

BECON

December 9, 2022

This morning we didn't have a scheduled speaker so Casey Williams, Yellowstone County Disaster & Emergency services coordinator, spoke for a few minutes. More on that later.

Guests:

Casey Williams

Announcements:

Next Friday's Christmas Breakfast.

Please let Tony Parish know today if you are going to attend next Friday's breakfast. We are having prime rib and eggs. We need to get an accurate number to the American Legion staff so they can plan accordingly.

There will be a Mimosa and Bloody Mary bar. Tony and company will also have drawings for fabulous prizes throughout the breakfast.

Beer Pouring Events:

Chase Hawks is our last event of the calendar year. It is next Saturday night. Signups for the event will close this Saturday (12/10). Please go into the website and request to work or if you can't be here please say you are unavailable.

Craig Burke asked for volunteers to work an event after the Rodeo. Darrel Weber, Mike Hennessey, and Tim Crowley quickly volunteered.

Speaker

Casey Williams was at breakfast this morning and gave us an impromptu talk. Casey wakes up in the morning and thinks of all the problems and disasters that could befall us in the county. Yikes!!

Casey told us that the county is ill prepared for a huge emergency or disaster. The county severely lacks the resources to adequately serve all the population (fixed and transitory) and property that is in our midst. His job is to think, review and try to mitigate any problems. (And I think it is stressful to make sure I am at the tailgate in Bozeman today on time.)

Casey went on to say that outside of the Billings and Laurel areas it is tough to get emergency services to help in an accident, a health issue, or a fire. Those areas are supported by volunteer agencies, and they must round people up and then get out to you. Sometimes hours after the need.

By state law the county commissioners are only responsible to have police service and wildland firefighting services. Casey stressed trying to use our clout to get more attention to this matter. It is all about money and probably has to start at the state level.

Casey also talked about how lucky we have been here. For instance, we had the largest flow of water and flooding in history this past spring. We had no damage here. The MT DOT was quick to open up the working bridge over the river by Lockwood. Otherwise, there could have been some damage. The

other lucky event was the tornado in 2011. We all remember that. The facility was full of football fans the night before and was scheduled for something else the day after the tornado.

His message is that we need to be prepared.

Drawings

Mike Hennessey won the drawing for the (4) Chase Hawks Tickets.

Craig Burke won the weekly pot. I missed it by one. Looked like a good pot.