

Becon 2-21-20

Tony returns for an encore performance to lead the group this morning in Rene's absence. He's still got it.

Guests: Guest Speakers Dr. Julie Kelso and Jamie funyak from the Billings Clinic
Ashely Braaten and Stacey Obie, friends of Leif.

Announcements:

- Congratulations go out to Brian Hafner, recently named to the 40 under 40 Achievers group. Brian also received a Billings Chamber of commerce award.
- Glen Hufnagel was present to accept \$4100 from the club for the Foundation.
- Dealers are needed for the upcoming Casino night on April 21. This is a benefit for the Big Brothers and Sisters of Yellowstone County. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Damian Forrester at 406.697.3282.
- Monster Trucks take the stage tomorrow night. Show up time is 530pm.
- District Convention is coming up May 8 and 9. Information on signing up will hit the street in March.
- Dave Weller had/may still have, tickets for the Mate show this weekend. Give Dave a shout if interested.

Dr. Julie Kelso with the Billings Clinic presented a wealth of information on the state of Mental Health care in Billings and the surrounding area. Mental Health is the #1 cause of medical disability in the United States. Montana, Wyoming and Alaska are the three highest ranking states in suicide completion and coincidentally, are the only states in US without a psychiatric residency program. Last year, the Billings Clinic treated 19,929 patients in outpatient care and another 3,101 with inpatient admissions. Using tele-psychiatry and the Psychiatric Stabilization Unit, they are reaching patients in 55 of 56 counties in Montana and 11 of 23 counties in Wyoming. As you can see, is something that affects all of us!

Unfortunately, current services are only reaching a fraction of the folks that are in need. A shortage of Psychiatric professionals is one the greatest contributing factors. In partnership with the University of Washington, the clinic is developing a psychiatric residency program. They had roughly 400 applicants, interviewed 30, and selected 3 candidates for the program this year. They don't require these applicants to serve in Montana upon completion but the candidates are recruited with that in mind. They are looking to expand the program and help create as many psychiatric professionals as possible as the need has never been greater.

A mushroom walks into a bar and orders a drink. The bartender tells him to get out. The mushroom says, "why? I'm a fun-guy."

Have a great weekend everyone.