



Black Hawk Lantern

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New Employee Wellness Center

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"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

-Eleanor Roosevelt

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FROM THE CITY MANAGER



I looked back at the article I wrote for the Lantern last year about this time. I wrote about how cold and rainy it was and that at least we did not have to live with the constant threat of wildfire. Wow, what a difference a year makes. This year it is hot, dry, and fires are all around. While I am confident we are

prepared here in Black Hawk, it is the vast area between here and Denver that concerns me most. I know that our Fire, Police, and Public Works departments are ready for anything that might happen here in the City should something such as a fire close to us break out, that might create an environment that keeps visitors away – which is the larger threat. It is incumbent on all of us to be aware of what is going on around us and to report anything out of the ordinary as it relates to a possible fire. We are very dependent on consistently having a safe and enjoyable place for folks to come and play and have a good time. Please be safe and aware – especially with fire – as the summer progresses.

Speaking of fire, or more specifically fireworks, the Fourth of July was another huge success for Black Hawk. I am led to believe our casinos were very busy and the firework

display was again first class. Every year it is a challenge to change up the show a bit. I thought our contractor, Western Enterprises, produced a show that was exciting, entertaining, and a bit different. Traffic also seemed to clear out better. I hope everyone had a spectacular time, I know I did.

Gregory Street is another topic that I talked about a year ago and how the project was about to start. A lot has happened on Gregory Street in a year. The utilities are almost all relocated, the large excavation for the proposed parking structure is done, and the contractor for the road relocation has been selected. That contractor is scheduled to begin the big project in a few weeks. Be prepared for that and know the City will do everything in its control to minimize the disruption for the duration of the project.

Have a safe and fun summer!

Happy trails,

CP&D

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Carbon Monoxide—often called the “Silent Killer”, is an odorless, tasteless, colorless poisonous gas produced by incomplete combustion of carbon-containing materials. It inhibits the blood’s capacity to carry oxygen and can be fatal when inhaled.

Dangerous levels of poisonous carbon monoxide gas can occur when there is:

- a blocked chimney or flue
- a vehicle, generator, grill or combustion engine operating in an enclosed space
- a malfunctioning or improperly installed fuel-burning appliance (such as a stove, furnace, dryer, water heater or space heater)

Colorado state law requires that, effective July 1, 2009, all single and multi-family dwellings equipped with a fossil-fuel burning heater, appliance, fireplace or having an attached garage must install carbon monoxide detectors within 15 feet of the entrance to all rooms used for sleeping upon permit for new construction, renovation or upon sale or transfer of the dwelling. Additionally, carbon monoxide detectors are to be installed upon the change of occupancy of rental dwellings.

In January 2010, the City of Black Hawk approved Ordinance 2010-4 which amended Chapter 7 Article IX of the Black Hawk Municipal Code. It delineates the homeowner obligations, as well as tenant obligations, with regards to carbon monoxide detectors within houses in the City of Black Hawk. The Municipal Code can be found on the City’s website: www.cityofblackhawk.org.

Since carbon monoxide gas is virtually undetectable without using detection technology, a carbon monoxide alarm should never be ignored. Depending on the level of exposure, people can suffer from a variety of symptoms. These should be considered a red flag and everyone should exit the building as quickly as possible and seek fresh air and treatment, if necessary.

- Mild exposure: slight headache, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, flu-like symptoms
- Medium exposure: throbbing headache, drowsiness, confusion, rapid heart rate
- Extreme exposure: convulsions, unconsciousness, brain damage, heart and lung failure, death

So, make sure you check your home to ensure you have a sufficient number of carbon monoxide detectors to protect yourself and others from the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning!



2016 City of Black Hawk Clean Up Day

Due to inclement weather on May 18th, the annual city-wide Clean Up Day was postponed to May 26th. The weather cooperated and allowed a record number of about 120 volunteers - residents, local businesses, casino employees, City of Black Hawk City Council, Historic Preservation Commission members, and employees - to hit the streets and "Clean Up in Black Hawk!"

