

BEC BECON

Friday, May 10, 2024

Guests:

Matt Lundgren, Executive Director of Rescue Mission/Billings Leadership Foundation.

Announcements:

Tanya announced there will be a club social on Saturday, June 1st from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Location to be determined, but they are thinking yard games, beverages, maybe the famous shrimp boil. Tanya sent a sign-up sheet around. Get in touch with Tanya to sign up. I'm bummed to miss it. We are heading out to park our buns in the sand on a sunny beach once we get through graduation at the end of the month.

Our club favorite event, The Bejot Golf Tournament, is scheduled for Friday, July 19th at Pryor Creek Golf Course. NO BREAKFAST THAT FRIDAY.

Craig emailed the photos of the Freedom Shrine completed at McKinley School this past week. It turned out amazing, so if you missed that email, go back through your emails and find it. The Freedom Shrine Committee did awesome!

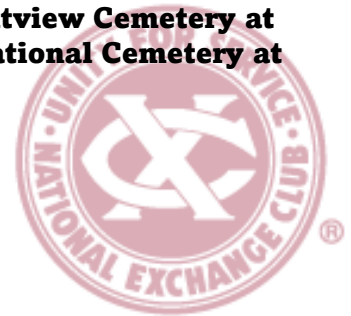
Craig announced that the District Convention last weekend turned out great. Very good speakers with important messages.

Rene added that a committee is being set up to work on getting Erin's Law in place in Montana. Currently, there is some similar legislation in Montana called Tara's Law, but it does not make sexual abuse education mandatory. It allows schools to choose if they would like to have it in their curriculum or not. Let Rene know if you want to get on that list. **And if you haven't heard, The National Exchange Club has snagged Erin Merry to be a speaker at the 2025 National Convention. How fabulous is that?!?!**

He also noted that our club cleaned up on the costume awards with Whitney Griffin winning the best costume for the women and Chris Harmon for winning the best costume for the men. Butte cleaned up in awards at Saturday's dinner banquet taking home the Youth of the Year, ACE and Member of the Year awards.

Bill Kennedy announced the Memorial Day Observances coming up. First ceremony will be at Riverside Cemetery at 8:00 am, Mountview Cemetery at 10:00 am with Dallas Knight speaking and Yellowstone National Cemetery at noon.

Program:



Matt Lundgren, Executive Director, of the Rescue Mission, Friendship House and Billings Leadership Foundation spoke on the Rescue Mission and the renovation of the buildings.

The Rescue Mission covers all of the needs such as shelter, food, medical care of those staying at the Rescue Mission so they can get back on their feet. They will even provide people with clothes from their thrift store that fit the dress code of an employer once they find a job and help them out with furniture once they are ready to get their own place.

The Rescue Mission was started in the 40's when men were arriving here via the train from being gone to war. Prior to COVID, there was an average of 93 staying at the shelter a night. Currently, they have an average of 200+ staying at the shelter nightly.

Issues impacting homelessness includes rising costs of food, rent and fuel as well as increased mental illness and increased drug availability.



That was it for this Friday. What do you get to do this weekend? I get to plant my garden so I'm pretty dang excited. No matter what you get to do, I hope you have a fabulous weekend!

Dina Harmon

