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BLACK HAWK

Gregory Street Plaza

Friday, June 11, marks the Grand Opening of Gregory Street Plaza. Stop by and tour renovated history. page 22

Unlimited Stakes

May 1, 2021 marks the first day of unlimited stakes gaming in Black Hawk. Baccarat is also legal. page 12



THE LANTERN



Contents

City Manager Stephen Cole



Every day, we are getting closer to resuming our normal routines, post-COVID-19. My family is looking forward to getting the vaccine, which will give us the confidence to dine out, visit friends, and travel. We are still wearing masks and keeping our distance, but we are considering taking a vacation this summer, which we skipped last year. People who have been vaccinated have new attitudes about the future, which is evident in Black Hawk and the metro area as people look for opportunities to eat out and get back to a normal routine. Restaurants seem more crowded, and weekend traffic is a problem again. The vaccine plus decreasing COVID-19 cases in Gilpin County also made it easier for CDPHE to lessen restrictions and allow casinos to open table games. Several of our casinos are approved to operate under the 5-Star Program, but the low number of COVID-19 cases in Gilpin County has meant the program's implementation isn't needed right now. The familiar red Black Hawk shuttle



buses have resumed operation in Black Hawk, again signaling a return to normality. Although the future looks bright right now, we will also get another shot in the arm (pardon the pun) when new games are permitted and wager limits lifted on May 1, 2021. The staff at the Division of Gaming have been diligently working to create rules for new games and changes in limits, while the casinos have ordered new tables and are training staff. Warmer weather, new vaccines, gaming changes, and pent-up demand paints a positive picture for Black Hawk in 2021.

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MAINTAIN DON'T GAIN

**We broke the record
this year for most
combined weight lost!
244 lbs**

**Congratulations to all
involved and our
winners:
Janet Dennehy and
Ellie Younger
22 lbs each**

Janet Dennehy



Ellie Younger



New look for an ever-evolving Black Hawk

Philip Wegener, from Boulder, has been a professional photographer for over 30 years. He has managed to capture Black Hawk's magnificent photos for the new website and future marketing layouts. Due to Black Hawk's ever-evolving face, Phil used a drone in many of the photo sessions, fighting the mighty winds most days. The City will be using Philip Wegener Photography throughout the Spring to record the multitude of projects' progress. To the right, you can see a sampling of the City photos taken January 2021. The Spring shots will feature our magnificent hiking trails and the Grand Opening of Gregory Plaza!

Photos by Philip Wegener Photography



Community Planning and Development



The City of Black Hawk joins International Code Council for the celebration of Building Safety Month 2021

Black Hawk, CO – In May 2021, the City of Black Hawk will participate in Building Safety Month, a worldwide campaign presented by the International Code Council, to promote building safety. This year’s campaign, “Prevent, Prepare, Protect,” highlights the importance of building codes for providing a strong and resilient built environment. Regularly updated codes ensure that communities are protected in the face of disasters.

As we prepare ourselves for the increased severity and frequency of natural disasters, building safety is even more important. Disaster mitigation through the adoption and enforcement of building codes is one of the best ways for communities to prepare and protect against future disasters. Homes and buildings that are built in compliance with building safety codes and the officials who enforce the codes are essential to helping communities minimize the risks of death, injury and property damage in the event of a disaster.



This year’s campaign themes are: Week One, May 1-9, Technology and Innovation; Week Two, May 10-16, Training the Next Generation; Week Three, May 17-23, Water Safety; and Week Four, May 24-31, Disaster Preparedness.

“The men and women that serve as building safety and fire prevention experts are heroes to our communities,” said Cynthia Linker, Director of Community Planning and Development. “They inspect buildings and review construction plans to ensure code compliance and to ensure the places where you live, work and play are safe.”

With an extensive history dating back to 2200 B.C and the Code of the Hammurabi, King of the Babylonian Empire, building codes have protected the public for thousands of years. The regulation of building construction in the United States dates back to the 1700s. Today, the International Codes, developed by the Code Council and adopted by our community, are the most widely used and adopted set of building safety codes in the U.S. and around the world.

The City of Black Hawk will be sharing information each week during Building Safety Month on the CP&D Building Permit webpage: City of Black Hawk - Building Permit & Inspections.