Early the morning of the event, the participants gathered at Crook's Palace for a delicious hot breakfast & coffee, all donated by the casinos and Mountain Mocha Cafe. With a full stomach, the volunteers hit the streets sporting brightly colored vests and rubber gloves, picking up a record amount of trash. This year, in addition to the targeted areas which are always cleaned during this event, the area was expanded to include Chase Gulch, Richman Street, Dory Hill, and - with the help of CDOT - the roadside and pathway south of town to the Coyote Motel.

A new contest was held this year in which participants submitted photos of the most unusual items found while cleaning the City. When the teams returned to Crook's for a catered Italian lunch provided by JKQ Catering, the photos were combined into a slideshow presentation. Participants voted on which of the 50+ submissions was truly the most unusual item found. The winning item was an Oscar Meyer Weiner whistle and the person who submitted the photo was awarded a \$50 gift card.

A raffle drawing was held again this year, with gift card prizes donated by the City to a wide variety of Colorado establishments. Nearly half of the participants won a gift card this year.

We would like to thank the casinos and local businesses for their generous food and beverage donations, and for being understanding when the event was postponed.

Everyone seemed to have a great time working together to make our City sparkle again. The success of this event is credited to the time and effort each of volunteer who gave so willingly. We really appreciate all of your work at the year's event!



Special thanks and gratitude goes out to:

- Ameristar Casino
- Bull Durham Casino
- Isle/Lady Luck Casino
- Lodge/Gilpin Casino
- Mardi Gras/Golden Gate/Golden Gulch Casino
- Monarch Casino
- Red Dolly Casino
- Saratoga Casino
- Sasquatch/Wild Card Casino
- Zs Casino
- Mountain Mocha Cafe
- 7 Healing Stars
- 1859
- I'll Make You Famous Tattoo
- City of Black Hawk City Council
- Historic Preservation Commission
- All City of Black Hawk employees and residents who participated!





"I Cleaned Up In Black Hawk!"

Photos from the 2016 Clean Up Day. Participants cleaning up in Black Hawk in a more literal way, returning the City to it's shining glory after the winter storms and before the summer season. We can all do our part throughout the year to keep the City clean of trash and debris. Thank you to all the participants for your contributions during this year's event.



NEW FACES 2016

Wynter Kasch



Tell us about yourself.

I live about 10 minutes outside of Black Hawk. I am not native to Colorado but

my family relocated here in 2000. We have lived in Gilpin County for the last 16 years. My friends would describe me as bubbly, creative, and outgoing. I am full of optimistic quotes and ideas and I always have a positive outlook on life.

I was born in Sun Valley, Idaho and spent eight years there until we moved to Colorado. I attended Nederland Elementary School and continued onto Nederland Middle/Senior High School. I was involved in the band and I still play the flute. I played basketball for two years, football for three, and ran track my senior year. I graduated in 2011 with a class of 48 kids. I started college right after high school and since then I have changed my major four times. I have settled on Sports Medicine, but my ultimate dream job would be a full-time student (with pay).

For the past five years I worked at three different casinos before coming to work for the City. I worked all parts of food and beverage at the Isle Casino, and it was fun but a little messy at times. After that I followed our chef to the Mardi Gras Casino where I started out in the kitchen and then opened Dunkin Donuts. I got out of the food industry late last year and was a receptionist at the Spa in the Ameristar before this job caught my eye. It's a lot of fun to work in the casinos, but I really enjoy having a

set schedule and workflow, and the people here are great.

I LOVE reading, it's so easy to get lost in a book. I also really like photography and hiking. My goal is to cross at least eight 14ers off the Colorado list.

Tell us about your new position and experience working at the City of Black Hawk so far.

