

# Elks Bugle



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Lodge Office  
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~ Elkdom ~

Elks Care, Elks Share

January 2026

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Sheridan Elks Lodge #520 hosted its annual Hoop Shoot Competition on December 13 at Bridges Gymnasium. The competition included 26 boys and girls, ages 8 through 13, each attempting 25 free throws in their respective age divisions.

In the 8–9 age division, Brooks Burr made 9 free throws to lead the boys, while Brynlee Belliveau led the girls with 10 made attempts. In the 10–11 division, Breken Hutton recorded 18 successful free throws, and Lexi Williams led the girls with 10. In the 12–13 division, Evan Groshart achieved the highest total of the day with 22 made free throws, while Layla Hatch followed with 20.

These six division winners will advance to the Wyoming District Competition later in January in Casper, Wyoming, where they will compete for the opportunity to qualify for the state tournament.

Thank you to our volunteers: Marvin Johnson, Tom Benedict, Jim Will, Mathew Hansen, Loy Young, Mary Kay Liggett, Tony Kasen, Dewey Jacobs, John Will, Gavin Young, Gary Joy and Jenny Kraft. A special thank you to Zack Will, our Hoop Shoot Chairman, for putting everything together.

## *From the Secretary's Office*

Greetings all and Happy New Year!

Our Lodge currently has 702 members and we have 19 candidates for membership.

We currently have 29 members who are delinquent for 2025–2026. Please remember that all delinquent members will be dropped from Lodge membership at the end of March. If you haven't done so, make sure you get your dues paid!

Our January Lodge meeting will be held on Tuesday January 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.

Reminder that our Lodge will be closed on Thursday, January 1st.



## **Veteran's Affairs Corner**

The holidays are always a busy time, and this is no exception for voluntary services with veterans. We kicked off the month with our (now) annual Christmas shopping spree for veterans served in the HUD-VASH program. Bright and early on December 1, we met VA staff at Walmart. We had 42 veterans to shop for so we grabbed several shopping carts and away we went in search of personal and household items for their veterans living in the community. We purchased many kitchen appliances, blankets, sporting goods, foot massagers for veterans with circulation problems, and much, much more. This has become a hallmark event for the VA in tapping into the Elks' support. Always a good feeling teaming up with the VA staff and hearing about the needs of veterans who leave the program and sometimes struggle to remain independent.

We recruited a new volunteer, JoAnn Medina Barker, whose Elk membership application is in process, following in her father's and husband's footsteps. JoAnn hit the ground running; participating in the gift wrapping at the Sheridan VA and the holiday luncheon at the Buffalo facility.

We completed another season of collecting deer and elk hides for the Veteran's Leather Program on December 12th, having collected and salted 114 deer and elk hides. After selling the hides to our hide buyer, Peska Furs, we had a net revenue of \$751, far surpassing our total of last year. These funds were raised for use by Lodge #520 in supporting veterans in the local community. A big thank you goes out to Valley Meats of Dayton, WY and Double L Meat Processing of Sheridan for donating the deer and elk hides as well as individual hunters who donated their hides. We also wish to thank fellow Elks Glenn Fairbank and Ron Nielsen for assisting with the preparation of the hides for sale.

We continue to grow the volunteer pool willing to help with activities that benefit veterans and, as Chair, we plan to re-invigorate the Lodge Veterans Committee. We see this as an opportunity to step up our efforts, partnering with other service organization, to assist veterans served by the VA as well as veterans in the community who may not be served by the Sheridan or Buffalo facilities.

Fran and I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Brad Nielsen, Veteran's Affairs Voluntary Service Rep.

Fran Bunker, Veteran's Affairs Voluntary Service Deputy Rep.



## Queen of Hearts

**\$9,681.00**

(as of 12/30/25)

The drawing is held Mondays at 6:00 pm. Come early to get a seat & purchase your tickets. Tickets may also be purchased during the week and on Mondays up until the music starts.

As always, thank you to our Queen of Heart Sponsors!

### Propositions For Membership

Amber Petty  
(proposed by Tim Loomis)

Steven Boostrom  
(proposed by Casey Meadows)

JoAnn Barker  
(proposed by Brad Nielsen)

### Transfer of Membership

Erica Hastert  
(transfer from Lodge 2561)

### DID YOU KNOW...

Sheridan Elks Lodge #520 was instituted in August 1899 and held its first meeting on November 15, 1899. C.P. Story was the Exalted Ruler and there were 33 charter members. Our Lodge became a Wyoming corporate entity on May 8, 1907.



