



Spring 2017

Blackhawk Ranch Newsletter

Blackhawk Board Vacancies

The Blackhawk POA Board will have two vacancies to fill through election or re-election. Each position is for a two-year term. Candidates can submit their bios by Friday, May 26, via e-mail to npaster-nak55@yahoo.com.



(photo by S. Bloomfield)

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Storms Fell Trees

Windstorms that began on January 9, 2017, continued blowing throughout the week, causing power outages for four days for 8,400 meters in three counties. The town of Aguilar was especially hard hit. According to Chelsie West, Communications Manager, San Isabel Electric hired six subcontractors and crews to replace over 75 distribution and transmission poles broken by the 65-95 per hour winds. The Colorado Department of Transportation even temporarily closed I-25 to commercial vehicles.



On Blackhawk Ranch hundreds of trees were uprooted, snapped off at the trunk, or lost limbs, and many residences lost siding, roofs, or decks. The photo at left is of the cabin of Troy and Stephanie Cage. Several residents drove throughout the ranch cutting and clearing trees that had fallen across the roads.



Then, on March 24 and 25, nearly two feet of wet snow covered the ranch, again accompanied by strong winds. This time, 4,500 meters were without power because of 150 broken poles and crossarms, and ranch residents again resorted to generators, this time for about 48 hours. More trees sustained damage, with whole trees snapping, limbs breaking off, and younger trees bowed to the ground by the snow. More snow, approximately 18", blanketed the Ranch again on April 4. It is looking good for summer!



Emergency Notification

1. **Blackhawk Ranch's Emergency Notification System** for Blackhawk owners only. A text or a phone call will be sent to those who have signed up if there is an emergency, such as a fire, on Blackhawk. <http://www.call-em-all.com/join/bhrpoa>. For a telephone alert, contact Cissy (cissy@scw-inc.net).
2. **Reverse 911 CodeRED.** These notifications are specific to the county where you own property. In Huerfano County sign up at www.huerfano.us. In Las Animas sign up at www.trinidad.co.gov.
3. **Official Blackhawk Ranch Website.** The Home Page blog will post updates to emergency situations. www.bhrpoa.com
4. **FACEBOOK** Request to be added to the closed group.

Working from Blackhawk Ranch

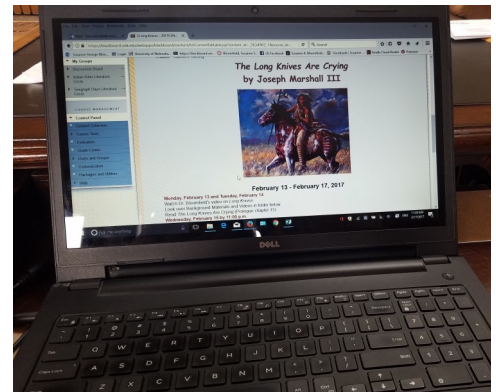
Although many residents living on Blackhawk Ranch are enjoying their retirement years, several are employed in either full-time or part-time jobs. Lee Kimball and Gina Buttignol work full-time in the health profession. Gina, a home health care nurse, travels the Walsenburg/Aguiar area caring for homebound patients. Debi Patch helps her brother at the Walsenburg Golf Course, cooking, serving, and enjoying Lathrop Park and its great golf course.

Beatriz Weivoda keeps busy as a District Director for Jafra Cosmetics, attending international conferences across the United States. She has been with Jafra for 41 years. For the past 30 years, Cissy Severance has specialized in Computer and Business Consulting with an emphasis on software training and working with small businesses, advising on hardware and software, installing networks, and setting up workstations. She does 90% of her work at home with an occasional trip to Denver to check on equipment. A Professor Emerita at the University of Nebraska Kearney, Susanne Bloomfield teaches online classes for UNK in Classic American literature, Literature of the American West, and graduate courses for high school and junior college teachers in Teaching Writing and Teaching Multicultural Literature.

