

BECON
8/30/19

We had some cops in today to speak to us about Crimestoppers and the Billings Police Department Crime Unit and after listening to them I am definitely going to call in a crime. I want to know who stole summer? Where did it go? I want it back. Anyone with information pertaining to this crime, please contact me – there may be a reward.

Guests

- Grandma Lori Huffnagel (Grandpa Glenn's wife) and Grandaugther Ellannor (daughter of Lisa McDaniel) joined us this morning for an unexpected ray of our quickly disappearing summer sunshine.
- Commissioner Pitman joined us to tell us about USS Billings commissioning (more on that below) and was roped into providing an update on the Molt fire, which, according to Dennis, is almost out and burned mostly grass – thus the big plumes of smoke; and there were a lot of ravines to deal with that made it more of a challenge than one would think.
- Officers Keightley and Halum from the BPD were our speakers as mentioned above.

Announcements

- Socials – Tanner reminded us of the Mustang game at the 329 Club on 9/7. Still room for more and families/kids welcome.
- An all-Exchange Club (us, Heights, Downtown, Laurel, etc.) Social is planned for 9/13 to coincide with the Healing Field in Laurel (5 pm I think) and then following at Laurel Golf Club at 7 pm.
- There will be a New Member Orientation and I assume it is at the Yellowstone Room although I need to confirm this. October 10th. If you are new to the club please come and learn our history, mission, charges, etc.
- The Coles Pantry Dinner, Dance and Auction will be held 9/14 at the MT Pavilion at the Fairgrounds. The Coles Pantry Foundation is a charity that raises money for weekend food for needy kids and was started in memory of Cole Pelican by his sister after Cole died in a horseback riding accident. The Club sponsored a table for the event.
- The Hole n One tourney is still a go and maybe has room for one more team and could use some more flag prizes and some help bright and early the morning of 9/6. The tee times start at 9:30 am.
- And as reported by Tanya last week - Phil Bauer (Bauer's Handyman Services) is hosting a community appreciation event on 9/8/19 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Riverfront Park. Phil would like to spread the word about why he loves Exchange and, toward that end, he would appreciate if a couple members would volunteer to attend on behalf of BEC to be available to answer any questions about the club and what we do.
- Rene asked that if you haven't posted a mug shot of your smiling face on the Club's website, please do so. She will even take your picture if needed and upload that. These pictures are very handy for BECON writers and Beer Captains to put a face to a name particularly given we aren't a small club anymore.
- And as mentioned above, Commissioner Pitman filled us in on the commissioning of our City's namesake ship, which City and County dignitaries participated in down in Key West, FL. In between visits to Margaritaville, the group brought enough hard earned bootie and Red Oxx

filled swag bags with them to pay for the whole affair and set the sailors up with some goodies. The group is still doing some more fundraising to benefit those soldiers and are selling commemorative coins and such, if interested.

Speakers

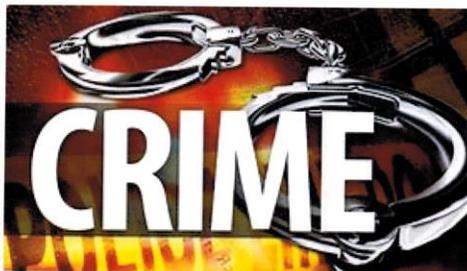
Officer Tom Keightley spoke to us first about his duty as the Crime Prevention Officer responsible for talking to groups like us about what the BPD is up against and about the Crimestoppers and Neighborhood watch programs.

Did you know that our efforts fund Crimestoppers 100%? I didn't and did you know that this program makes a significant impact on solving and stopping crimes via completely anonymous tips that get called in. These tipsters receive a case number (no names given) and depending on the nature of the tip, crime and benefit the tip provided, are rewarded \$\$ using the money we grant them – again, all in an anonymous fashion.

Officer Steve Halum from the BPD Street Crimes Unit also talked about their completely undercover work solving crimes and arresting bad guys, of which there are plenty in our humble city including lots and lots of drug-related felonies. In fact, Steve mentioned that most of the crimes are related to drugs in some manner. There are 5 people in this unit and they do work in both the City and County and respond to the tips described above as well as other information gathered through numerous other techniques.

We're lucky to have these guys looking out for us because as Steve mentioned, the criminals in our town are pervasive enough that even the most protected and sheltered members of the community could now become the victim of some sort of crime, which unfortunately, is a bit sobering. A summary of what they have been able to do to date in terms of policing was provided as a handout – see below.

Have a great holiday weekend for all us laborers and enjoy the last of our summer.



BPD STREET CRIMES UNIT STATS JAN-AUG 2019

Cases: 268

Arrests made on scene from case work: 73

Warrants served: 402

Citations/warnings written: 203

ITEMS RECOVERED/SEIZED:

Vehicles: 40

Guns: 49

Drugs: Roughly 91 pounds and 113 marijuana plants

US Currency: \$109,021