



BLACKHAWK NEWSLETTER

BOD Meeting Update

The POA Board met on January 22, 2022, and the POA Accountant reported on lien activity and advised that there are currently 10 owners who have not paid dues, lien fees, and interest. The board will meet with an attorney to determine the next steps to be taken. Road Chair Jim Nance advised that we still need to get permission from a parcel owner to cut down trees that are shading the "slide area" of Four Mile Canyon Road. He reported that grading was done from the front entrance to the top of the Camel Backs, and road base is planned for areas located on Wapiti Drive and Four Mile in the Spring. Jim has identified 100 culverts via Google Earth as per parcel numbers to assist in their repair and cleaning. Brad reported that Team Rubicon will be here April 14, 15, and 16 to help with fire mitigation. The Board will have a special work session in February to finalize the revisions to the Policies and Procedures. 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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Dog Attack on Blackhawk

On December 30, 2021, one of our BHR resident's (BHR 1) dog was viciously attacked by a pack of three dogs. The attack occurred on BHR 1's property, which is in Las Animas County. Their dog was rushed to a Pueblo emergency animal hospital where it was admitted for treatment over the next two days. The dog is now at home, and the Vet say that it should have a full recovery.

The next day, the dog pack was back and pacing on BHR 1's deck. They felt it was imperative to locate and contact the owners of these three dogs before another dog or neighbor was attacked. Through conversations with neighbors, and many submissions of video surveillance showing the same dogs on other properties, along with physical tracking of dog prints in the fresh snow between BHR 1 property and another BHR residence, the dog owners (BHR 2) were located .

After these data were assembled, BHR 1 contacted the Huerfano County Sheriff's Department, where BHR 2 lived. The Huerfano County Sheriff's Department decided that since the attack occurred in Las Animas County, BHR 1 should contact the Las Animas County Sheriff's Department. Lieutenant Henry Tujillo, Las Animas County Sheriff's Office, took the lead on this complaint and contacted the Huerfano County Sheriff to coordinate the details. The next day, Lieutenant Tujillo called BHR 1 and informed him that he was on his way to investigate the complaint. BHR 1 then notified a BHR POA Board Member. The POA Board member met Lieutenant Tujillo at the BHR main gate and escorted him back to BHR 1's residence. Lieutenant Tujillo looked at BHR 1's injured dog and then asked the POA Board member and BHR 1 to lead him to the home of BHR 2.

At the residence of BHR 2, the Deputy Sheriff discovered at least six dogs all barking loudly. After a thorough discussion with the homeowner and comparing photos of the dogs that attacked BHR 1's dog with the dogs present at BHR 2's home, it was determined that these were in fact the owners of the dogs that perpetrated the attack. A summons was served on one of the homeowners. They will be required to appear in the Las Animas County Court in March for their case to be heard by a judge.

In this case, progress was achieved by the proactive pursuit of a remedy by BHR 1, who chose the proper course within the law. Law enforcement is now formally and actively involved. Given that, the BHR POA Board now has the privilege of collaborating actively with both the BHR 1 and Las Animas County Sheriff's Office. However, regardless of the proceedings and outcome of the summons, property owners remain entitled to take measures necessary to protect themselves, their children/grandchildren, and their animals from nuisance dogs whenever the need arises. As of Sunday, February 6, 2022, BHR 1 has not seen the dogs, nor have there been any reports of these dogs being seen on any BHR property.

This episode represents a productive collaboration between responsible Blackhawk property owners, local law enforcement, and the POA Board, using a reasoned approach to address a challenging problem on the Blackhawk Ranch. As actions on this issue progress, we will update. In the meantime, please continue to report these dogs to the POA as new sightings will represent additional offenses.

See something, say something!

Things You Need To Know

Winter driving conditions on the Ranch necessitate slower speeds and 4-wheel or all-wheel drive vehicles.



A Moment in Time

by Nancy Pasternak

Did you know that Huerfano and Las Animas counties were part of the Dust Bowl region of the 1930's and the ensuing "grasshopper wars"? Drought and "hoppers" go together like "hoof and mouth".

The Spring weather conditions of 1937 looked promising for Huerfano County farmers and it was expected that 100,000 acres would be planted to crops, and at the same time the county agriculture agent ordered 1,000 tons of grasshopper "bait", ("bait" a polite word for poison). By the first of June, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) crews were mixing and spreading the bait, but by the third week of the month, the drought was taking a toll on the crops and vegetation, and livestock were shipped out for sale. By the end of the month, "hordes" of grasshoppers dropped onto the streets of Walsenburg , devouring gardens and lawns and covering the streets and sidewalks. Businesses were forced to sweep the piles of "hoppers" from their doorsteps every few hours! A few weeks later, two "hordes" of "hoppers," one wave after the other, "blotted out the sun over Walsenburg" one afternoon and "blanketed the ground east of Highway 85," today's I-25. There the grasshoppers stripped crops and devoured every other living plant.