Miners Mesa Storage

As required in the Miner’s Mesa Storage rules, the permit holder agrees to provide the City with current documentation (State of Colorado registration, rental agreement, bill of sale, or title) upon expiration or request for each item stored on the Mesa. CP&D requested current documentation and updated applications and rules in October, and many permit holders have not responded to the request. Please email in your updated application, rules, and documentation to cpdinquiry@cityofblackhawk.org before **March 31st**, or your property will need to be removed from the Miner’s Mesa Storage area.

****Residents and employees of Black Hawk are eligible to store their items at Miners Mesa Storage at their own risk. Spots are assigned by Black Hawk Planning Department. For more information, please contact Cindy Linker at Community Planning and Development.**



SERGEANTS DUQUE AND GRASSI

Jorge Duque is a world-traveler and a native of Colombia, South America

I started my career with the City of Black Hawk on January 4th of this year as one of the Black Hawk Police Dept's new patrol Sergeants. Everyone has been great since my very first day, always ready to help me learn all the aspects of my new position.

I am originally from Colombia, South America, but lived in Florida until 2006 when I moved to Colorado. My wife is a Colorado native, and I am the proud father of a daughter and two sons.

My friends would describe me as a very happy person and a born-designated-driver since I do not drink alcohol.

I have a strong background in computers. During my mandatory military service in Colombia, my first position with a Law Enforcement Agency was when I joined the Colombian National Police. Later I worked with the Colombian Department of Justice and started attending Law School.



When I moved to the US, I worked in the private sector for a few years until I joined the Broward County Sheriff's Office in Florida. In 2006 I moved to Colorado to become a State Trooper with the Colorado State Patrol, where I stayed for seven years, four of those assigned to the Gilpin County area.

In 2013 I became a Criminal Investigator with the First Judicial District Attorney's Office, including Gilpin County. In 2015, I took a position with the Colorado Attorney General's Office as the Investigator in charge of the Foreign Prosecutions Unit. I am an avid reader, love technology and computers, and have been practicing martial arts since I was nine. I love outdoor activities, and I am a member of the Arvada Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

I am excited to have received the opportunity to be a Patrol Sergeant. A Patrol Sergeant is a first-line supervisor who ultimately oversees the daily activities of patrol operations. On any given day, you find yourself patrolling the community of Black Hawk, serving as a community concierge to visitors, maintaining high visibility in casinos and throughout the City, answering calls for service, preparing reports, monitoring traffic, reviewing reports, and being readily available to assist other officers.

What makes this opportunity exciting is that I work with a remarkable group of men and women with a range of experience. I am also thrilled about getting a new Police Chief who has a passion for the profession and the drive to take this agency to the next level.

My start with the City of Black Hawk was challenging because I started in March 2020,

Rick Grassi is an ex-Marine, grandfather and former Texan

two days before the COVID epidemic came about. I was new to the area, and now I was trying to figure out a closed City's culture.

But as time went on and things started to head back in the normal direction, I got to see the City come together and reopen as a team. I am excited to see where this City is going, and I am glad to be a part of the team.

I have three children and one grandchild. My oldest daughter, Alexis Grassi, is 29 years old and currently resides in Katy, Texas, with my three-year-old grandson. I also have a 23-year-old daughter, Alyse Grassi, and a 19-year-old son, Nick Grassi. Both Alyse and Nick took this journey with me and currently reside in Lakewood, CO.

I am not a native of Colorado. I am a Texan. I literally had only been to Colorado once before moving here. It only took one trip to fall in love with it. I actually found my apartment online and moved in sight unseen before relocating to the City of Parker.



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Employee Connection

Steve Martinez



I've been with the City for almost 21 years. I've always been in Streets, now the Maintenance Department, and was recently promoted to Maintenance Supervisor. My job includes overseeing the operations of the department. The Maintenance Department is responsible for everything from snow removal to flower care. Each day is different. Today could be plowing snow. Tomorrow could be installing signage or removing rocks from the roadway.

My favorite part of my job is my co-workers. We have a great group of guys who make the workday enjoyable.

My wife, Christina, and I have been married for 36 years. We have three kids, six grandchildren, and a few fur-faced kids too! My friends would describe me as caring and funny. I enjoy watching sports, drinking beer, rebuilding cars, hunting and making addictive beef jerky in my free time.

My favorite color is black, and my favorite food is Mexican.

Someday I'd really like to travel to Hawaii and Germany.