My job here at the City is the Fleet Technician Aide in the Public Works Fleet Department on Miners Mesa. I am responsible for cleaning the busses and making sure they are ready to go for the daily routes. I am also responsible for keeping the shop clean and organized and assisting with other tasks when it is needed. Working with the City so far has been a lot of fun. I have enjoyed meeting everyone and I like seeing how things work behind the scenes. It is a great place to work and I get to learn something new every day.

Brandee Dennison



Tell us about yourself.

My family and I moved to Colorado in 2003 from Boise, Idaho. My family and I may not be

Colorado Natives, but we have and always will be Broncos fans. GO BRONCOS! My friends would describe me as outgoing, fun, determined and loyal.

I graduated from Arapahoe Community College's Law Enforcement Academy in December 2015. Before I attended the Law

Enforcement Academy, I worked as a Medical Assistant in various medical clinics ranging from Cardiology, Urgent Care, and Gastroenterology.

I am very adventurous and love to explore new places. I enjoy many outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, snowboarding, hiking, and camping. I also like attending sporting events and concerts or just spending quality time with my family, friends, and dogs.

Tell us about your new position and experience working at the City of Black Hawk so far.

I was hired in March 2016 as a Patrol Officer for the City of Black Hawk. Working for the City Of Black Hawk has been a dream come true. I am very fortunate to work for such an outstanding community filled with so many great people. I am thrilled to be granted the opportunity to work for such a highly regarded and well-respected department and it is a pleasure to work alongside such knowledgeable and admirable co-workers.

Brad Krichau

Tell us about yourself.



My wife, Jen, works with law enforcement doing DUI checkpoints throughout the state. I have a son, Kiefer, who is in college, two

daughters, Khayla who works in early childhood development and our youngest, Rhianna, is a junior in high school.

New Faces Feature | Continued from page 6

I moved to Colorado in 1982 from Nebraska to attend fire school in Vail, and have been here ever since. I think friends would say that I'm a comedian and a wealth of useless information, in a good way.

I have over 30 years of experience in fire service. I've been on a few departments and held various positions, as well as private consulting. I started my fire career in Nebraska then moved to Vail (attending fire school), Golden, Rocky Flats, Boulder, and Aurora.

I love working with my hands - doing electrical work and working on cars or my house. I built my wife a 69' Chevy Pickup for her birthday a few

years ago. I am a HUGE Nebraska Cornhuskers fan and I enjoy watching NASCAR with my wife.

Tell us about your new position and experience working at the City of Black Hawk so far.

I am the City's new Fire Inspector. It has been enjoyable to see the great City and community partnership, and finding out the history of the City has been very rewarding. I look forward to learning more about Black Hawk as my career here progresses.



We would like to warmly congratulate Black Hawk Police Officer Craig Metcalfe and his lovely wife, Katie, on their recent marriage. We wish the Metcalfe's many years filled with lasting joy and a lifetime of love and happiness!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Meet Robert Tatum

My position as a Fleet Technician I began in May of 2012. My duties for the Fleet Maintenance Department are to maintain and repair all the City vehicles. I have over 30 years of experience as an automotive technician.

My family moved from Missouri to Wheat Ridge, Colorado, when I was two years old. I currently live next to my childhood home with my high school sweetheart. I have a son, daughter, and two step daughters. My friends would describe me as a very easy going happy guy, with old-fashioned values who likes fast cars and motorcycles. My first car was a 1967 Chevelle SS, which I still have and have completely restored.

My wife and our three dogs spend most of our vacation days in Crawford, Colorado, where we have a home away from home. We love when our family and friends join us. We also enjoy beach vacations during the winter months. This past March we traveled to Costa Rica. Our next big vacation will be to Central America, and then hopefully one day Alaska. Locally, my wife and I enjoy going to dinner at our favorite Mexican food restaurant. We enjoy car shows and motorcycle riding with our friends. I've won six trophies with my restored Chevelle.