Mo Wassom works part time as a consultant for Heska. The Loveland, CO, company provides technology and services for veterinary professionals. Mo researches maladies suffered by companion animals, especially their allergies. Glenn and Marsy Key also work full time from home in their auto transport business, Keyco, LLC, in Texas.

Ken and Lori Diehl both work from home. Lori works from home full time supporting her company at the corporate level, developing and implementing process effectiveness for the delivery of their IT services. Lori travels 10-20% of the time. Ken is semi-retired and works part time from home for a corporate relocation company out of Nashville, TN, in budgets and contracts. Brad Brooks works from home as IBM's Corporate Director of Toxicology and Chemical Management although his job does necessitate some travel. A scientist, an inventor, and an international executive, he holds the title of IBM Fellow.

Most use a Verizon 4G LTE Jetpack for their internet service. Cissy is even able to have unlimited data. Some, however, must have a directional antennae on the top of their house and a booster to access the Verizon antennae. The Brooks as well as the Diehls use Secom (unlimited data for \$50 a month), but residents must have line-of-sight to the Secom tower in Walsenburg (by the water tank) for this service. DISH provides the internet service for Beatriz. The Keys use both AT&T and HughesNet.



Do You Want a Rural Mailbox?



For years, many residents of Blackhawk Ranch have had to drive to Walsenburg to pick up their daily mail. The current mailboxes serve not only Blackhawk Ranch but also Silver Spurs Ranch and other residents in the area. To meet the needs of our community, several BHR property owners have volunteered to install a new bank of mailboxes. They have gained permission from Max Vezanni to install them near the original mailboxes and have contacted the Walsenburg postmaster. Their goal is to have a bank of 16 boxes and two parcel boxes installed by the end of May 2017. To qualify, you must have an address assigned by your county.

To receive an address, you must have a building permit and a foundation inspection. The cost for the mailbox bank is \$1,301.99 with the installation materials costing approximately \$458. To cover the cost of the mailboxes and the installation materials (concrete and installation hardware), they are offering each mailbox for a one-time payment of \$110. In order to qualify for a mailbox, property owners must have an address recognized by the Assessor's Office in Huerfano or Las Animas county. If you are interested, email bhr@bhrpoa.com.

Emergency Management Committee



The Emergency Management Committee was notified that the \$500 grant that they applied for from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and State Farm for a **2017 Wildfire Community Preparedness Day** project was accepted and funded. Our plan for the May Preparedness Day is to utilize \$350 of the grant to rent a second, larger chipper from Trinidad. Our goal for May 6 is to have a large turnout, not only from our "regulars" but also from those who have not participated before.

Using two chippers, we will pinpoint a half mile section of Four Mile Canyon Road that rises to the top of a ridge near the entrance and winds down and around into the valley. The heavily wooded road is steep with several blind corners. Cutting trees back from the road will make oncoming traffic more visible, allow more room for large emergency vehicles, and provide once shaded areas with more sunlight, permitting snow to melt in the winter rather than turn into hazardous ice. As this is the main artery in and out of the ranch for the 185 parcels, it is crucial to the safety of all. The owner of lots #36 and #37, Sherri Weber, has agreed to allow us to mitigate on her two properties.

One of the components of the grant was to involve young people with the project. Charles Goza, a retired pastor, will coordinate with a local youth group and their sponsors to help in cleanup activities on the ranch. The other \$150 of the grant we will donate to the youth group for their work.

Blackhawk Book Club

The members of the Blackhawk Book Club have been meeting monthly to share their thoughts on a wide variety of books. The meetings are held at 3:00 p.m. with the host providing snacks and beverages. All Blackhawk Ranch residents and non-residents alike are invited to attend!

April 21— Cissy Severence

***The Whistler* by John Grisham**

May 17 — Gina Buttignol

***The Camel Club* by David Baldacci**

June — To Be Decided

***A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman**

