



Volume 25 No. 9
January, 2026

The Catalina Mountain Elk Bugle



★★ Three Time All American Lodge: 2008-09, 2010-11, 2012-13 ★★

Lodge Officers

Exalted Ruler..... Paul Slater
Leading Knight Kim McIlionie
Loyal Knight Lisa Hensley
Lecturing Knight..... Mike Orcutt
Secretary..... Mimi Wittenborn
TreasurerKathy Hernandez
Trustee 1 Year... Jack Baillargeon, PDDGER
Trustee 2 Year..... Jim Lengel
Trustee 3 Year..... Bob Keilsa, PER
Trustee 4 Year..... Ron Starjnski, PER
Trustee 5 Year..... Doug Harpold, PER
Tiler..... Marie Starjnski
Esquire Steve Asp, PDDGER
Chaplain..... Sarah Murray
Inner Guard..... Rhiannon McMahon

SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

District Leader .. Jack Baillargeon, PDDGER
Mediator Lee Cook, PDDGER

LODGE MEETINGS

Meetings start at 7:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays monthly, with one meeting in July and August on the 4th Thursday, and one in December on the 2nd Thursday

Catalina Elks Lodge 2815

Office: (520) 825-0893
Lounge: (520) 825-7724
bpoe2815@arizonaelks.org
www.elks2815.org

Office Hours

Monday	10:00-2:00
Tuesday	10:00-2:00
Thursday	10:00-2:00

Exalted Ruler's Message - Paul Slater



Howdy! What another I hope that everyone had a great holiday season, and that you were able to spend it with family and friends. Last month went amazingly fast and it is hard to believe that 2026 is now here. The highlight of the month for me was our Elks Memorial Service held on Dec. 6th. While it is always hard to say goodbye to our friends and members, it is also an honor to have known them and to say goodbye in such a beautiful ceremony. I have said it many times, if you are not attending some of the Elks ceremonies, you are missing a huge part of being an Elk. My New Year's wish is that you attend at least one in 2026. I promise it will be time well spent. A quick update on the lodge expansion project: we have had the preliminary plans up in the lodge room and lounge. Please take some time to look them over and let us know your thoughts or questions. We would love to hear from you and ensure that our new lodge will be incredible. We have formally submitted our request to the Grand Lodge to move forward with permits, plans, etc. You will start to see information on our fundraising projects for our new home, as we

still have a lot of work to do to make this vision a reality for our lodge. I will be looking for members to join a fundraising task force to develop ways to increase our impact. If you would like to be a part of this group, please let me know. Happy New Year, and as always, if you have questions or concerns, you can always reach out to me via email (pslates1987@gmail.com) or phone (520.268.2375)

Take care,

Paul





Past Exalted Rulers

Donald Denman*	1969-70	Jim Buell, PDDGER	2005-06	Steve Asp	2017-18
Jim Gillis*	1982-83	Jack Baillargeon, PDDGER.....	2006-07	Glen Robinson.....	2017-18
Dave Webster*.....	1987-88	Sig Danielson.....	2007-08	Robert Kielsa.....	2018-19
Ralph Welsh	1989-90	Lee Cook, PDDGER	2008-09	Gloria Cisneros	2019-20
Al Skorupski, PSP	1993-94	Larry Megahan.....	2009-10	Steve Asp, PDDGER.....	2020-21
Charles Dugas*	1999-00	Richard Esparza*.....	2010-11	Alane Asp.....	2021-22
Bill McLane*.....	2000-01	Thomas Wilson*	2011-12	Monty Derting	2022-23
Victor Garcia*	2001-02	Earnest Cruce.....	2012-13	Ron Starjnski.....	2023-24
Kathy Anderson*	2002-03	Robin Danielson.....	2013-14	Douglas Harpold	2024-25
Neal Patronsky	2003-04	Gloria Cisneros.....	2014-15	<i>Affiliated PERs in Italic</i>	
Frank Fieldhouse, PDDGER ...	2004-05	Doug Harpold.....	2015-16	Deceased *	
Jim Cox	2005-06	Sig Danielson.....	2016-17		

Committees

Accident Prevention	Paul Slater, ER	Investigation Coordinator.....	Deborah Derting
Americanism.....	Al Peterson	Lodge Activities	Jan Trudeau & Pam Wedwaldt
Auditing Chair	Anna Williams	Major Project Coordinator	Lisa Chavez
Blood Drive Coordinator.....	Doug Harpold, PER	Membership	Mimi Wittenborn
Bugle Editor	Doug Harpold. PER	Memorial Day Service Coordinator	Doug Harpold, PER
Building Committee.....	Ron Starjnski, PER	PER Association	Doug Harpold, PER
Clothe-A-Child Coordinator	Leslie Lefaise-Huerta	Protocol Coordinator.....	Steve Asp, PDDGER
Community Activities	Jan Trudeau	Public Relations Chair.....	Ellen Fitzgerald
Dictionary Project.....	Cindy LeFaive	Ritualistic Comm. Chairs.....	Gloria Cisneros, PER & Ron Starjnski, PER
Drug Awareness.....	Vacant	Scholarship Chair.....	Al Peterson
Elks Memorial Day Service	Doug Harpold, PER	Sickness & Distress	Paul Slater, ER
Elks National Foundation.....	Ron Starjnski, PER	Soccer Shoot.....	Mike Ross
Flag Day Coordinator	Doug Harpold, PER	Special Olympics.....	Doug Harpold, PER
Flag Display Chair	Jim Wall	Standing Relief Committee.....	Kim McIlionie
Fraternal Committee	Larry Wittenborn	Training Chair	Doug Harpold, PER
Golf Tournament	Al Peterson	Veterans Services	Bob Kielsa, PER
Government Relations.....	Al Skorupski, PSP	Youth Activities.....	Mike Ross
Hoop Shoot.....	Mike Ross	Webmaster & Email Coordinator	Ellen Fitzgerald
House Committee.....	Pam Wedwaldt		
Orientation Coordinator.....	Alane Asp, DDGER		

