

BECON

11/1/24

Several people wanted me to point out that there was BACON at breakfast this morning and it was big, bold, brown and beautiful! It had enough fat that its juice was thicker than a bowl of oatmeal, as thick as thieves, thicker than ticks on a hound dog, thicker than a snicker and so thick you could feel your arteries hardening after the first bite. So, there you go Shannon – BACON in the BECON, and for breakfast. SOOOOOIE!

Guests

- Kyle Lantz from Youth Dynamics Inc. (YDI) and Christy Oaks from the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch (YBGR) were guest and our speakers today.
- Kyle Johnson was a guest of Greg Waring this morning – for a second time. Maybe a potential new member . . .

Announcements

- Remember that our Social Club's Oktober Fest is tomorrow evening at the Legion starting at 5 pm. German theme of course with food and games. Should be fun so come out if you can.
- November 16th is the date for this year's Dress A Child, to be held at the West End WalMart starting at 7 am. We are a little short on folks to participate so check your calendars and see if you can help out. This is one of, if not the most, rewarding thing we'll do all year. For those who have not participated, you get paired with a kid and have \$150 to spend on clothes for them using a guide prepared by a parent that ranks what clothes they need the most – ie coat, shoes, socks, etc. If you are planning on doing this and haven't filled out a release form yet, check past emails from Ed Kaufman to print a form and return to Ed.
- Remember the Festival of Trees coming up on December 5th – 7th. We'll be contributing a "Peanuts" theme tree (like the comic strip) so please donate a decoration or two and/or give Dina some cash to let her do some shopping for this.
- Shawnee reminded us that it's almost B-Ball season up at MSUB so keep your eye out for beer pouring opportunities.
- A big shout-out to our favorite son-of-a-member, Joey Lucara-Travolta, son of Lanny and Lisa, who killed it in the dance contest at the NILE and beat out other contestants to pocket a cool 100 clams. Good job Joey, way to kick it - old school I hope!

Speakers

Kyle and Christy provided a ton of information about Youth Dynamics Inc (YDI) and the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch (YBGR), respectively, who have recently joined forces to

expand youth mental health services both across the state via YDI's 18 locations, and at YBGR in Billings/Yellowstone County. Combining forces and operating as YBGR, about 4,000 kids will be now be served by around 800 staff members.

YDI has been around for 51 years and provides family focused behavioral health treatment founded on the principle of an actively caring and trauma sensitive culture in which people can realize their full potential (Mission statement). Their programs are numerous and can be investigated further on their website. YDI is in the process of developing a new Youth Home Campus in Boulder, MT at the location of the old state hospital, that will give kids a place to heal from personal trauma.

Christy highlighted the numerous programs offered at their 400+ acre functioning "ranch", out on Hesper and 72nd St., where they are a fully accredited mental health organization providing services and special education to youth who have significant difficulties functioning at home or school. Their Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility provides services ranging from cognitive-behavioral therapy to a chemical dependency program to equine therapy to vocational programs, with additional services provided to children at satellite locations outside of YBGR through their Community Based Services. In addition to the lodges to house the kids at YBGR, campus facilities also include the Yellowstone Academy, which is a fully accredited public K-8 school (School District 58) and private high school with the Day Treatment Program serving special needs students from surrounding communities. It should be noted that YBGR doesn't allow the kids to have cell phones and limit "screen" time with campus computer devices as it is thought that the mental health issues including self-harm is exacerbated by social media influences. Check out YBGR's website to get a better overview of the campus and what they do.

Have a great weekend!