The ag agent figured the "hoppers" were already laying eggs and that conditions in 1938 would be even worse. So, he sent out 60 more WPA workers to mix and spread poison until mid-September 1937. By then, more than 15,700 farmers in eastern Colorado had distributed 17 million tons of poison. The WPA men were spreading 50 tons of "bait" a day just in Huerfano County. The ag agent started the eradication efforts early in 1938. There was plenty of moisture in the spring and summer months resulting in the best hay crop in 10 years, a record-breaking wheat crop and a good sugar beet crop. The Huerfano County ag agent continued his mitigation efforts to eliminate the "hoppers" through the 1940s, and with the advent of modern technology a new aerial spraying program was introduced in 1953. On July 6, 1953, a dozen DC-3s began "Operation Grasshopper" and sprayed 372,175 acres by the end of the program on July 23rd with a kill percentage of 98.3. The "annual grasshopper war" of 1954 was the last major battle.

For more historical information contact the Huerfano Heritage Center located at 114 West 6th Street, Walsenburg, 719-738-2346. The Center is open to the public on Wednesdays and Fridays from 2pm to 5pm and on Thursday from 11am to 3pm. The center is your source for archival photos, newspapers and Huerfano County records from the 1890's to the present.

Ute Prayer Trees

By Susanne Bloomfield

The Ute tribes, who once inhabited this region of Colorado, often culturally modified trees as a part of their ceremonies. The people would stop and pray four times on the way to their sacred mountain, Pikes Peak. The Ute called the mountain *Tava*, meaning Sun, and they were the *Tabeguache*, or People of the Sun, the largest of the ten bands of Utes. On each prayer stop on their journey to Tava, they would choose a pliable sapling, bend it parallel to the ground, and secure it with a yucca rope. "Then everyone circled the tree and prayed, for they knew it would hold their prayers for 800 years, and each breeze would give their prayers new breath." Another type of ceremonial tree is the Medicine Tree. The National Park Service explains that Utes would insert a sharp stick into a tree and peel the bark away to the inner layer, which would be used in a healing ceremony. Since a tree cannot add growth rings to such scars, historians are able to date the ceremony by comparing the rings in the scarred and unscarred areas.

The Pikes Peak Historical Society has identified over 500 ceremonial trees in the region so far, and more are being discovered near Black Forest, Fox Run, Cuchara, and La Veta. John Wesley Anderson, who gives presentations on this subject, has also written two books titled *Ute Indian Prayer Trees of the Pikes Peak Region* and *Native American Prayer Trees of Colorado* that describe in more detail the history of the Ute practices. The photos on the right are some of the trees discovered on Blackhawk Ranch that appear to be culturally modified by the Utes.



(This August 2015 Newsletter article reprint should interest the many new Blackhawk owners.)

Meet Your Neighbors

by Melissa Miller

As many know, Paul and Rayann Brunner inherited Lot 146 when Pat Henry passed. Pat was like a mom to them, and like a grandmother to their boys. One of the newest neighbors in the ranch has deeper Blackhawk roots than most realize.

Paul and Rayann may have become full time residents just last year, but the duo and their boys have been visiting the ranch for years. For the past six years, the Brunner family Christmas tree was harvested off of lot 146, a tradition many BHR property owners participate in. Years ago, Rayann and Paul shared their first "I love yous" here on Valentine's Day. They were even married at Blackhawk Ranch in July of 2017, celebrating with a weekend of music, laughter, and love. These two started as weekend warriors, visiting Pat and Dave, and like most of us, fell in love with the ranch and this community, a stark difference from the hustle and bustle of Colorado Springs.

Hailing all the way from the Pacific Northwest, Paul spent twelve years stationed with the Army in North Carolina before ending up in Colorado Springs. There, Paul spent ten years as a Social Worker and Mental Health Specialist, where he fatefully met Pat and Dave. Paul has been with the Army as both an Active Duty Officer and Reserves Officer. Paul recently made a job change and now works for Veteran's Affairs. This job allows him to travel within the state for work. Paul's other half, Rayann, grew up in Nebraska, where she also attended Law School and Graduate School. From there, she spent two years working in Germany before moving to Colorado. Rayann has been an attorney for the United States Forrest Service for ten years.

Rayann and Paul have four boys: Sam (15), Max (23), Dylan (26), and Vince (31). Their boys enjoy visiting the ranch as often as they can. Along with their dogs, Espeon and Eev-ee, the Brunner's spend their weekends hiking and building trails on their lot when they aren't attending live music or playing it. Paul plays the saxophone, piano, and sings. They enjoy camping and traveling and are looking forward to a trip to Ireland in 2022. Self-proclaimed foodies and mixologists, Rayann and Paul happily hosted book club/beer club last month and have enjoyed the social life on the ranch!

