

BREAKFAST EXCHANGE CLUB

BECON

December 3, 2021

Our breakfast meeting today was held at the Metra Café. Plenty of talk about the upcoming playoff games for the Cats and Griz.

The Festival of Trees fundraiser for the Family Tree Center started on Thursday, 12/2, with the Gala and Auction. Bruce Glennie pointed out that a large number of Exchange Club members for all 5 clubs were in attendance and either working the event or bidding. I believe Breakfast, Downtown, Heights and Laurel all had trees in the auction. The Breakfast Tree went for \$1700 and was purchased by our own, Tara Grazley-Pfister. In fact, Tara purchased three trees. Thank you for your support, Tara and all others who helped to make the Gala a nice event.

Announcements.

12/4 - MMA fights are tomorrow night. There are still a couple of people looking for subs. Please help if you can.

12/10 – Bill Dutcher retirement party. We are all invited. This will be held at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center. Time is from 4pm to 7pm.

12/17 – Year End Breakfast meeting. This will be held at the Moose Lodge. 131 Calhoun Lane. Yellowstone Kelly's will be hosting and will have the traditional Mimosa bar.

12/17 – Membership happy hour from 5pm to 7 pm. Location is TBD. Rene' will let us all know when she finds a location. Entre' is sponsoring this event. As someone said during breakfast today, start drinking in the morning and continue right through to Happy hour.

12/18 – Chase Hawks. Signups are open for this event and will close on 12/11.

Guests.

Colton Adams was a guest of Tanner Critelli. He is a program coordinator at MSU-B.

Larry Schmidt was a guest of Randall Rice. He works at MARS.

DeeDee Baker and Katie Grove from Dog Tag Buddies are our speakers today.

Program.

DeeDee Baker started Dog Tag Buddies after her husband returned from Iraq. She found that PTSD is a real problem and found that the help of a dog can help a Military Veteran better handle different situations that arise throughout the course of a day.

Dog Tag Buddies partners veterans suffering from hidden injuries (PTS, TBI, MST) with rescue dogs. The program gives both the veteran and the dog a chance to lead a more fulfilling life. Services are at NO cost to the veteran.

A service dog is one that is individually trained to perform physical tasks for individuals with disabilities. Under ADA, businesses and other agencies that serve the public generally must allow service animals to accompany people with disabilities in all areas of the facility where the public is allowed to go. Dee Dee made it clear that dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

Dogs are known to reduce stress, anxiety, and even blood pressure. Dog Tag Buddies will pair a dog with a veteran and train both how to help each other. The process is lengthy. It is at least a 32-week commitment from the veteran and can take 12 to 18 months to complete. Following completion, Dog Tag buddies provides support and follow up for each team. Presently, there are 15 teams that have completed the process. There are service areas in Billings, Great Falls, Helena, Missoula, Polson, and Kalispell.

Dee Dee rewrote the Montana state laws as they pertain to service dogs. In the past, any animal or pet could be deemed a service animal. Dee Dee changed this to be very specific on what constitutes a service animal.

At the conclusion of the Dog Tag Buddies presentation, Rene' gave them a surprise \$2000 check which came from proceeds of this year's Food Truck Battle on the Yellowstone.