



| BEC NEWS

September 2021 LETTER

Labor Day Honored

Labor Day, an annual celebration of workers and their achievements, originated during one of American labor history's most dismal chapters. In the late 1800s, at the height of the Industrial Revolution in the United States, the average American worked 12-hour days and seven-day weeks in order to eke out a basic living. Despite restrictions in some states, children as young as 5 or 6 toiled in mills, factories and mines across the country, earning a fraction of their adult counterparts' wages.

People of all ages, particularly the very poor and recent immigrants, often faced extremely unsafe working conditions, with insufficient access to fresh air, sanitary facilities and breaks.

As manufacturing increasingly supplanted agriculture as the wellspring of American employment, labor unions, which had first appeared in the late 18th century, grew more prominent and vocal. They began organizing strikes and rallies to protest poor conditions and compel employers to renegotiate hours and pay.

20th Anniversary of 9-11-01



**A day of remembrance for
those that lost their lives,
and for all those who gave
their lives.
We remember.**



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Many of these events turned violent during this period, including the infamous Haymarket Riot of 1886, in which several Chicago policemen and workers were killed. Others gave rise to long standing traditions: On September 5, 1882, 10,000 workers took unpaid time off to march from City Hall to Union Square in New York City, holding the first Labor Day parade in U.S. history.



The idea of a “workingmen’s holiday,” celebrated on the first Monday in September, caught on in other industrial centers across the country, and many states passed legislation recognizing it. Congress would not legalize the holiday until 12 years later, when a watershed moment in American labor history brought workers’ rights squarely into the public’s view. On May 11, 1894, employees of the Pullman Palace Car Company in Chicago went on strike to protest wage cuts and the firing of union representatives.

On June 26, the American Railroad Union, led by Eugene V. Debs, called for a boycott of all Pullman railway cars, crippling railroad traffic nationwide. To break the Pullman strike, the federal government dispatched troops to Chicago, unleashing a wave of riots that resulted in the deaths of more than a dozen workers.

In the wake of this massive unrest and in an attempt to repair ties with American workers, Congress passed an act making Labor Day a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories. On June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed it into law. More than a century later, the true

founder of Labor Day has yet to be identified.

Many credit Peter J. McGuire, cofounder of the American Federation of Labor, while others have suggested that Matthew Maguire, a secretary of the Central Labor Union, first proposed the holiday.

Labor Day is still celebrated in cities and towns across the United States with parades, picnics, barbecues, fireworks displays and other public gatherings. For many Americans, particularly children and young adults, it represents the end of the summer and the start of the back-to-school season.



The 2021 Food Truck Battle Results

The 3rd annual Food Truck Battle On The Yellowstone came to a close on Saturday, August 28, 2021, tallying a record number of attendees, food trucks and earnings for an astounding, all-time high. The event featured 26 different food trucks offering a variety of mouth-watering foods, beverages and desserts.

American Flags patriotically lined the posts of the perimeter fencing, dedicating this spot to our Veterans and Armed Forces. Once the event began, a moment of silence was given for those who recently lost their lives in Kabul.

Rene Critelli, Chair of the Food Truck Battle committee, had a rockstar team of 13 Exchangites who helped her lead the charge to Billings’ event of the year. From sunup to sun down, this dedicated group of volunteers poured their hearts into an amazing, record-breaking event that is sure to be remembered for many years to come.



A kids' fun zone was set up on the grass of the Armed Forces Reserve Center featuring blow up horse races and an obstacle course. Stacey Dreessen with the Family Tree Center volunteered to manage the fun zone and had this year's youngest volunteers set to lend a hand.



With only a \$5 entry fee per person, and a beautiful day ahead, thousands showed up to celebrate and enjoy the weekend. Attendance was an unthinkable 5,511 individuals who braved the brief rain showers to enjoy the outdoors, fellowship, and rock out to two popular local bands - Arterial Drive and Repeat Offenders.

Beer flowed like wine at the trailers in the center of the event where sales reached a whopping \$28,000 alone; one local beer creator, Canyon Creek Brewing, donated their beer 100% to the BEC for sales, and it's One Night Stand was a fan-favorite at the event.

A special thanks to both Briggs Distributing and Intermountain Distributing Co. for setting up the beer trailers and making a few extra trips to ensure there was beer or cups until the end of the event. This crowd was exceptionally thirsty!



The Food Truck Battle Showdown

As the rattling sound of generators filled the air, and the hustle of the event setup was underway, the food trucks began their day by presenting their best product before a local celebrity panel of judges. These judges included the likes of Billings Police Chief St. John, Jeff Ewalt of Zoo Montana, Victoria Hill from local news station Q2, science teacher Craig Beals from Billings Senior High School, Sean Arndt, USMC and Kimberly Gary, MTARNG.



The overall winner of this year's event was The Corn Dog Company of Billings; People's Choice award was awarded to Mia's Lumpia for the 2nd year in a row.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from the Food Truck Battle will go to Veterans organizations. The grand total of funds raised this year was a record-breaking \$52,878.90! This was more than double what was earned in previous years.

The success of this event is one for the books, however there is still one year left to get ready to make next year's Food Truck Battle on the Yellowstone bigger, with greater opportunities for revenue streams within the current structure.

Mark your calendars for next year's event which will be held at the same location on August 27th, 2022. See you there!

-By Shannon Johnson

THE BREAKFAST
EXCHANGE CLUB OF
BILLINGS, MT
PO Box 2224
Billings, MT

www.breakfastexchangeclub.org

Exchange, America's Service Club, is a group of men and women working together to make our communities better places to live through programs of service in Americanism, Community Service, Youth Activities and its national project, the Prevention of Child Abuse.

We want to see you!

If you are able, come weekly at 7:00 a.m. on Friday to the Metra Cafe and get to know your fellow Exchangites!



EXCHANGE

BREAKFAST EXCHANGE CLUB OF BILLINGS, MT

Committee Happenings

BECON Committee September - Shannon Johnson
Invocation Committee - Rod Hessler

****Committee chairs - Please be sure to email your upcoming events to shannonejohnson16@gmail.com to have it included in the next months newsletter!**

Volunteer Opportunities for September 2021

September 4-5th - Burn The Point

September 9-11th - Healing Field (South School, 606 S 5th St, Laurel, MT)

September 21st - Luke Combs

****Don't forget to mark yourself either 'request to work' or 'unavailable' so we can schedule those members first who need to get their events for the year.**

New Members



Welcome back to the club Matthew McNeal! Matt presented his application at the August meeting and was approved. Everyone please welcome Matt back into the fold.

Don't forget our **Prospect Social on September 22, 2021, at 5:30pm** at Canyon Creek Brewery. Recruit the best people you know to join us to increase our reach into the community.





EXCHANGE

BREAKFAST EXCHANGE CLUB OF BILLINGS, MT

RECOGNITION

It's time to celebrate YOU!! We have so many valuable members in the club and it's high-time that you were recognized for your years of service. So this section of the newsletter has been added this year to do just that!

The following members have been part of the Breakfast Exchange club for 5 years or greater. Please take the time to send an email, give a pat on the back, or give a fist-bump to these loyal members.

Steve Staebler	26 years	Joined 9/23/1995
Randy Thomas	17 years	Joined 9/13/2004
Glenn Hufnagel	15 years	Joined 9/11/2006
Tony Parish	15 years	Joined 9/11/2006
Dan Singer	14 years	Joined 9/01/2007
Chad Raisland	11 years	Joined 9/14/2010
Darryl Weber	7 years	Joined 9/08/2014
Danny Sandefur	6 years	Joined 9/07/2015

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

