



# BLACKHAWK NEWSLETTER

## *BOD Meeting Update*

The BHR POA Board met on September 24, 2022, by teleconference. Road Chair, Jim Nance, advised that he and Gail Lovely surveyed the steepest ranch roads, listing them by grade percentage. His next project will be studying and recording traffic volume patterns using cameras, so he has a basis to indicate which areas need the most attention. Nancy Pasternak, Compliance Chair, reported that two residents have filled out building compliance forms. Brad Brooks explained that the joint Emergency Management Committee/Roads Committee Road Hazard sign project was completed on both Timber and Four Mile Canyon. On-ranch mobile radio testing has been scheduled for October 27. Two CSFS Grant Mitigation workdays in each of June, July, and August were completed in the grant area along Wapiti. Brad is working with Chris Dotter to negotiate a snow removal contract for the 2022-2023 snow season. The Board is also researching Wi-Fi network capabilities for the Ranch. Volunteers are still needed to manage the front entrance fire/weather signs. Access the links on the left for the full Minutes as well as the Financials.

### *Important Links*

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

Editor: [Susanne Bloomfield](#)

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## *Firewise USA*

By Susanne Bloomfield

Firewise USA is a national association administered by the National Fire Protection Agency and co-sponsored by the USDA Forest Service to provide guidance and direction for communities across the nation to reduce their wildfire risks. Their website, [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org), contains a wealth of information on how to reduce the wildfire risk around your home as well as your property. In some cases, this certification will help owners initially insure their properties and with some companies, lower their insurance payments, and even receive grants. Blackhawk Ranch has been certified as a Firewise community in good standing since 2016, thanks to the mitigation efforts of the community working together as well as individual property owners, who are making our neighborhood a safer play to live and enjoy.

## *THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW*

*Report your individual mitigation acres information to Brad Brooks by November 15, 2022*

## *Firewise Renewal*

By Brad Brooks

Blackhawk Ranch qualified many years ago as a FireWise USA Community. Although there are many advantages to being a Firewise USA community, some yearly reporting chores necessary for us to remain in good standing.

In particular, we need to report the fire mitigation activities that we as a community and we as individual property owners have undertaken in 2022. The POA has already accounted for the Blackhawk Community Fire Mitigation days and educational events. What we need from you, as individual property owners, is information on your individual mitigation efforts on your own property during 2022. Please help us to continue our FireWise USA Community designation by providing us with the following:



- \* **Your name and parcel number**
- \* **The type of mitigation activities you undertook**
- \* **The time you spent on mitigation activities (in hours)**
- \* **The area of mitigation you completed (in acres or fractions of acres)**
- \* **The money you expended related to fire mitigation (vendor payments, rental equipment, equipment maintenance related to mitigation, gas, oil, etc).**



We need to have this information by November 15 in order to assemble the report and submit it to the National Fire Protection Association. We greatly appreciate your partnership in maintaining Blackhawk Ranch as a recognized Firewise USA community.

## *A Moment in Time*

by Nancy Pasternak

Did you know that Aguilar, Colorado, was once called "Little Chicago" because it was a "hide-out" for the mafia, aka La Cosa Nostra, in the 1920s? Aguilar was a prosperous town even as early as 1894, the year it was incorporated. The population reached its highest point of about 2,500 residents. There were three mines west of town, and large numbers of Italian laborers migrated to America in the late 1800s and early 1900s to work in the mines, along with members of the Mafia and Black Hand organizations.

The Mafia, a secretive criminal enterprise, only allowed members of Sicilian birth to join; however, the Black Hand group allowed other Italians and Sicilians in. Prohibition came to Colorado in 1916, which led to bootlegging operations and murders. The two-story Antonio Lo Presto Building, or The Arcade, was built of native sandstone on Main Street in the early 1900s, along with underground tunnels used as means of escape and evasion from law enforcement during the Prohibition years.



