



# BLACKHAWK NEWSLETTER

## *BOD Meeting Update*

The BHR POA Board met on June 8, 2022. Art reported that the current "operational" balance as of June 8<sup>th</sup> is \$79,910.09, and the current "reserves" balance is \$64,841.33. One small claims court action against an owner with property in Huerfano County was filed. Jim advised that he is having trouble obtaining road base, and grading expenses have increased due to higher fuel costs. Jennifer Kordick has agreed to be the Weed Committee chair and has begun surveying the Ranch's needs. Brad reported on the CFFS grant, stating that Team Rubicon volunteers provided 871.15 hours of labor and Blackhawk volunteers provided 271 hours of labor during this successful project. There will be three board openings this year. A call for owners to run for the Board will go out on Facebook, the Newsletter, and in the Announcements with a submission and short bio deadline of July 1 to be sent to president [Brad Brooks](#). 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](#)  
Reporters: Nancy Paster-nak, and Melissa Miller.

## *Blackhawk Ranch Fire-Safety Tips and Good Habits*

By Ron Lovely

### **A. Mitigate along roads that border your property and around your house as best you can:**

1. *Along Roads 50 ft into your property:* Remove underbrush; trim trees up 6-10 ft; maintain more than 6 ft between tree crowns.
2. *Around House or Structure 0-5 ft perimeter:* No combustibles
3. *Around House or Structure in a 5-30 ft perimeter:* Remove underbrush; trim trees up 6-10 ft; maintain 10 ft between crowns of trees or 30 ft between groupings of trees.
4. *Around House or Structure 30-100 ft perimeter:* Same guidance as Along Roads.
5. *Propane Tanks:* Remove combustibles within 10 ft.

### **B. Practice Fire Safe Habits:**

1. BBQs and Smokers: Practice no sparks and no airborne embers. Use only gas on windy days or don't cook outside. Know the County Stage Alerts and Restrictions.
2. Outdoor Wood Burning Fires: Best not to do them.
3. Ash Disposal: Use a metal Ash Bucket and make certain the coals are COLD before you empty it.
4. Slash: Use a chipper. Unlawful burning carries heavy fines plus jail time or worse.
5. Gas Chainsaws: Use only when you have a fire extinguisher and shovel nearby and not at all on red flag days or during County Stage Alerts that prohibit their use.
6. Target shooting: Do not do it on red flag days or during County Stage Alerts.
7. Don't fight a fire that is engulfed in the canopy or on unmitigated property.
8. Plan, prepare for, and practice your evacuation.
9. Know where you are and how to give instructions to emergency personnel.



### *Call for BHR Board Candidates*

*Apply by July 1 to [Brad Brooks](#)*

### *THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW*

*The Blackhawk Annual POA Meeting will be held on July 23, 2022, at the La Veta Mercantile  
Registration: 9:00 am  
Meeting: 10:00 a.m.*

### **C. More information:**

#### **Red Flag Fire Alerts Interactive Map**

<https://www.weather.gov>

**Current Stage Alerts for Huerfano County** <https://huerfano.us/tag/burn-restrictions/>

**Current Stage Alerts for Las Animas County** <https://lasanimascounty.colorado.gov/>

#### **Firewise Resources**

<https://csfs.colostate.edu/homeowners-landowners/>

#### **Home Ignition Zone**

[https://csfs.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/2021\\_CSFS\\_HIZGuide\\_Web.pdf](https://csfs.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/2021_CSFS_HIZGuide_Web.pdf)

#### **Campfire Safety**

<https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/>

# Team Rubicon and Grant Followup

By Brad Brooks



Team Rubicon, a national group of military veterans who volunteer to aid communities in disaster response and prevention, worked on the Blackhawk Ranch from April 21-24. They conducted fire mitigation activities, creating a shaded fuel break fifty feet on either side of a very steep .35 mile section of Wapiti Drive. Thirty Team Rubicon Gray Shirts



worked three days clearing ladder fuels, thinning pinyon and juniper trees to a minimum of 10ft between crowns, and limbing remaining tree up to six feet.

Both volunteers from Team Rubicon and 26 property owners from Blackhawk Ranch worked on this project. Blackhawk fielded two chipper teams that mitigated along side Team Rubicon for the three days, hauling slash to the chippers and broadcasting the chips into the trees. Blackhawk volunteers also prepared, served, and cleaned up after evening meals for Team Rubicon at the Walsenburg Community Center April 22-24.



Team Rubicon volunteers provided 871.15 hours of labor and Blackhawk volunteers provided 271 hours of labor during this successful project. This resulted in a total of 1,142 hours of in-kind labor applied to our Colorado State Forest Service Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation grant.