UNLIMITED STAKES

City of Black Hawk is the first in Colorado to approve unlimited bets and new games under Amendment 77

Black Hawk, CO (December 1, 2020)

Soon, Coloradans won't have to hop on a plane to satisfy their appetite for Las Vegas-style gaming. The City of Black Hawk is excited to announce City Council voted to approve unlimited single-bet wagers in addition to allowing casinos to offer new games to their guests, solidifying the City as Colorado's premier gaming resort destination.

Next, the Department of Revenue's Limited Gaming Control Commission must update Colorado's gaming regulations. Pending updated rules, new games, side bets and unlimited single-bet wagers will be available to players in the City of Black Hawk on May 1, 2021

With the passage of Ordinance 2020-30 and Resolution 2020-68, maximum bets in Black Hawk will be able to exceed the old cap of \$100 per bet. Additionally, Black Hawk casinos will be able to offer the following games and their variations:

- Baccarat
- Keno
- Pai Gow poker
- Big Six Wheel



Black Hawk's casinos will also be able to offer other games like Casino War, Double Ball Roulette, Tiger Split, Free Bet Blackjack and Stadium Blackjack. The resolution also approves side bets on various games.



In the statewide general election, voters approved Amendment 77 in November, which allows municipalities to set their own single bet wager limits and casinos operating within their jurisdiction to offer new games previously not allowed under Colorado law, subject to local elections. Concurrently, in the November election, Black Hawk voters approved allowing the City Council to pass legislation to lift gaming limits and add new games.

The City of Black Hawk supports responsible gaming and urges anyone with a gambling problem to reach out to Gamblers Anonymous at 1-855-222-5542 or the Problem Gaming Coalition of Colorado at 1-800-522-4700.

Home and Network Security



Some essential tips to make your home network more secure

With work from home now becoming the norm, it is an excellent time to make sure you are protected as possible while at home, or on the road away from the office. Here are a few things to improve security and minimize potential attacks on your home computer/network.

DNS

What is it? DNS or Domain Name System is used to map human-readable addresses like google.com to their numerical IP address; this works by using a network of servers whose job is to store these mapping and return them upon request.

To lower risk, you can use more privacy or security-based servers to answer all your DNS requests; for a quick, no-hassle setup, use CloudFlare (more info @ <https://1.1.1.1>). For a more technical user, OpenDNS has a preconfigured content filter built into their "Family Shield" product, or you can customize a full array of filters by creating an account (more info @ <https://opendns.com>)

Cell Phones

Keep your Cellphone secure; the best action is to avoid 3rd party apps and shady websites; phones are much simpler to secure due to built-in restrictions, most legitimate apps will ask for permission to use features like camera, file access, etc. keep your phone as up to date as possible by making sure automatic updates are turned on. Finally, avoid click-bait news stories and ads as they are not vetted and may link to nefarious places.

Firewall

A firewall is a device that separates the public internet from your local network devices; if appropriately configured, it can block (mostly) all network traffic that is not considered acceptable. Firewalls can help look after network traffic coming or going to smart devices so you can be confident your smart coffee maker isn't sending your secret family recipes out to a spy. You can also use a firewall to set up a VPN for all your devices, route and filter traffic from your mobile devices without being at home.

Camera

Looking in on, or alerted to activity around the home can provide peace of mind and help solve mysteries; having a camera won't stop something from happening to your home but can provide insight into preventing such in the future. Watching over your home is getting more convenient and cost-efficient by the day; you can use cloud recording and monitoring for around \$6 a month. An advantage of cloud storage over traditional local storage is that video footage is protected from fire, theft, damage, or other happenings at home. You can also access said footage from anywhere.

Mountain Lions

Cougars have inhabited Colorado, alongside humans, for over 40,000 years. Seeing a mountain lion in the wild is an especially rare occurrence. In most parts of Colorado, they are found wherever there is an abundance of prey, rough terrain, and adequate vegetation to provide hunting cover. They are solitary, elusive, very stealthy, generally calm and quiet, and active year-around.

While mountain lions tend to avoid people, they can and do live in close proximity to humans. They tend to be more active when there is less human presence. Since deer are the animals most preyed-upon by lions, lions are active when deer are active — at dawn and dusk — and the lion’s activity peaks during the night. The dawn-and-dusk pattern of activity is known as a crepuscular activity.

If a cougar is in the area and you are lucky enough to detect its presence, most often, it will be due to “signs” and not actually seeing the animal. These signs are evidence left behind after a cougar has passed through. The most obvious signs of a mountain lion you might encounter are tracks left in fresh snow or soft ground. Less obvious, but just as telling, is scat (feces) a lion has deposited.