Half of the population of Aguilar was engaged in bootlegging, including fathers, mothers, and grandparents. Signals given when Revenue Agents were in the vicinity were shots fired alerting everyone to their presence. The Revenue Agents could easily identify the small operator by his snoring pigs and unsteady chickens, as he didn't want to waste the corn mash and fed it to his pigs and chickens. Sixteen businesses on main street sold liquor, including hotels, blacksmith shops, groceries, and candy stores. The town once had four hotels, fourteen saloons, a nightclub-ballroom, six newspapers, one of the country's first JC Penney's stores, seven groceries, four dry goods stores, three bakeries, a Ford Motor auto dealer, several gas stations, three undertakers (for obvious reasons), a movie theater, three banks, and three churches.



One of the largest hauls of Prohibition bootleg liquor ever made by the Las Animas County Sheriff's Office was on Main Street. They confiscated 200 gallons of wine, a large quantity of "White Mule," and 50 gallons of raisin mash. Bootlegging was a way of life for many families because that was the only way they could make ends meet if they weren't involved in mining. The illicit

business was stopped not by law enforcement efforts but by the end of Prohibition, the Depression years, and the closing of the mines.

For more information, contact the Apishapa Valley Historical Society office and museum at 132 Main Street in Aguilar on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday from 10:00AM to 2:00PM. ([apishapahistorical@gmail.com](mailto:apishapahistorical@gmail.com)) Look for the two-story sandstone building on Main Street. If you listen very carefully you might hear the one-hundred-year-old voices of the "ladies of the night" wafting down from the open second story windows.

## *Blackhawk Remembers*

by Melissa Miller

In loving memory of Blackhawk Ranch residents gone too soon, but never forgotten.

### **Pat Henry (April 7, 1951 - March 24, 2021)**

Pat Henry, predeceased by her husband and longtime BHR resident, Dave Petit, purchased their Blackhawk property in 1999, and their “forever home” was finished in 2010. Pat loved to cook and was known for her “killer quiches,” her homemade pies, and is often remembered for her love of friends and animals alike. Pat was dedicated to her work with victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. While not working, she enjoyed gardening, painting, reading, and, of course, walking her dogs. Seated on the Communications Committee here at BHR, Pat began the original “Know Your Neighbors” articles for the newsletter as well as assisted in editing each edition. She is survived by Dave’s three daughters, Denise, Crystal, and Melody; grandchildren, Cayman and Zoe; and sisters, Peggy and Betsy. We surely miss stopping to chat with Pat on the ranch roads!



### **Mark Sutter (March 15, 1956 – November 24, 2021)**

Survived by his wife of 43 years, Cricket, daughter and son in law, Ayla and Cody Julian, and grandchildren, Hadley, Leyna, and Cody James, Mark left deep roots in Blackhawk Ranch. Known for being a very skilled carpenter and family man, not only did Mark convince Ayla and Cody to relocate to the area, but he also helped them build their family home by hand. Always a hard worker, Mark served on the Blackhawk Ranch Board, was a great supporter of the NRA and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, and was an advocate for fire mitigation and preparedness. Mark served in the Army,



was a radio operator in Germany, and more recently was self-employed with Sutter Inspection Service. We miss Mark’s posts about the Broncos and upcoming weather on the ranch!

### **Robert Burke, Jr. (June 4, 1964 – September 16, 2022)**

After retiring from the Air Force and US Marine Corps, MSgt Robert Burke and his wife, Tara, relocated from Fort Worth, Texas, to little Walsenburg, Colorado. Finding peace and serenity in the sunsets here in Blackhawk Ranch, Robert spent his time building a log cabin, taking photographs, enjoying the wildlife, riding motorcycles, and taking walks along the ranch roads.



He was a constant and effective worker on nearly every EMC Project undertaken on the ranch and could be counted upon for his dry wit in the midst of hard work. Robert is survived by his wife of 13 years, Tara; daughters Jenni, Deana, and Alyssa; sons Jeremy, Evan, and Devin; and grandchildren Ethan, Violet, Kyrsten, and Madilynn. BHR misses Robert’s big smiles and can-do attitude!