My biggest accomplishment in life would have to be my children, and making my parents proud. My father, Robert Senior, was instrumental in my career. It began in our back yard working on cars together. I learned so much from him!

Hopefully my future will include health, happiness, and fast cars!



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Employee Wellness Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The Black Hawk Employee Wellness Center has been a hope and dream since the City began their Wellness Program many years ago. Thanks to the support of the City Council, the ingenuity of Black Hawk Fire Department personnel, and the support from Kaiser Permanente, this dream is now a reality.

For the time being, the Center will be housed in “The Barn” at Mountain City. Though the use of the Mountain City structures will indeed change as the Gregory Street HARD District® project progresses, the vacant facility is, for now, the perfect location for the City to offer this benefit to employees.

The Center will give employees access to a wide-selection of training equipment, to include treadmills, elliptical machines, spin bikes, a rowing machine, free weights, and stability exercise equipment.

During the ceremony, employees were able to walk through the facility and check out the equipment and new space. Our partners at Kaiser Permanente were also in attendance with their fitness wheel offering employees an opportunity to answer health questions to win prizes. The City also awarded gift cards to Dick’s Sporting Goods, Whole Foods, and REI, in addition to a cooler filled with wellness goodies from Kaiser Permanente.



Elizabeth Spano (IMA, Inc.), Angela Barrett (Kaiser Permanente), with Black Hawk City Council members Jim Johnson, Linda Armbricht, Hal Midcap, David Spellman, Benito Torres, Greg Moates, and Paul Bennet. Not pictured: Jill Asrael (Kaiser Permanente).



Left: HR Generalist Gina Romero, Administrative Services Director Melissa Greiner, and Benefits Broker with IMA, Inc., Elizabeth Spano. Right: Fire Department personnel Jordan Stone, Dave Wellington, Trent Ingle, and Jason Christian.

FINANCE

2015 Revenue in Review

Moving to the middle of 2016, and making plans for 2017, presents an opportune time to take a look at how the City’s finances concluded in 2015. The City of Black Hawk’s general government is funded primarily by three revenue sources. This is made up of the City’s 4.00% Sales Tax, fees assessed on each Gaming Device, and the City’s share of State Gaming Taxes. In total, these three revenue sources provided over 85.13% of all General Fund revenue for 2015.

Sales Tax for 2015 was up 11.95% as compared to 2014. The City’s share of the State Gaming Tax for 2015 was up 6.88% from the previous year. And finally, the Gaming Device Fees for 2015 decreased by 2.94%. The decrease was the result of a reduction in the number of devices offered for play at Black Hawk Casinos. The monthly average number of devices in 2015 was 8,213 compared to 8,462 in 2014.

When looking at the three revenue sources together, the total for 2015 was up about 2.92% from 2014. The City Council continues to explore and implement a variety of amenities and incentives designed to increase the number of visitors to Black Hawk and in turn increase the three major revenue streams.

PUBLIC WORKS



Gregory Street Construction Zone

In an effort to preserve the historical essence of Gregory Street, in the near future, the City will be shifting Gregory Street to the south to allow for the creation of a commercial area with a pedestrian plaza that will become a destination area for both visitors and residents. Before that shift can happen, a lot of underground work must be completed. Over the past few months crews have been working on accomplishing that task. Relocation of overhead utilities to underground is currently nearing completion. The next phase will be construction of new utilities, including water and sewer mains, within Gregory Street. This phase began in July and will not be completed until Fall of 2017. Throughout this construction period, traffic along Gregory Street and Bobtail Road will be heavily impacted. The City appreciates your patience and understanding during the construction.

Sinkhole

On May 4th a large sinkhole opened at the site that used to be the health clinic. The City notified the Division of Mines who then brought in equipment such as trench boxes, excavators, and concrete to safely close the sinkhole. Large boulders and 80 yards of concrete were used to fill the hole. A reinforced steel mat was installed over the top covered with a combination of concrete, rock and dirt. Public Works staff monitored the work and made sure the area was blocked off from any vehicle and pedestrian traffic.



