

# BECON

8/02/2024

## Guests

Shawna with Holiday Lights at Zoo Montana was a guest of Stephanie Bond, and our speakers this morning were Adam Liberty and Andrew McDonald.

## Announcements

The Food Truck Battle is three weeks away. Make sure that you have gone in and chosen which shift you want to work and make yourself unavailable for the other. If not, you could be scheduled for both. If you have a significant other that is going to attend as well, please let Rene know so we can find a place for them. They DO NOT have to be R Serving Certified to help, but they do have to have their R Serving to serve beer. We will have a lot of other places that need volunteers. Also, August 17<sup>th</sup> will be the day the committee puts up banners and flags around the grounds. Please let Rene know if you can make that as well, many hands make light work!

The schedule for the first three fair events just hit a couple hours ago, sorry the BECON didn't get out prior as a reminder. We have 9 events in August, so we will need all hands to help out. These 9 shifts do not include the two shifts a day on the Midway that we need to serve beer. Those shifts are 2-6 & 6-10. Please let Shawnee know if you can work one of these shifts as well.

New member, Kordell Harmon told the club a little about himself. He was voted in as a member last month. Kordell says he claims Dina as his mom once in a while, that was the important detail!

Here are the speakers for the rest of the month:

- 8/9 Dr Garcia of School District 2
- 8/16 Business Meeting
- 8/23 Megan Irions w/ Riverstone Health Foundation
- 8/30 Brenda Mass w/ Burger Trail

President Andrew McDonald opened up the morning explaining the philosophy for Billings Central. "Students are seen as individuals. They are looked at for who they are and who they want to become". This was to focus of Andrew this morning, speaking about how the students, family and staff are trying to move Central into the future. They created a 5 year plan in 2022/23 for how to do just this. One of the ways they are trying to do this is by expanding retreat opportunities for students and faculty as well as by revising academic standards to fit with today.

Here are some numbers for Billings Central:

1. # 1 Private School in Montana
2. 4 Class of 2024 Merit Scholar Semi Finalists
3. 13:1 Student teacher ratio with and average classroom size of 18
4. 100% Graduation Rate
5. 6,500 Community Service Hours
6. 85% student participation in MHSA sanctioned extracurricular activities.
7. 44 State Championship titles earned in the past 10 years, 31 state runner ups.
8. 7 Class of 2023 recipients of the Montana University System Honor Society
9. 9 Class of 2023 recipients of the Montana University System STEM Scholarship.
10. 74% of the students enrolled in one or more fine arts classes.

## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

8-9 Boys like Girls

8-10 Ratt w/ Quiet Riot

8-11 Kip Moore

8-13 Big Air Bash

8-16 Rodeo

8-17 Rodeo

8-24 Food Truck Battle  
2 Shifts

8-27 Hozier



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**#GrowExchange**

After Andrew spoke, Adam Liberty gave us some insight into the Foundation and Catholic Schools in general. Over one half of the catholic schools in the country have closed down over the past ten years. This is due in large part to the cycle of having to increase tuition because of enrollment dropping, which causes more enrollment issues which causes more of an increase in tuition.

The Foundation has been around for 50 years doing its best to look towards to future for Catholic education in and around Billings. One of the oldest fundraisers they do is May Fair, which was started in 1976.

One of the other points that Adam spoke on is about donations. You can donate to the 529 plan and it doesn't have to be used for college education like it once was. There is also a Montana Endowment Tax credit that is available to Montanans that want to donate. Lastly Adam spoke about the Student Scholarship Organization which gives 100% tax credit to those who donate.

Before everyone departed for the weekend, Dina reminded everyone that the drawing for the Gun Raffle is September 11<sup>th</sup>. We will be selling tickets at the Food Truck Battle as well, but lets try and sell as many as we can leading up. Rene created a flyer that is Social Media Friendly, and it is attached to this email. If you have any questions, please reach out to Rene, Dina, Craig or Tony.