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Catalina Mountain



Arizona Elks Assn.



Grand Lodge

The Catalina Mountain Elk Bugle is the official publication of Catalina Mountain Elks, Lodge #2815, of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the USA. The **Bugle** is published monthly to provide a ready means of communication within the Lodge. Contributions of interesting and pertinent reading material are welcome. **Article deadline is the 20th of the month** preceding publication. All communication should be addressed to: The Mountain Elk, P.O. Box 8742, Tucson, AZ 85738. Subscriptions for non-members are \$10.00 per year. Catalina Mountain Elk's physical address is 16045 N Oracle Rd, Tucson, AZ 85738.



Leading Knight - Kim McIlionie



Happy New Year!!! I hope everybody had a wonderful Christmas full of family, friends, love, and laughter. Iron Elk cooking contest returns on January 17th at 3:30pm. If you have not been part of this event yet, please try to attend. We would love to have more cooks join in the fun. But you do not have to cook, you can be a judge for \$5. We also have the Grill Your Own Steak on the 31st at 5pm with our amazing cooks Jim & Kyle manning the grills.

I found a cute poem online and used AI to make it all about Elkdom, I hope you enjoy it.

A New Year in Elkdom

A New Year dawns with promise bright, A chance to serve, to lead, unite. With lessons learned from years now past, We stand in strength—our bond steadfast. In Charity given, freely shared, In Justice sought and lives made fair, Through Brotherly Love in all we do, And Fidelity strong, steadfast, and true. We stand for Veterans who have served, With grateful hearts and purpose firm, And for our children—hope made strong, The future shaped where they belong. These guiding

principles light our way, In Lodge and community, day by day. No task too small, no call too far, Each Elk a light, each Lodge a star. So as this year unfolds its way, May Elkdom guide us day by day. With Faith, Hope, and Charity anew, We step ahead—proud Elks, renewed.

Fraternally,

Kim McIlionie



Secretary's Corner - Mimi Wittenborn



From the Secretary's Desk: For those of you that don't know, Kathy Hernandez, my office buddy and your treasurer has resigned her post as treasurer. I will miss her but am so grateful for the years of working with her and all that she has taught me. She is looking forward to helping the

Lodge in other ways. Welcome to our new treasurer, (to be announced in Jan.) looking forward to working with you. Can you believe it is 2026!!! Where did this past year go? And there are only three months left of the Lodge's fiscal year. Dues statements will be mailed out soon. I want to Thank Deborah and Monty for putting all those stickers on your cards. And our Elves for separating the cards and placing them in with the key cards. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Happy New Year.

Something to think about:
"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier." Mother Teresa

LODGE STATS YEAR-TO-DATE

Membership to Date	629
Candidates:	06
Delinquents	46
Life Members	48
Average Age	69.87

January 2026 Sewing it Forward

For the Christmas luncheon, we served 45 people. That is an amazing turnout. A business meeting was held, January meeting we will decide how to raise the cash flow and who we want to donate too. Many suggestions are made, all for kids, Youth on their Own, to Esperanza En Escalante , GAP in Marana, and some local schools too We are a working group for sure, at the party we stuffed cards, signed cards and had a craft corner that the ladies really enjoyed doing. And a White Elephant game where everyone got to take home a nice gift. January 12th is our next workshop. Join the fun, meet new friends. Men are invited too.

Gifts for the Steele Center Kids includes pillowcases, gift bags, Mason Jar cards, stuff toys and books value \$900

Gift Cards for the Veterans for the Esperanza en Escalante kids Lots of toys and stuff animals, Jean jackets Value \$800

Cards for the Veterans





Past Exalted Ruler Association - Douglas Harpold, PERA President



Hello Everyone. I hope your Holiday Season was Merry and Bright, and I know that you all got everything you asked for from Santa because there are no naughty Elks! We are still going strong into the New Year with our Queen of Hearts. We have had several members take home some good prizes with some high percentage cards being drawn, but we still have a pot over the \$15,000 mark. Well worth a trip into the lodge to try and win some vacation money (or however you would like to use it), and have a great meal. If you haven't been in recently, Ann Girvin has been doing a wonderful job in the kitchen coming up with some really good meals at a very reasonable price. She has some wonderful helpers as well, and even though I can't name them all, I must say

that Joel LeFaive has been a pretty constant fixture as a helper/cook! You may have noticed in the dining room/Lodge Room that we now have a thermometer on the wall to track us paying down the mortgage and helping us to move forward with the new building. Any help that you may be able to give to support this ongoing project would be amazing and appreciated as well. It will take all of us to come together as a lodge to bring this project together and make it come to fruition.

