

BECON
6/2/2023

First of all, it's good to see Willie Stecher made it back from AZ safe and sound.

Guests this morning were Deb Musak, a contractual designer and Stephanie (missed her last name) who has her application in to join.

Youth of the Year recipients Lillie Bland, from Central Catholic High School and her parents, Zack and Lisa, and Gwen Cusak, from Lockwood High School and her parents, Jonathon and Jennifer.

We also had two students, Nathan Stewart and Owen Foote, who, because of our donation last year, were able to go to Philadelphia with the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. Owen's mother, Kimberly, also joined us this morning. The Chapter President of the Freedoms Foundation, South Central Montana Chapter, Amy Caldera, was in attendance as well.

Items for your calendar:

6/24 - Need a few people to work a party at the zoo

7/4 - Will need workers to pour at the fireworks display on the METRA grounds.

Both of these are on the website... make sure you go in and mark available or not! Because if you don't, you may get selected and then have to try to find a replacement.

Also, mark your calendars for the Bejot Memorial Golf Tournament, happening at Pryor Creek Golf Course on July 21. It's a GREAT, FUN time for everyone, good golfer or not!! Signups to come in the next couple weeks.

The Freedoms Foundation Chapter started 4 years ago, with the main focus being to teach students the true meaning of the Constitution of the United States.

Owen Foote began the long process to become one of the three recipients to go to Philadelphia with an essay on why he wanted to go on this trip. One of the main reasons he gave was to become a more educated voter.

There were 5 objectives he learned on the trip:

Specific Education - learning the principles of the Constitution.

Leadership Development

Patriotism and citizenship

Networking and collaboration

Empowerment and engagement

Next up was Nathan, who spoke mainly on the importance of being a voice in the community and government.

Our Youth of the Year recipient, Lillie Bland, spoke on the Heroes in her life, her parents, Zack and Lisa. She was born with a cleft palette and has endured 14 surgeries in her short 18 years. Her parents have taught her to be the best version of herself. She plans to go into the medical field, mainly because of her mother being a surgeon.

Gwen Cusak also spoke about the hero in her life, Mr, Staton, who is Dave Sta ton's son. She first met Mr. Staton when she moved to Billings from California, right about the time the Corona Virus hit. Mr. Staton was her Choir and Theater teacher at Lockwood High School. Mr. Staton inspired her to inspire others and taught her to lead by appointing her President of the choir. Everything was going very well until she got the news

that Mr. Staton had been diagnosed with cancer, caused by the Crown's disease medication he had been on for many years. Mr. Staton then gave the almost overwhelming job of directing the next year's theater production to Gwen. This gave her the confidence to work with her peers and those having a bad attitude. Mr. Staton's optimistic attitude has taught Gwen to help continue her journey with a smile, no matter what life throws at you. Her final sentence pretty much sums up everything: "Not all heroes have a cape, but each has a smile". Dave then announced that his son has been pronounced cancer free as of three months ago, but has yet to endure reconstructive surgery on his neck, mouth and cheek. Prayers for healing is greatly appreciated.

Until next week,
Rocket