Many Thanks to the following 28 Blackhawk neighbors who contributed significantly to the success of the Team Rubicon / Blackhawk mitigation project either on the Food Team or the two Chipper Teams fielded. These selfless workers pushed us into the win column: Terry and Susanne Bloomfield, Ray and Carol Ryan, Tara and Robert Burke, Wendy and Art Jackson, Nancy Pasternak, Ron and Gail Lovely, Jim Angelillo and Debra Wilson, Rayann, Paul and Sam Bruner, Shawna Secker, Jim and Judy Nance, Melissa Miller, Shawn Morrison, Richard and Valerie Swinchoski, Jim Worthy, Scott and Jennifer Kordick, and Brad and Marian Brooks. Working together, pulling off amazing things is beginning to be common place around here! Because of the great support (and good food) offered by Blackhawk Ranch residents, Team Rubicon may help Blackhawk again in late September or early October of 2022.



## *A Moment in Time*

by Nancy Pasternak

Did you know that Francisco Fort located in LaVeta is the oldest known standing structure in Huerfano County? It was built with adobe by LaVeta founders John Francisco and Henry Daigre in 1862. John Francisco had been a civilian supplier at Fort Garland in the San Luis valley west of LaVeta Pass. His supply trips took him east over the pass and through the fertile Cuchara River valley at the north end of the Spanish Peaks. Exclaiming, "This is paradise enough for me," Francisco purchased land in the valley with his trading partner Henry Daigre.



The fort was made of adobe, an ancient building material consisting of mud and straw. The mixture was put into wooden molds and then dumped on a flat area to dry in the sun. Adobe blocks were usually large (12x6x4) inches and were laid up to create two-foot thick walls. The fort was built in a U shape with a central plaza and log stockade with a gate big enough for wagons to pass through on the east side, due to marauding Ute Indians. All doors and windows faced inward to the plaza that also contained a water well, so that there were no exposed areas on the outer adobe walls. It is the last surviving original adobe fort in the state.

Today, the Francisco Fort Museum includes eight historic buildings and an impressive collection of exhibits. Weapons, wagons, saddles, and clothing used by pioneers are on display. A saloon from old LaVeta's Main Street contains the bullet scarred bar owned by Bob Ford after he killed Jesse James. There is also a one-room schoolhouse, blacksmith shop, adobe ovens, mining equipment, and firearms displays. Artifacts include Native American axes, clubs, and arrowheads as well as the "Santo collection," a display of revered figures of saints owned by the early Hispanic settlers of the Cuchara valley.

The fort museum is located next to the public library at 306 South Main Street and behind the LaVeta Mercantile. The museum is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day, Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00am to 4:00pm, 719-742-5501. There is no admission fee, but donations are appreciated. Francisco Fort Day is Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 am to 5:00pm and includes a pancake breakfast fundraiser, a full day of music, presentations, arts and crafts, and food vendors. Or, make a plan to visit the museum following our Blackhawk Ranch POA Annual Meeting at the LaVeta Mercantile on Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## *Meet Your Neighbors*

by Melissa Miller



We most certainly have Cricket and Mark Sutter to thank for bringing Cody & Ayla Julian to our neighborhood! Having purchased their own lot in the early 2000s, Mark set to work convincing his daughter and her then boyfriend to seek out a parcel of their own. Upon visiting the area, Cody confidently asked Ayla, "You know we're moving here, right?" After having kept an eye out for available lots for a while, the couple purchased lot #129, in 2016. It took Cody and Mark many weekends of hard work to build a home for the young family. Mark handled the plumbing, Cody handled the electrical, and together they tackled the rest. Hailing all the way from Fort Worth, Texas, Cody, Ayla, their 3 children, Cody's dad and Cody's grandmother joined the BHR community July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2017 as full-time residents.

Previously an electrician, Cody now works at JM Tire here in Walsenburg. He started on with the company in 2019. Ayla is a City Postal Carrier in Trinidad, walking up to 15 miles a day! Previously a stay-at-home mom, Ayla has no complaints about working outside and visiting all the neighborhood dogs on her route. The couple just celebrated their 6<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Their youngest of three, 6-year-old Hadley will be a kindergartener this fall. Ayla's daughter, almost 9-year-old Leyna, is going into the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Cody's son, 15-year-old Cody James, will be a ninth grader this upcoming school year.

After spending three months living in their camper, while final construction on their home was completed, Ayla is excited to put their camper to "better use." The family's goal is to travel our beautiful state more often and visit new, exciting places. The couple loves to share precious time with their children, traveling, loving on their pups, Ace & Chloe, watching movies, and trying new restaurants. Ayla particularly enjoys sleeping in and a nice glass of wine while Cody is more adventurous and prefers to spend his time ATVing with friends. Cody & Ayla love the gorgeous views of the East Spanish Peak and the wildlife sightings in Southern Colorado. Their favorite things about BHR are the peace, quiet, and freedom!

