



# BLACKHAWK NEWSLETTER

## Annual Meeting Update

The BHR annual meeting was held virtually on ZOOM by video conference on August 22 from 10:00-12:00. Thirty-one parcels were represented according to lot numbers. The board member candidate introduced themselves; no nominations were made from the floor.

President Brad Brooks began with a "State of the Ranch Address" that was followed by reports from all of the committee chairs. Art Jackson, treasurer, explained the changes in managing the budget, eliminating the practice of carry-over of funds, and instituting a time-phased budget. Jim Nance, Roads, explained how the drought and fire restrictions had impacted summer grading and outlined the plans for the addition of road base. Communications chair, Susanne Bloomfield, described the revised website as well as the updated newsletter. Nancy Pasternak, Compliance, reported that she had handed out 19 new owner packets. In the Emergency Management report, Brooks reported on emergency responsiveness and communication, fire mitigation, emergency exits, and mapping. For the Security committee, he noted that BHR ranch is beginning the process of instituting a Neighborhood Watch program on the ranch. See the link on the left for the full minutes of the Annual Meeting.

### Important Links:

- [Blackhawk Website](#)
- [Blackhawk Facebook](#)
- [Covenants](#)
- [Driveway and Building Compliance Forms](#)
- [Contact Information](#)
- [Annual meeting minutes, 9/22/20 meeting minutes, and Financials](#)

## BOD Meeting Update

Brad Brooks reported that work will begin mid-October on a water storage tank as well as the CSFS fire mitigation grant beginning on the south end of Wapiti. Election results from 73 ballots were received from PMI. Art Jackson, Jim Nance, and Nancy Pasternak were re-elected to the Board of Directors for two years. Because the vote for the front gate was almost a tie between concepts 2 & 4, the gate committee will be looking into a way to perhaps merge these two gate ideas. Brad discovered that BHR is not a recognized POA by the county, so he submitted the documents to make it a sanctioned POA. The full minutes of the September BOD meeting can be accessed in the link above.

## Things You Need To Know

*Because of the summer drought and limited budget resources, road grading all 35 miles of BHR roads may not occur. We may concentrate only on the major roads and the spurs used by full- and part-time residents as well as problem spurs. Instead, more road base can be purchased and applied to trouble spots. If owners believe that their spurs need additional work, please contact Jim Nance.*

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## Neighborhood Watch

by Susanne Bloomfield

The Blackhawk Ranch Security Committee (Brad Brooks, chair) is initiating a Neighborhood Watch Program that will be customized for the Blackhawk Ranch context. This will include consultation and presentations by local law enforcement staff as well as protocol for addressing security issues and concerns. POA Vice President, Susanne Bloomfield, is working through the steps for inaugurating the program. She has officially registered Blackhawk Ranch as a Neighborhood Watch Group, and she has been consulting with Captain Corey Daniels of the Huerfano County Sheriff's Department.

Huerfano County will be registering Blackhawk Ranch in the Neighborhood Watch program as well as coordinating with Las Animas County, and they have agreed to meet with Blackhawk owners to discuss the program early this fall. Susanne said to watch for an email or website Announcement about when and where this meeting will be scheduled. Meanwhile, Individual Property Owners should plan to implement their own on-parcel security measures commensurate with their level of concerns and needs.

Five security incidents have been reported upon and followed up on by the committee: two instances of illegal tree harvesting, two cases of fraudulent census takers, and an abandoned car left parked on Rugby Mines by an inebriated driver from a neighboring ranch. In the meantime, if you SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.



# Wapiti Mitigation Grant Progress

By Susanne Bloomfield

## Stage 1



Although the progress on the Colorado State Forest Service FRWRM Grant for Wapiti Drive was delayed because of Covid-19 state restrictions, the EMC was finally given the go-ahead to begin work. On August 8, nine members of the committee (Joe Weivoda, Robert Burke, Roger

Buttignol, Jim Nance, Terry Bloomfield, Don Wassom, Brad Brooks, Marian Brooks, and Susanne Bloomfield) met with Regional Forester, Jared Fleming, who explained proper thinning techniques for the diverse terrains as well as vegetation types along Wapiti Drive.

