

# BECON

1/23/2026

## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

**Brrrrrrr... it's cold out there, but Exchange is still in the atmosphere!**

Guests in attendance this morning were our speakers from **Billings TrailNet**, Kristi Halderman, and her guest, Kerrina.

There are some *super exciting* ideas floating around to help grow our membership. One such idea: **bring a guest and receive two tickets for the Friday Morning Cash Jackpot**. Is this really a thing, you ask? There's only one way to find out—**bring a guest!**

**Shay Grinsell** joined us for breakfast and was presented with her pin and certificate. Shay is always upbeat, a lifelong Montanan, and—based on her Facebook posts—a proud **Cats fan**.

The **Nate Bargatze** concert was a great show, though it didn't generate much revenue. It seems comedy shows draw a crowd, but once the show starts, the drinking slows way down. One creative idea floated: enlist some of our more agile, skate-savvy members to deliver drinks directly to seats. Maybe even an app where guests can order and pay?

For those of us who don't skate—or whose health insurance wouldn't cover it (I'm already picturing **Nate Ally shaking his head**)—a simple rolling cart could do the trick. Just an idea!

**Tomorrow night** is the **Holiday Party** at the old Petroleum Club.

- **Show up time:** 5:00 p.m.
- **Cost:** \$30 per person (pay at the door or Venmo Shawnee)

Shawnee mentioned that if you Venmo her, you don't have to limit it to \$30—you're welcome to give her **ALL da monies**. She's also heard rumors of some excellent costumes, including a white tux for her white knight, **Sir Scott de Krauszer**.

 **Mark your calendars for February 21st for the Club Shrimp Boil and Horse Racing Night.** Our friend **Terry Corey** will be back to host the horse racing. It will be a potluck-style event and promises to be a great time. **Time TBD.**

Shawnee also mentioned some upcoming concerts and fair events, but unfortunately the BEACON editor was talking at the time and didn't hear the details.

As mentioned earlier, **Kristi Halderman** from Billings TrailNet was our guest speaker. She had a great presentation ready to go, but there was no Mac adapter available for our system (I swear we used to have one... butttttttt).

**Billings TrailNet** is a 501(c)(3) organization (formerly BikeNet) whose mission is to promote a complete, community-wide trail system in Billings. Founded in 1994, the organization originally focused on bike usage but has since expanded its vision to include all forms of trail use—biking, running, walking, pets, and more.

In 2010, the City of Billings created a plan for a **marathon loop trail**. Today, the loop is **90% complete**, with only the Stagecoach Trail connection remaining. Groundbreaking for that final section is planned for **2027**.

Billings TrailNet sponsors **6–7 trail clean-ups per year**, and their largest fundraiser is **Ales for Trails**.

🍺 **Ales for Trails** will once again be held at the **Zoo** this year on **Friday, August 28th**. They are looking for **TIPS-trained volunteers** for the late shift (7:00 p.m. to close). While taps sometimes empty early, there's always something to do. Last year, many late-shift volunteers didn't show, putting the organization in a bind. This could be a great opportunity for us to put together a crew—and maybe even gain some marketing exposure for our club.

🏃 A quick plug for runners: **Big Sky State Games** will include both a **half-marathon** and a **30K** this year (yes, that's a thing).

During the Q&A session, it became clear that **“no one” cares about Blue Creek**—except maybe **Cavin**. Keep that in mind.

Stay warm, and **see you tomorrow night!** ❄️🎄