Black Hawk's Summer Blooms

The City's annual display of flowers arrived in early June. The Streets Department along with two seasonal employees placed the flowers all over the City for residents and visitors to enjoy. Over the summer, staff will spend many hours tending to the flowers to make sure they stay gorgeous all season.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Swift Water and Wild Fire

by Fire Chief Don Taylor

As the snowmelt and runoff is in full force and May showers (rain and snow) are behind us, the summer season has arrived. When the summer season begins, the Fire Department sees new challenges for staff. The runoff brings water levels and speed up to increased levels, which the rafting companies really enjoy. Also, as the ground and grasses dry out, wild fire season begins.

While we may work and reside in a small community, the City of Black Hawk does have the creek which runs through it. While narrow, it does bring the dangers of swift water to our children and pets. Please monitor your children and pets and keep them away from the water while it is moving quickly.

The City of Black Hawk is surrounded by forest and trees, including some grown up areas in the City limits. We have seen all too often the impact of wild fire on communities in Colorado and throughout North America. While we have not seen a significant wild fire in Gilpin County recently, the tree and underbrush growth does hold the potential to support a fire which could impact the City.

Black Hawk is a registered Ready, Set, Go community through the International Association of Fire Chiefs and we have lots of free information on how to protect your home from the potential impact of a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) forest fire. Please stop by the fire department and take a brochure. It has additional

information regarding how to prepare for an evacuation, if that becomes necessary during any type of emergency.

The fire department prepares yearly for both of these potentially challenging incidents. During the months of March, April, and May, each firefighter recertifies their wildland training to the national standards. This includes training on all of our equipment, practicing survival skills, and testing our fitness level. This year we have partnered with the Timberline Fire Protection District and completed a joint training to support seamless work as a team in the event of a wild fire.

In addition to wild fire training, each of our staff members has recertified in swift water support and rescue. All staff are trained and equipped to perform life saving measures along the shore in the event someone is swept downstream. Seven of our firefighters have advanced training in swift water rescue swimming and are able to perform rescues in the water.

With our training and your preparation we can continue to maintain Black Hawk as one of the safest places to live or visit. Let's keep up the great team work. If you want any additional information about swift water or wild fire dangers please stop by the fire station and talk to any of the firefighters.

Have a great and safe summer!



Wild Fire Training



Swift Water Support & Rescue Training

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Black Hawk Police Department Training for the Unexpected



Twice a year, members of the Black Hawk Police Department participate in a week long training course designed to help them meet the demands of being a police officer. This year's spring training course included self-defense classes, firearms training, and crime scene management. The final day of the five-day training course included scenario based training involving instructors playing a variety of roles.

During the scenario-based training, officers wore protective equipment and interacted with an actor (instructor) who is wearing protective equipment known as a Redman suit. The Redman suit is a padded suit made up of red protective pads covering the entire body of the instructor, which is needed to prevent injury.



The simulations provide an opportunity for students to apply their training and knowledge to situations they are likely to face in our community. In Black Hawk, officers are often dispatched to calls involving mentally challenged individuals, intoxicated persons, and individuals who are involved in criminal activity - some violent and some not. During the training, officers simulate their arrival at the scene (in the classroom) and begin their interaction with the role player. Officers attempt to use de-escalation techniques and tactics to successfully resolve situations without using force. However, some scenarios require officers to use force or defend themselves. During these interactions, the goal is to minimize force and limit potential injuries to everyone involved.



During the training, officers can use appropriate force on the instructor wearing a Redman to demonstrate they understand the techniques, while the role player is protected from being injured. The training is ultimately designed to help officers use only the force needed to control a situation with an emphasis on resolving situations without force.