Mountain lion scat tends to be segmented, broken "cords" or pellets with small tails - or no tails at all. Seeing hair, bones and teeth in the scat is common. Lions deposit their scat in prominent locations such as the middle of trails and dirt roads, along ridgelines, and near kill caches as territorial markings. This scat was seen on a trail near Chase Gulch.



Don't assume that a track automatically belongs to a dog if it has nail marks showing. Cougars and bobcats will occasionally use their claws for extra traction while walking on slippery or disagreeable surfaces. The difference in what we see is significant. Catclaw marks appear as sharply defined slits in contrast to the blunt impressions of canine nails.



Contrary to popular myth, mountain lions don't sit in trees and jump down on people or prey. The cougar will stalk its prey on the ground or use a high spot to look for potential prey.

For the most part, people and wildlife can coexist. Coexisting with wildlife is an enjoyable part of living and recreating in Colorado. The key is to respect the wildness of wildlife.

Hiking and biking checklist

Although people rarely get more than a brief glimpse of a mountain lion, we urge you to follow these guidelines to reduce the risk of problems with mountain lions during your outdoor adventures.

- Be aware.
- Bring a friend.
- Wear bright and highly contrasting clothing.
- Keep pets secure on a leash. Roaming pets are easy prey and can attract lions.
- Supervise children and keep them within arms reach.
- Watch for signs of a mountain lion’s presence.
- Pay attention to trail postings.
- Avoid jogging or mountain biking low-light conditions at dusk and dawn.
- Stay on the trail and check maps frequently so that you won't get lost.
- Don't approach any wild animal.
- If you have an encounter, make yourself appear as large as possible.
- Be vigilant if you bend over or crouch down.
- Give wildlife the time and space to steer clear of you.
- Ask park or trail personnel about recent wildlife sightings.

If you have an encounter with a lion or an attack occurs, immediately contact Colorado Parks and Wildlife or local police. With a better understanding of mountain lions and their habitat, we can coexist with these magnificent animals.

Resources: Colorado Parks & Wildlife, cpw.state.co.us; Mountain Lion Foundation, mountainlion.org; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, fws.gov.

The Mountain Lion

Known As

Mountain Lions are commonly known as cougar, panther, or puma. The lion's scientific name, *Felis concolor*, means "cat of one color".

Population

In Colorado, population estimates range from 3,000 to 7,000 mountain lions. Roughly 57 percent of the state is suitable mountain lion habitat.

Life Span

Natural life span is probably about 12 years in the wild and up to 25 years in captivity.

Size

Males and females vary in size and weight, with males being larger than females. Adult males may be more than eight feet long and can weigh 150 pounds or more! Adult females may be up to seven feet long and weigh an average of 90 pounds.

Prey

Lions are very powerful and usually kill large animals, such as deer and elk. They also prey upon domestic animals such as livestock and pets.

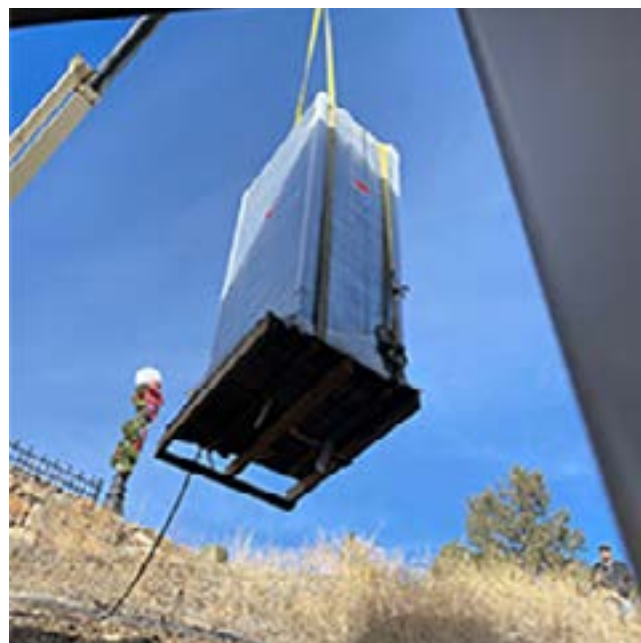
Predators

Natural enemies include other large predators such as bears, lions, and wolves.