The group toured the mitigation area, stopping to practice marking trees and to ask questions. Fleming recommended marking trees to save in clumps of approximately 3 -7 trees with 10'-25' spaces between crowns of the groups in the Ponderosa sections, but he explained that on steeper slopes containing predominately Pinion and Juniper, only about 20% of the trees should be mitigated to avoid erosion of the banks. He suggested, too, that various ages of trees as well as different species should be selected to remain.

Progress stalled again because of the State 1 and 2 county-wide fire bans, but now that they have been lifted, progress can commence. During October, EMC members will begin marking the 50' boundary lines as well as the trees to be preserved. Work will begin on the south end of Wapiti Drive and proceed north with all of the marking and mitigation to be completed by 2023.



## Day Tripping

By Judy Nance

If you haven't been to the Flying W Ranch in Colorado Springs located near Garden of the Gods, it is time to go. They lost their ranch 7 years ago to fire, but they have rebuilt a beautiful and comfortable venue for BBQ dinners and cowboy entertainment. They are open 7 days a week and have lots to see and do during your visit. We can highly recommend this choice, as there was something for everyone, including kids.



A month ago, we attended a dinner/concert of cowboy music by the Flying W Wranglers, the second longest-running western performance band in the world, and it was loads of fun. The show started at 5:30 and ended about 8:30 pm. Parking is free and an easy walk to the facility. The cost is \$50.00 per person, and I feel is a very good value. Here is the link for the Flying W Ranch should you want to make reservations. <https://www.flyingw.com/>

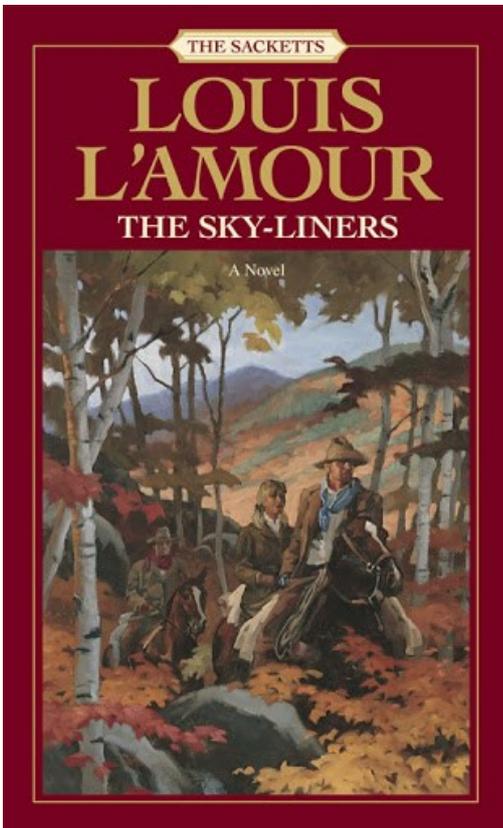
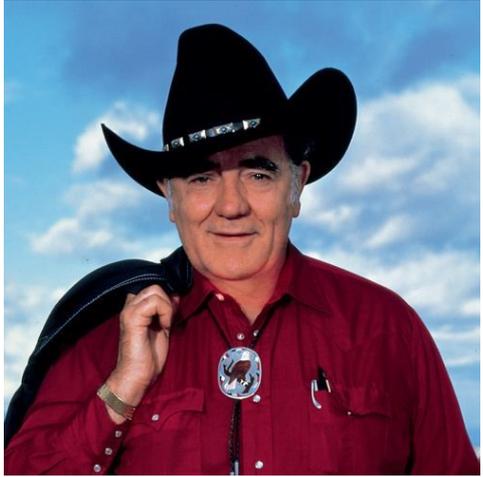
Beginning after Thanksgiving, the Flying W Ranch transforms into a Christmas wonderland, providing an old-fashioned gathering place and offering the same great meal and hospitality as their world-famous Chuckwagon Supper, but you'll be surrounded by that old-fashioned holiday feeling. You can also stroll through their beautiful grounds, climb Christmas Rock, go inside and warm up by either of the large stone fireplaces, and do some Christmas shopping in the Flying W Mercantile.

## *A Moment in Time*

by Nancy Pasternak

Did you know that a novel about Huerfano County and Huerfano County landmarks was written in 1967 by one of the most prolific authors of the twentieth century? A book titled *The Sky-Liners* was written by Louis L'Amour about the Sackett boys, one of 17 novels about the Sackett family. L'Amour was a superb storyteller utilizing the western genre, though he described his work as "frontier stories." L'Amour also wrote historical fiction, science fiction, and non-fiction as well as poetry and short-story collections.