**Happy Birthday  
to our members with  
January birthdays**



**Tory Chenoweth**

Born 9/10/1974

Initiated 5/27/2009

Died 12/10/2025



Nomination of 2026-2027 Officers will be held at our February 3<sup>rd</sup> Lodge Meeting. The Officer positions include Exalted Ruler, Esteemed Leading Knight, Esteemed Loyal Knight, Esteemed Lecturing Knight, Secretary & Treasurer. Nominations will also be open for the position of Three Year Trustee. Please plan on attending the February 3<sup>rd</sup> Lodge Meeting to submit your nomination(s) for any of the Officer positions.

Election of Officers will be held at our February 17<sup>th</sup> Lodge Meeting. Nominations may continue on the 17<sup>th</sup>, if no nomination was received for a position. If a position already received a nomination at the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, additional nominations for that position will not be accepted. If an Officer position has only one nomination, elections are not necessary. If there are two or more nominations for a position, an election will be held.

Installation of the 2026-2027 Officers will be held, at the discretion of the Exalted Ruler, between March 15 and April 15,. The 2026 - 2027 Officer Term runs April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027.

If you have any questions or would like additional information about becoming an officer, please contact the Lodge or any of our Officers.



Happy New Year!

The Holiday Season is over and I hope you all enjoyed it with friends and family.

We still have some January dates available for parties or any family functions ... give me a call to schedule.

Don't forget we have many things to do here and we've recently added a video game system with many of the games you used to play in the arcades. We also have pinball, darts, pool, pull-tabs, "pigs" and Wyoming Skill games.

Friday night 5pm-7pm is Happy Hour!!

We are open Saturdays starting from 1-6pm and Monday-Friday from 2 – 9pm.

See you soon!

Anna



### Elks Legacy Scholarship

The Elks National Foundation awards \$1.4 million in college scholarships worth \$4,000 each to a total of 350 children and grandchildren of Elks Members.

College - bound high school seniors who are children or grandchildren of dues-paying Elks are encouraged to apply. Please visit [www.enf.elks.org/leg](http://www.enf.elks.org/leg) for full eligibility details.

Applications are available online at [www.enf.elks.org/leg](http://www.enf.elks.org/leg) or can be picked up from your Sheridan County High School Counselor. The application deadline is on or before February 2, 2026.





# JANUARY

## LODGE CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Lodge Closed <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b>	2 Happy Hour 5-7 pm	3
4	5 Queen of Hearts 6pm	6 Orientation 6:30pm Lodge Meeting 7:30pm	7	8	9 Happy Hour 5-7 pm	10
11	12 Queen of Hearts 6pm	13 Board of Directors Trustees Meeting 6pm	14	15	16 Happy Hour 5-7 pm	17
18	19 Queen of Hearts 6pm	20	21	22	23 Happy Hour 5-7 pm	24
25	26 Queen of Hearts 6pm	27	28	29	30 Happy Hour 5-7 pm	31



*Sheridan Elks Lodge  
520*

*Welcomes our New  
Member*

Jacek Aksamit



### Monday Night Dinners

January 5  
Polish Dogs and Sauerkraut

January 12  
Spaghetti

January 19  
Chicken and Noodles

5:30pm – 7pm  
\$5 per plate



Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks Lodge #520  
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*Officers 2025 –2026*

Exalted Ruler ..... Mathew Hansen  
Esteemed Leading Knight ..... Forrest DeBolt  
Esteemed Loyal Knight ..... Sara P. Mefford  
Esteemed Lecturing Knight ..... Cory Kiser  
Secretary ..... Chelsey Roberts  
Treasurer ..... H. Jay Knipple  
Esquire ..... Justin Kremer  
Inner Guard ..... Levi Jorgenson  
Chaplain .....  
Tiler .....

Change Service Requested

*Trustees*

Dorel L. Roberts     Dustin Shaw     Thomas Benedict

**THANK YOU!**

THANK YOU to all of our volunteers who help keep our Lodge running smoothly! It truly takes a village... from the general maintenance, to cleaning, to helping with events, the Bugle, and much much more... we appreciate everyone who steps up to help.

THANK YOU to our members for your continued support to our General, Scholarship, Building, Cemetery and Veteran’s funds, as well as WEST and ENF.



Check out our new Lodge Pin commemorating our Lodge’s 125 Anniversary. They are available for purchase at the bar for \$5. Be sure to stop in and get one!

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