Black Hawk Police

Evidence Room Gets Remodeled



The Black Hawk Police Department takes in over 1500 items of property and evidence every year!

The Police Department recently completed a remodel of a space that previously contained locker rooms for our Police Officers. This space was made obsolete by the construction of locker rooms at the EOC. The space has been converted into two single bathrooms, a dedicated supply storage area, an extra office, and a new and expanded property and evidence room.

The new shelving system has nearly doubled the storage capacity for property and evidence. The expanded area also allows for a safer and more efficient workspace where property and evidence can be processed in and out. The new property and evidence room also features keyless "pass-through" lockers so that evidence may be transferred directly into its storage area. These new features were designed to align with established professional standards for property and evidence rooms.

Evidence is generally held by completing the court process or through the statute of limitation for the crime committed if no charges are to be filed. For certain major crimes, the evidence is held indefinitely. As our modern Police Department ages and our City grows, we end up with more cases idling in the sometimes lengthy court process. We accumulate more permanent cases where the evidence must be held indefinitely. The old property and evidence room had become too small and inefficient to serve our Police Department's needs. This new facility will allow the Black Hawk Police Department to continue to provide professional Police Services to our residents and visitors.

John Heikes started with the City of Black Hawk in 2017 as a Communications Officer. He has been Property Evidence Technician since 2019.

PUBLIC WORKS

Gearing up for Flower Season!

Even though we still have many months of snow ahead of us, the Public Works Department already has flowers on our minds! In mid-January, all flower baskets and pots were loaded up onto two trucks and delivered to Duran's Hobby Acres Greenhouse in Longmont to start the growing process for our summer flower display.

Fully grown flowers are expected to be delivered back to the City from early to mid-June, weather-dependent. We're keeping our fingers crossed Mother Nature doesn't surprise us with another June snowstorm on us this year as she did last year!



Antique Fire Truck Refinish



In late November, our Facilities Department started the task of refinishing all the woodwork on our 1935 antique fire truck. The entire project took about two months to complete.

Everything had to be stripped from the truck, starting with the foam tank-with help from the Fleet Department. After that, the seats, railing, and siding were all removed. The piping had to be cut off. Then began the arduous process of sanding everything down. This step alone took a solid two days. New benches were built, with extreme attention to detail, making sure they were level and straight. Varnish was applied in multiple coats to bring out the shine. This was also a time-consuming process. Finally, all new nuts and bolts were screwed into place, completing the rebuild.

Some of the refinish's most complex parts were getting the new benches to line up and be level.

I asked the guys what their favorite part of the project was. Joe said he really enjoyed seeing each new step completed and building the new benches. Mike also enjoyed seeing each step and the varnish bringing out the color of the wood.

Our facilities supervisor, Rory, is a man of many, many words. When asked his thoughts on the project, his response was... "interesting."

They really liked having a unique project like this to work on and look forward to seeing the truck displayed in the new Gregory Street Plaza later this summer.



Gregory Street Plaza

Scheduled Opening June 1. Celebration Event June 11

The City will hold a small clean-up day for employees and residents on Friday, June 11. JKQ will provide lunch, and we will meet at Gregory Street Plaza at 8 am. General supplies, such as gloves, trash bags, water, etc., will be provided as usual. After we clean up from Clean-Up Day, we are invited along with the rest of Black Hawk to walk around Gregory Plaza.

Some of the buildings will be open for tours and questions. Although there are no tenants yet committed to this beautifully designed shopping plaza, we have hopes of unique retail shops, possibly a brewery, and other dining facilities.

Gregory Street Plaza is yet another way Black Hawk is working to attract non-gamers to our evolving Resort Destination City.



NUTRITION

Top Tips



Feeling anxious? Try these stress-relieving foods!

