

# BECON

BREAKFAST EXCHANGE CLUB OFFICIAL NEWS



*APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH*

**Friday April 26, 2019 Guests:**

Kristen's guest Katelyn Robertson is a staff accountant @ Wipfli

Greg Upham, SD2 Superintendent, was the Special Speaker

**Derby Shrimp Boil Saturday, May 4th @ the Yellowstone Room**

**Starts at 4pm, we'll watch the Derby on TV**

**Dinner at 6pm**

**Bring \$\$\$ for horse racing**

**Prizes for Best Big Hat & Best Jockey**

**OTHER NEWS:**

- Rene mentioned that the MMA event will close on the 11<sup>th</sup> – Make your work selections!
- The committee signup sheet is going around. Please do not write your name on the list if you're not able to actually committee to meetings.
- Stamp out hunger food drive from the U.S.P.S is in need of volunteers to help sort food on 5/11 at the post office. Please contact Jennifer Lackman or Karla Stricker.
- The last Social Event for the fiscal year is on 6/1. BEC will charter a bus to go to Bearcreek for the Pig Races.
- The first Friday in May is now going to be when the presentation is for the Book of Golden Deeds.



Greg Upham, School District 2 Superintendent, spoke about the need for the passing of the levy that is currently on your voting ballot.

He explained that the State sets the budgeting authority for district, which is based upon enrollment, and 80% of that budget comes from tax collections that are already in place. The other 20% comes from the levies. In general a BOND is specifically used for building schools and a LEVY is used for the operations budget (learning).

Mr. Upham explained that cost structure of the district with the most expensive component being staff, then infrastructure and finally educational resources. He said their resources (books/supplies) are in need of upgrading, especially in the areas of Social Studies, Math and Science. He said that SD2 ACT scores are not as good as other districts and updated resources are necessary to improve those scores.

Greg said that the K-12 system was designed to put kids into college. He also explained that there are currently approximately 1,300 students enrolled in the district. Out of those 1,300 students they expect 1,200 of them will graduate and less than 50% of the graduates will go on to college. Of those enrolled in college less than 25% of them will graduate. So if less than 12% of the currently enrolled students might graduate from college, what happens with the remaining 88%? He is trying to work in conjunction with others to on the "Let's Get to Work" campaign, which connects students with career counselors to guide them to vocational opportunities. They are trying to get kids connected with local businesses to allow them work study opportunities, not based upon "what you know," but "who you know."

Currently colleges and the various military branches visit High Schools to recruit kids, but businesses do not. There is currently a 400 (students) to 1 (counselor) ratio. The levy would help the district to increase the number of counselors (reducing the ratio) to help students find work.