meeting we will be discussing two additional education opportunities for the fall and winter. Under discussion will be:

Sawzilla – Have you ever wished you knew just a little more about chainsaws and their use in mitigation? Maybe some hands-on chain sharpening knowledge? Or maybe, just some helpful basic chainsaw maintenance understanding and advice? Well, you are in luck. The class under consideration will use the Stihl MS 250 as a prototype for the hands-on portion, but the information and guidance will be applicable across a broad range of chainsaws. In sessions like these, there is a LOT of information delivered in a very friendly atmosphere. You will learn about several different chain sharpening methods and their pros and cons. You will also learn about different chain types and their pros and cons. Finally, you will learn some helpful tips on basic chainsaw maintenance. Please let Brad Brooks or Paul Kimball know if you are interested in this type of training. This educational opportunity is open to any Blackhawk resident, and it will be free.



Radio Rodeo – Many of you probably are aware of the difficulty of communicating across the Blackhawk Ranch and beyond. In many cases, our cellphone coverage is not adequate for calls across the ranch or beyond the ranch. Texting attempts often fail as well. This is concerning to many of our neighbors when considering the need to reach out in the event of emergencies such as fires, road washouts, vehicle accidents and slide-offs, and medical emergencies. Over the past 3-4 years the EMC has systematically worked to develop the use of VHF/UHF dual band



radios on Blackhawk. While not perfect, they so far have proven to be the most reliable of the communication options on the ranch. If you are interested in finding out more about the radios we now are using, their capabilities, their operation and their licensing, this is an easy way. This is intended to be an introductory class on dual band radio usage on Blackhawk and a show-and-tell with radios available for your examination and

handling. You will come away with an understanding of the use of these radios, their cost (very inexpensive), their licensing, and how they have already been used in fires, vehicle recoveries and working to assist stranded residents on BHR. Please let Brad Brooks know if you would be interested in attending this class. This educational opportunity is open to all Blackhawk residents and it will be free.

When: Dates being discussed are in late October or early November for both of these educational opportunities. Locations will be determined by the feedback we receive from BHR residents. Stay tuned.

Finally, if you have emergency-related ideas with regard to education or training, please share them with the EMC. We are interested in hearing about the needs of our neighbors.

A Moment in Time

by Nancy Pasternak

Have you ever noticed the volcanic dikes and buttes in the Spanish Peaks area? Our area of Colorado is a geologically unique region and has attracted geologists from all over the world, due to its high concentration of geologic wonders in a small area.

About nine miles north of Walsenburg is an isolated cone shaped butte, the Huerfano Butte on the plains and a pioneer landmark. It was named “el- huerfano, the orphan” by an unidentified Spaniard. It was near the trappers’ trail from Taos, New Mexico, and was also traversed by Fremont and Gunnison during their railroad surveys of 1853 in search of a western rail route. Other volcanic buttes in Huerfano County include Goemmer’s Butte near La Veta, and Gardner Butte near Gardner northwest of Walsenburg.

Surrounding the Spanish Peaks and radiating in all directions are miles of volcanic dikes. These dikes are easily visible and look like rock walls just south of La Veta on Highway 12 from La Veta to Chuchara. There may be as many as 400 dikes of various lengths, ranging from a few feet to several miles. The Great Wall dike is the longest dike and extends several miles from the base of the West Spanish Peak. This wall rises at

least 100 feet above the valley floor. The Dakota Wall hogback north of Chuchara along Highway 12 looks like a dike, but is actually composed of sandstone.

The Civilian Conservation Corps crews blasted through a large dike on the south side of the West Spanish Peak in 1934 and created the Apishapa Arch. There is a road east of Chuchara Pass that follows the Apishapa Creek and goes over Cordova Pass down through the arch and into the village of Gulnare and ends in the town of Aguilar.

The Spanish Peaks are thought to be remnants of ancient volcanoes however, they also consist of sandstone. The west peak rises above 13 and a half thousand feet, and the east peak is over 12 and a half thousand feet in elevation.

So, take a drive west or north of Blackhawk Ranch and explore our natural scenic wonders.



Huerfano Butte



Goemmer's Butte (top)
Gardner Butte (bottom)



Great Wall Dike (top)
Dakota Wall Hogback (bottom)



Apishapa Arch



Spanish Peaks

Check out two new cafes near Blackhawk Ranch!

by Nancy Pasternak

Tina's Café is located on Main Street in Aguilar. It is open Thursday through Saturday from 7am to 6pm, and Sunday and Monday from 7am to 3pm. Breakfast is served all day, and there is a kids' menu for breakfast and lunch. Burgers start at \$11.95 - \$17.95, omelets range from \$9.95 to \$12.95, sandwiches are \$8.95 to \$13.95, and most dinner entrees are \$16.95 including liver & onions.



Tina's green chili smothered breakfast burrito is \$12.95 and the huevos rancheros smothered in green chili are also \$12.95. Chicken and fish basket meals are \$12.95 and \$14.95 respectively. There are various desserts and pastries including pie, cheese cake and carrot cake. The décor is casual and light hearted. The café can be reached at: 719-941-6014.



The Branch Café is located at 501 Walsen Avenue next to Main Street in Walsenburg. It is open Thursday through Monday from 7:30am to 3:00pm. They serve breakfast all day, and there is a kids' menu. There is some outdoor seating. Burgers start at \$12.95 -

\$17.95, sandwiches are \$8.95 - \$16.95, omelets range from \$9.95 - \$13.95. The café offers a smothered green chili burrito for \$15.95, and a chicken strip basket for \$12.95. There are pastries for dessert. The décor is casual and "modern industrial meets kitchen". "Take-out orders" are also available.

The café can be contacted at: 719-890-0775.

So, treat yourself to a home cooked meal and support our nearby business communities!

