

# BECON

1/9/2026

Happy New Year – Today was the first breakfast in a couple of weeks, and it looks as though our members are still used to sleeping in on Fridays.

Guests today Marlene and Linda from the Free Store, were our guest speakers.

## Announcements:

1. Shawnee received several cards over the holidays. Salvation Army sent a thank you for Dress A Child, Dog Tag Buddies sent us a holiday card and Shawnee is now experiencing one of the benefits of becoming president of BEC. Somehow, non-profits get your address and send you holiday messages.
2. Tanya wanted to let all of our new members know that you have name tags. Come to breakfast and check yourself out!
3. We have Fusion Fights this weekend and Bruce is the big dog! Nate Bargatze is Sunday January 18<sup>th</sup> and is expected to be a big event so we need some more volunteers.
4. The board is meeting this coming Tuesday. If you have anything that needs attention, or if you are a committee chair and need to report to Shawnee, please get in touch with her so it can get put on the agenda.
5. NO Guests next week for breakfast as it is a business meeting.
6. We have had several recent birthdays. Jerry Voto turned a spry 80, Wiley Taylor looks like he is 80, and Mary Anne McGuire has celebrated recently as well! Happy Belated Birthday, young uns!
7. Shawnee is looking for a guest speaker for the last Friday in February.

Marlene and Linda started off by letting us know this morning that the Free Store has been in existence for 15 years and they are all volunteer labor.

Anyone can shop for clothing and household items at no charge. They do not require anything for eligibility. All are welcome to shop, donate, and volunteer. The store is open on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month from 10 am to 12:30 pm. You might think that they don't do much volume because of their hours, but last year they served over 17,000 individuals & families. During their open hours, they also set up for 110 lunches a day. They often run out well before their 2 hours and 30 minutes are complete.

Even though they are only open for 5 hours a month to the public, their volunteers work three days a week to process all donations, make sure they are working and are clean. If the items they receive don't work and they can't fix it quickly, they pass it on to other entities that might be able to use it.

As you know, Tim is their courtesy vehicle and not only collects bottles, but does a lot of other things for the Free Store. If your family has small Gatorade bottles, or ensure bottles or any other type of bottles that are small but have some solidity, they would love to have them to fill with laundry detergents, dish soaps, shampoos, and body washes. Attached is their donation list.

Bruce won the big money today and donated the money to the Free Store.

## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Fusion Fight 1-10  
@4:30

Nate Bargatze 1-18 @ 5:30

## HOW CAN YOU HELP THE FREE STORE?

### DONATE FINANCIALLY

Checks may be made out to:  
Yellowstone Conference Free Store

### VOLUNTEER

Prepare for the shoppers by  
volunteering on Wednesday,  
Friday or Saturday mornings.

### SPREAD THE WORD

Let friends, family, business  
contacts know how they could donate.

Let those in need know they are  
welcome to shop with us on store days.

### DONATE GOODS

Goods donations accepted at the Free Store at Evangelical United Methodist Church, 345 Broadwater Avenue, from 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Go to the alley door (north side of church) and knock. PLEASE do not leave outside church at other times.

#### CLOTHING - Adult, Children, Baby

|                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Shirts                | Shoes          |
| T-shirts              | Boots          |
| Blouses               | Slippers       |
| Sweatshirts           | Underwear      |
| Pants                 | Bras           |
| Sweatpants            | Socks          |
| Shorts                | Baseball Caps  |
| Sleepwear             | Stocking Hats  |
| Jackets (all seasons) | Gloves/Mittens |

#### KITCHEN AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

All clean, workable kitchen items  
except very large appliances.

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Decorative Pillows | Clocks      |
| Pictures           | Décor Items |

#### HYGIENE and CLEANING PRODUCTS

|                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Deodorant (M and W)        | Body Lotion      |
| Shampoo/Conditioner        | Razors (M and W) |
| Bar Soap                   | Shaving Cream    |
| Body Wash                  | Baby Diapers     |
| Toothbrush (Adult & Child) | Baby Wipes Adult |
| Toothpaste                 | Diapers          |
| Tampons                    | Menstrual Pads   |
| Adult Incontinence         | Adult Body Wipes |
| Toilet Paper               | Paper Towels     |
| Laundry Soap               | Dish Soap        |

#### MISCELLANEOUS

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Back Packs        | Toys          |
| Book Bags         | Games/Puzzles |
| Rolling Suitcases | Belts         |
| Sleeping Bags     | Purses        |
| Baby Accessories  | Books         |

#### LINENS

|             |                   |
|-------------|-------------------|
| Bath Towels | Bedspreads        |
| Hand Towels | Rugs              |
| Wash Rags   | Curtains          |
| Bed Sheets  | Kitchen Towels    |
| Pillows     | Kitchen Dish Rags |
| Blankets    | Potholders        |

#### ITEMS WE CANNOT ACCEPT

|                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Medications     | Furniture            |
| Lawn Furniture  | Lawn Decorations     |
| Aerosol Sprays  | Outdated Electronics |
| Child Car Seats | Men's Dress Clothing |

The Free Store is a 501-C-3 nonprofit  
organization and, on request, will  
provide a charitable contribution  
form for your donations.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