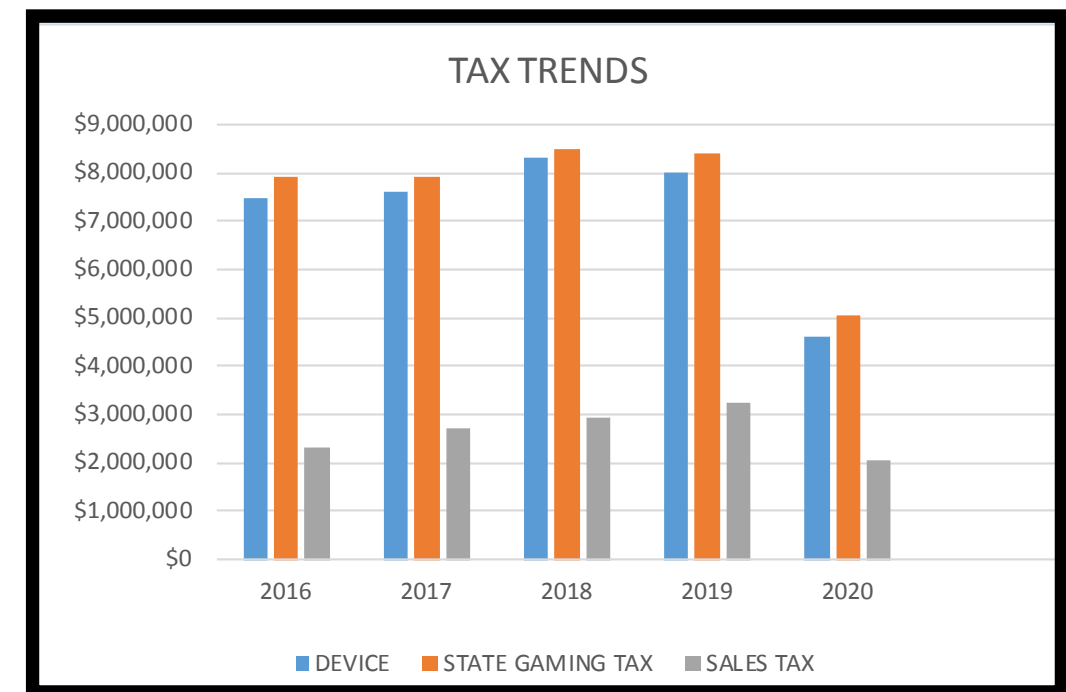
- Green leafy vegetables – their folate produces dopamine, a pleasure-inducing brain chemical
- Turkey breast – tryptophan may have a calming effect
- Salmon – omega-3 fatty acids may counteract stress hormones
- Blueberries – antioxidants and phytonutrients improve your body's stress response
- Milk or eggs – vitamin D can reduce your risk of panic disorders
- Seeds (flax, pumpkin and sunflower) – their magnesium helps alleviate depression, fatigue and irritability
- Cashews – their zinc may help reduce anxiety
- Oranges – vitamin C helps you relax and lower stress levels
- Seaweed – iodine reduces fatigue and depression
- Beets – folate can relieve stress
- Turmeric – curcumin stimulates "feel good" hormones like serotonin and dopamine
- Chamomile – helps you unwind and improve sleep quality

Source: www.health.com

Question: How do I stop eating junk food at home?

Answer: Don't buy it in the first place. Don't even allow yourself to walk down those aisles in the grocery store. If it's not in your house, you'll find something else to snack on. Try this for a month and you may just kick that habit!

2020 Revenue in Review



Before we move too far into 2021, it may be a good idea to take a look at how the City's finances concluded in 2020. The previous year has probably been the most fiscally challenging year for the City since the inception of Gaming. With casinos completely closed for nearly three months and then continued restrictions limiting occupancy, the City's revenues were significantly impacted. The City of Black Hawk's general government is funded primarily by three revenue sources. This is made up of the City's 4.50% Sales Tax, fees assessed on each Gaming Device, and the City's share of State Gaming Taxes. In total, these three revenue sources accounted for more than 84% of the 2020 Budgeted revenues (net of transfers) for the General Fund.

Sales Tax for 2020 was down 37.3% as compared to 2019. The City's share of the State Gaming Tax for 2020 was down 40.1% from the previous

year. And finally, the Gaming Device Fees for 2020 decreased by 42.6% as compared to the prior year. The monthly average number of devices available for play in 2020 was 4,201 compared to 7,062 in 2019 and 7,298 in 2018.

When looking at the three revenue sources combined, 2020 totals were down about 40.7% from 2019. Even with the disappointing revenues for 2020, the City is optimistic about the future. Between the opening of a 500 room hotel and expanded gaming space in late 2020 to the upcoming implementation of unlimited gaming and additional games, the City has a positive outlook.

****Table games were opened February 10, 2021 and high-stakes gaming begins May 1, 2021.**

**City of Black Hawk
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**The Black Hawk Lantern is published by the
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**For submissions or feedback, please contact:
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