Born in Jamestown, North Dakota, in 1908, L'Amour was of French-Canadian ancestry through his father and Irish ancestry through his mother. His early life was influenced by farming and the cowboys and livestock that often traveled through Jamestown on their way to ranches in Montana. In 1923 the family moved south, and over the next seven to eight years, he skinned cattle in West Texas, baled hay in New Mexico, labored in the mines of Arizona, California, and Nevada, and worked in the sawmills and lumber camps of the Pacific Northwest. It was in colorful places like these that L'Amour met a wide variety of people upon whom he later modeled the characters in his novels, many of them actual Old West personalities who had survived into the nineteen-twenties and thirties.



In *The Sky-Liners*, Flagan and Galloway Sackett are heading west from Tennessee to seek their fortunes. On the trail, they meet an Irishman, who offers them two much-needed horses if they will escort his granddaughter to her father in Colorado. Unfortunately, Judith has fallen in love with gunman James Black Fletchen, who has plans to dispose of her father and own the ranch. Now he and his hired guns are after the Sacketts, and a showdown is inevitable as they are followed through south-central Colorado around the Spanish Peaks and the Greenhorn Mountains. Meanwhile, Flagan falls in love with the spirited young woman as they travel.

L'Amour eventually wrote 100 novels, over 250 short stories and as of 2010, sold

more than 320 million copies of his works. By the 1970s, his writings were translated into over 10 languages. Every one of his works is still in print. Critic, Jon Tuska, surveying Western literature, writes: "I have no argument that L'Amour's total sales have probably surpassed every other author of Western fiction in the history of the genre. Indeed, at the time of his death in 1988, his sales had topped 200,000,000." In 1982 he received the Congressional Gold Medal, and in 1984 President Ronald Reagan awarded Louis the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Many of his stories were made into movies, including *Hondo* starring John Wayne in 1953. Wayne stated that "Hondo was the finest Western he had ever read." Another more recent film, *The Quick and the Dead*, starring Sharon Stone, Gene Hackman, Russell Crowe, and Leonardo DiCaprio and produced in 1995, was based on his 1973 novel. So, pick up a copy of one of L'Amour's works and enmesh yourself into one of his spellbinding sagas!

## *Know your Neighbors*

by Pat Henry



Dillon and Melissa Miller bought property on Lot 69 in the spring of this year, the home formerly owned by Rick Brandenburg and Debi Patch. Currently, they are the youngest residents on the ranch.

The two were acquaintances when they were in high school in Athens, Pennsylvania. Melissa informed me that Dillon was not at all like the young men she had been dating, for he was a hunter and outdoorsman. He was also very clear when he asked her to go out that this was

a Date, not a friendly hang-out. He greeted her with a bouquet of flowers and impressed her by his gentlemanly conduct. The two of them found out that they had so much fun together that it was a whirlwind courtship. The couple married on April 1, 2017. Dillon was pleased that their anniversary was a date he would not forget.

Dillon had some relatives living in Colorado and was interested in the many opportunities that the state provided for outdoor recreation while Melissa was game for an adventure and relocating. Both had earned their Associates degrees, and Dillon decided he wanted to be in law enforcement. Melissa was working as a real estate agent while he began training in the Colorado Highway Patrol. They initially lived in Pueblo, but both yearned for a quieter setting. They began looking at possibilities because Dillon had to submit his request for a specific area of Colorado for his Highway Patrol territory. While Melissa put her real estate agent skills to work developing a list of 10 possible properties to view, Dillon had other plans. The couple went out and visited the homes on Melissa's list. At the end of the day, he told her, "I have one more that I think you would like to see." They drove onto Blackhawk Ranch, and Melissa was immediately taken by the winding, tree-shaded roads and the sense that they were driving to the back and beyond. After seeing the inside of the house, Melissa sat on the deck and said, "This is it, isn't it?" Dillon smiled and agreed.

Dillon will soon begin driving his patrol car home, so don't be alarmed if you see it on the ranch. Those of you who don't observe the 20 mph speed limit on Blackhawk, be aware that an officer of the highway patrol has the authority to ticket you anywhere in the state. However, continue to call the local authorities if you have a need for a sheriff or an ambulance.