Colorado Legislature Increases Police Accountability

Police accountability has become a hot topic in Colorado and the entire United States after events in Ferguson, Missouri. The Colorado Legislature has enacted more law enforcement “accountability” laws in the last few years than in the previous 10 years combined; all designed to increase accountability of police officers and their departments. In addition, the Colorado Police Officer Standards and Training Board (POST) enacted new training standards requiring officers to obtain 24 hours of annual training to remain certified as a police officer - all designed to improve policing in Colorado.

Many agencies are now deploying officer worn body cameras to help ensure transparency. A State-wide committee is currently studying the use of body cameras and developing a model policy for their use by state law enforcement agencies. Grant funding, although limited, is now available to help agencies implement body camera programs. On the Federal level, a new bill, soon to be introduced in Congress, will attempt to establish national standards for police officer training across the country. Although it can be hard to keep up with the new laws, many of the laws simply codify what most agencies are already doing, including Black Hawk. Some of the new laws enacted by the Colorado legislature during the past few years include the following:

- **Police shooting data collection:** Departments must now provide detailed information on all police involved shootings.
- **Eyewitness identification policies:** Law enforcement agencies must have written policies regarding eye witness identification procedures by July 1, 2016.

- **Law enforcement agencies must disclose information regarding officer misrepresentations in certain settings:** Agencies must disclose the employment history of an officer if there is a sustained violation of making a misrepresentation.
- **Transparency of police officer involved shootings:** Agencies must develop protocols for investigating officer involved shootings, which includes the involvement of outside agencies.
- **Prohibition of choke holds:** The law outlines circumstances when the use of a choke is prohibited for law enforcement.
- **Collecting criminal justice data:** Law enforcement agencies are required to report specific arrest data.
- **New law enforcement training:** Establishes additional training requirements beginning July 2016 on anti-bias training, community policing training, de-escalation techniques and proper restraint procedures.
- **Dog Protection Act:** Requires officers to receive specific training on interacting with dogs and the use of force.
- **Psychological and Physical Examinations:** A new law requires agencies to affirm all new officers have received a psychological and physical examination within one (1) year of their appointment.

These laws help create State-wide standards and accountability for police. These laws ultimately create transparency and build trust between the community and the police officers responsible for providing service.



Black Hawk Police Officers and Body Cameras

by Police Chief Steven Cole

Is the Black Hawk Police Department considering body cameras for police officers? As the Chief of Police I support the use of body cameras by police officers, but I would like to wait a little longer before we propose their use in Black Hawk.

The Black Hawk Police Department doesn't receive many complaints from citizens about police misconduct, so we aren't under community pressure to immediately put them on the street. The casino gaming floor is constantly monitored by cameras so police officers are already under surveillance most of the time when interacting with the public.

The advantage of adding body cameras is the video includes audio, which can be invaluable. The cameras also go where the officer goes, which means we see what the officer sees. In addition, the camera goes where there aren't existing casino cameras. Body cameras will provide better understanding of the interaction that occurs between citizens and the police. Although many of the standards for using body cameras are easy to work out, some are more complex. Here are some of the issues we have to consider if cameras are proposed in Black Hawk:

- What will the cameras cost? Grant funding may be available in the future to purchase cameras and video storage, but only limited grant funds are currently available. Funding would likely come from Black Hawk's budget.
- What is the true cost of storing video taken by officers? Video must be stored in the cloud or on our

department server. Video storage can quickly outpace the available storage space unless retention policies are developed.

- Who has the right to see the video? The video can hold police officers accountable for their actions, but the technology also captures people who may not be behaving at their best. Who gets to see the video is being heavily debated across the country.
- What is the true cost of managing video? Managing video storage, preparing video for court, redacting personal information and making copies can be time consuming for staff members. In larger agencies, additional staff is required to manage body camera video.
- When is an officer required to turn the camera on or off?
- Can officers review the video before they write their reports?
- What is the right camera? High definition video requires more storage space.

In the future, I believe all officers will carry body cameras and the procedures for using the cameras will be standardized. Video will accompany every case filed in court and will "generally" provide indisputable evidence about what happened. It will help identify police misconduct and resolve false claims of police abuse. We will all benefit from the implementation of this new technology and look forward to its future implementation.



How is a New BHPD Officer trained?

The process of hiring a police officer can take months to complete, and once they are hired, there's more work to do! The first few months are critical in determining the future of the new officer's career. The first step after hiring a new police officer is placing them in a Field Training Program (FTO) to learn the job. The purpose of the FTO program is to train new officers so each officer is prepared to function in a solo capacity at the conclusion of their training.

The standard training program consists of four phases over 16 weeks of intensive on-the-job training to include daily performance evaluations. The training program is staffed by trained field training officers and sergeants on a 24-hour basis.

Field training officers have dual responsibility of providing police service in their assigned areas as well as conducting training and evaluations for new officers. A field training

sergeant is responsible for the supervision of all personnel assigned to their teams and for coordinating and supervising the on-the-job training of recruit officers.

Officers are required to meet specific performance standards in 30 performance categories before being released for solo patrol duty. The new officer's work load and responsibilities increase in each phase of training until they reach a point where they can perform the basic duties of a police officer without assistance.

After completion of the FTO program, each officer is assigned to patrol. During this time, the officer is evaluated by their patrol sergeant to ensure they are performing appropriately. As the officer reaches the completion of their 18-month introductory period, their assigned patrol sergeant completes an evaluation. Officers who have performed at an exemplary level are recommended for retention as full-time employees.



Congrats, Grad!

Black Hawk Police Officer Becky Lou Hart graduated from Regis University on May 1, 2016, with her Bachelors of Science degree in Criminology. Becky graduated with the highest honors, Summa Cum Laude, and as a member of the Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society.

Becky is continuing with her education aspirations this fall with Regis University's Masters Program in Criminology with an emphasis on leadership. Congratulations, Becky!

Two Dispatchers Receive Meritorious Service Awards

Communications Officer Melissa Dedrick and Eli Solis were on duty in the Black Hawk 9-1-1 Dispatch Center on March 23, 2016, when they received a call regarding a possible hostage situation in a hotel room. The caller, using text messages, reported a man armed with a gun holding a female hostage in a hotel room. Officers from Black Hawk, Gilpin County, and Division of Gaming were dispatched to the scene, but were unable to get a response from anyone in the room. Officers on scene, believing the suspect and hostage were still in the room relied heavily on Communications Officers Solis and Dedrick to gather intelligence information about the victim and the suspect. Dispatchers located the victim's mother and obtained information about the alleged hostage. Communications Officers Solis and Dedrick continued to make calls for officers on scene and coordinated

the notification of supervisors and SWAT officers who were responding from home to assist on the call. The Dispatchers handled this call along with others during a heavy snow storm in the middle of the night. Eventually, Communications Officer Dedrick contacted the victim by telephone and learned she was safe and no longer held hostage in the hotel room. Once officers confirmed the hostage was safe, SWAT officers entered the room to ensure it was vacant. After review, the circumstance surrounding has been deemed suspicious and still under investigation. Regardless, Communications Officers Dedrick and Solis demonstrated their ability to handle a critical incident in a professional manner and received the Black Hawk Police Department's Meritorious Service Award for their outstanding work and dedication to duty.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Summary of Summer Tech

by Tarik Muhammad

Finally the snow has melted and the temperature is warm enough to take a dip in the pool without being a card carrying member of the polar bear club. So, it's time to whip out the ceremonial summer garb, grill tools, bathing suit, sunscreen, bug spray and chips... Silicon chips that is! Here are some technologically enhanced toys and tools that can come in handy this summer.

Solar

Solar-Powered Containers: The Sun is a relentless entity, beautiful, but relentless none the less, and as we take extra steps to avoid being blasted with obscene amounts of radiation a solar enable container can turn those rays into extra tech time for your devices. Solar powered containers usually have one or many solar panels that charge a battery that will in-turn charge your mobile devices via USB port. One example is the Offgrid backpack by Voltaic¹, a 6W solar backpack that can fully charge a smart phone after 3 hours in the sun. Solar powered containers come in many forms including, backpacks, handbags, coolers and more.

Solar Cooking: Why stop at charging devices when you can use also use the Sun to cook your meal. Solar Ovens are capable of collecting then directing the sun's rays into a small area which creates heat strong enough to cook food. One example is the GoSun Stove² which uses a glass tube surrounded by a parabolic reflector to heat and cook food.

BBQ

Thermal Gloves: For those who will be taking a more "Hands-on" approach to cooking, there are thermal gloves that not only allow you to not only wield but also weld. Take the Innotech BBQ Gloves³ for example. These gloves can withstand temperatures of 425 degrees which means you can pick up, flip, and rub down your charred treats all by hand. They also double as welding gloves if your preferred method of cooking involves a bi-metal gas.

BBQ Controller: For the truly inspired preparer of protein, sultan of sizzling sustenance, curator of calculated curing, or simply, master of meats there are Wi-Fi enabled BBQ controllers. These devices use thermal probes along with air flow regulators to precisely control cooking heat while also monitoring the internal temperature of food.



They can alert you via Wi-Fi that your food is approaching the perfect serving temperature and some devices, like the CyberQ⁴, can alert you if the lid of your grill is open.

Pool/Swimming

Floating Bluetooth Speaker: Relaxing in a pool on a hot day can usually be found in a "things to do this summer" checklist, so why not crank up the enjoyment with music. The Brookstone floating Bluetooth Speaker⁵ can stream music from your phone while keeping it away from the water and can also be used to answer phone calls.

Camping

Tent Tech: Normally when camping is brought up the word technology doesn't enter the conversation, the general goal is to escape from technology, return to nature, and become one with the land. That is all good but there are a couple of ways to improve the experience of the great outdoors that don't require Internet access. How about a lightweight tent that sleeps 4-6 and weighs only 15 pounds? The NIAS 6 is an inflatable tent with a pack size of only 2 ft. x 1 ft. and can be setup as a single large tent or zipped up into two sleeping areas. The NIAS is inflatable meaning it does not require any tent poles!

Enjoy your summer!

1. **Offgrid Backpack**
<http://www.voltaicsystems.com/offgrid>
2. **GoSun Stove**
<https://www.gosunstove.com>
3. **Innotech Gloves**
<http://www.innotech.com/>
4. **CyberQ**
<https://www.bbqguru.com/>
5. **BrookStone Floating Speaker**
<http://www.brookstone.com/>
6. **Heimplanet NAIS Tent**
<http://www.heimplanet.com>



City of Black Hawk
PO Box 68
Black Hawk, CO 80422



The *Black Hawk Lantern* is also available on our website at CityofBlackHawk.org.

Tribute to a Heroic Journey

The City of Black Hawk has partnered with the Ameristar Casino Resort Spa to host the annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb as a way for first responders and the general public to remember September 11, 2001, honor the memory of those who were lost, and support a worthwhile cause. Your individual tribute not only remembers their sacrifice, but symbolically completes their heroic journey to save others.

The proceeds from the event will support the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) who create and maintain programs that support fire service survivors. NFFF provides much needed assistance to the surviving families and co-workers of the firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice on September 11, 2001. Thanks to the generosity of the Ameristar Casino Resort Spa and the City of Black Hawk, 100% of your \$25 registration fee supports the NFFF. Additional donations can be made through the registration process. Participants will receive an event t-shirt, refreshments, and more from our supporting sponsors.

This event is not a race, rather a gathering to honor the fallen, help those who were affected on that day, and let the world know – we will never forget.

Please visit <http://events.firehero.org/blackhawk> to register.



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For submissions or feedback, please contact:
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