I want to wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year filled with Love, Laughter, and Friendship!



Hello Everyone! Around the holidays, it's easy to imagine being in a town like Whoville: a place where every lamppost is dressed and the Whoville band marches in their Christmasy best, where holiday cheer and whimsy are a way of life. While this town from How the Grinch Stole Christmas may be fictional, one Elks Lodge is turning its own version of Whoville into a reality. Using a Beacon Grant from the Community Investments Program worth \$4,000, Westminster, Md., Lodge No. 2277 partners with a local nonprofit

organization to host a Christmas giving event. The organization, Live Hope Laugh, is dedicated to making an impact on the lives of children and teenagers who live with chronic illnesses. Together, the two have hosted the event at the Westminster Lodge for 10 years. When community members enter the Lodge's backyard at the start of the event, they immediately step into another world: a Christmas town with lights, wrapping paper, inflatables, s'mores, Santa Claus—and even the Grinch! They are also treated to a magic show, a DJ set, and plenty of delicious holiday food. But the magic of Christmas town isn't the only way the Lodge helps spread holiday cheer. While the



Elks
National
Foundation, Inc.

children keep the Grinch at bay, Lodge members sneak away to the parking lot and load every car with gift baskets. Including food and presents from each family's individualized wish list, like sheets, bedding, socks, clothes, and school supplies, these gift baskets are the perfect way to send families home with hearts that have grown three sizes. It may not be Whoville, but with its Beacon Grant, the Westminster Lodge is spreading holiday cheer and making meaningful differences in the lives of its neighbors. Not every Lodge can create their own Christmas town, but no matter the project or the time of year, Elks are always there for their

community. If you would like to make a meaningful difference in the lives of your neighbors, please volunteer to help with CIP grants. Applications close January 21; don't delay! Our Lodge, Catalina Mountain Lodge # 2815, is currently 3rd in the state for both donations and per member, \$11,824 and \$20.281 respectively. Donate today and let's try for first place by the end of the year. Thank you all and if you have any questions my email address is rstarjnski@gmail.com I will see you at the lodge.

Ron Starjnski PER, ENF Chairman



Lodge and Community Activities - Jan Trudeau



L O DGE ACTIVITIES

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! Welcome 2026. Here's what January has in store for you. Wednesday January 1 st - New Years Day the lodge will be open from 1-7 PM. And we're having a potluck. Come join us for football, food and fun. 3 PM is when the feast begins. Saturday January 3 rd , we have Bingo at 2 PM. Bingo also happens on Saturday January 17 th . Texas Hold 'Em card games are scheduled for Saturday the 10 th and also on Saturday the 24 th . Both games start at 1 PM. Please sign up so we know how many tables to set up. Iron Chef Elk returns on Saturday January 17 th at 4 PM, after Bingo. The required ingredient is Lettuce!! That should be interesting. Plan on either making something, or come taste/judge for only \$5.00. Darts are on the back patio every Saturday at 4 PM except not on the 31 st . That day is our "Grill your own steak" event. Plan on bringing something for the grill and the lodge will provide the potatoes, salad and bread, The cost is only \$6.00 per person. You can cook your own meal, or we have two very talented grill masters who can help you. The cooking starts at 5 PM. We will also have Karaoke that evening! Come join us. Wednesdays are back to their regular schedule of Tacos and Trivia on the 14 th , and the full dinner and Music Bingo on the 28 th . The other Wednesdays will offer a light dinner from 5 to 6. Fridays have the Queen of Hearts drawings at 6:30 PM with a meal offering. Check the bulletin board in the lounge for menus. On Friday the 9 th we will have a guest speaker from Road Runner Elementary School, Kristina Brewer. She's the principal and will tell us how much the Elks help their students benefit from our Clothe a Child events. Football will still be here all January. The lounge opens at 11:00 for your viewing pleasure. Super Bowl will be on Sunday February 8 th . We will have a potluck and games and specials too. Mark your calendars and join us. The game starts around 4:30.



C OMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

I want to Thank everyone who helped with the Adopt a Child project. This year, we "adopted" 20 children from the local food bank-Impact of Southern Arizona. We purchased toys, clothing and art supplies for them. We wrapped all the presents and delivered them to Impact for distribution. Each child received at least 6 presents to open. I'm sure they had a merrier Christmas since we were able to help out with gifts. All January long, we will have a food drive at the Elks. The requested item is PASTA. Please bring some bags or boxes of dried pasta to the lodge for Impact of Southern Arizona. We will collect the pasta and deliver it to the food bank to stock their shelves with this pantry staple. There is a box by the lounge front door.





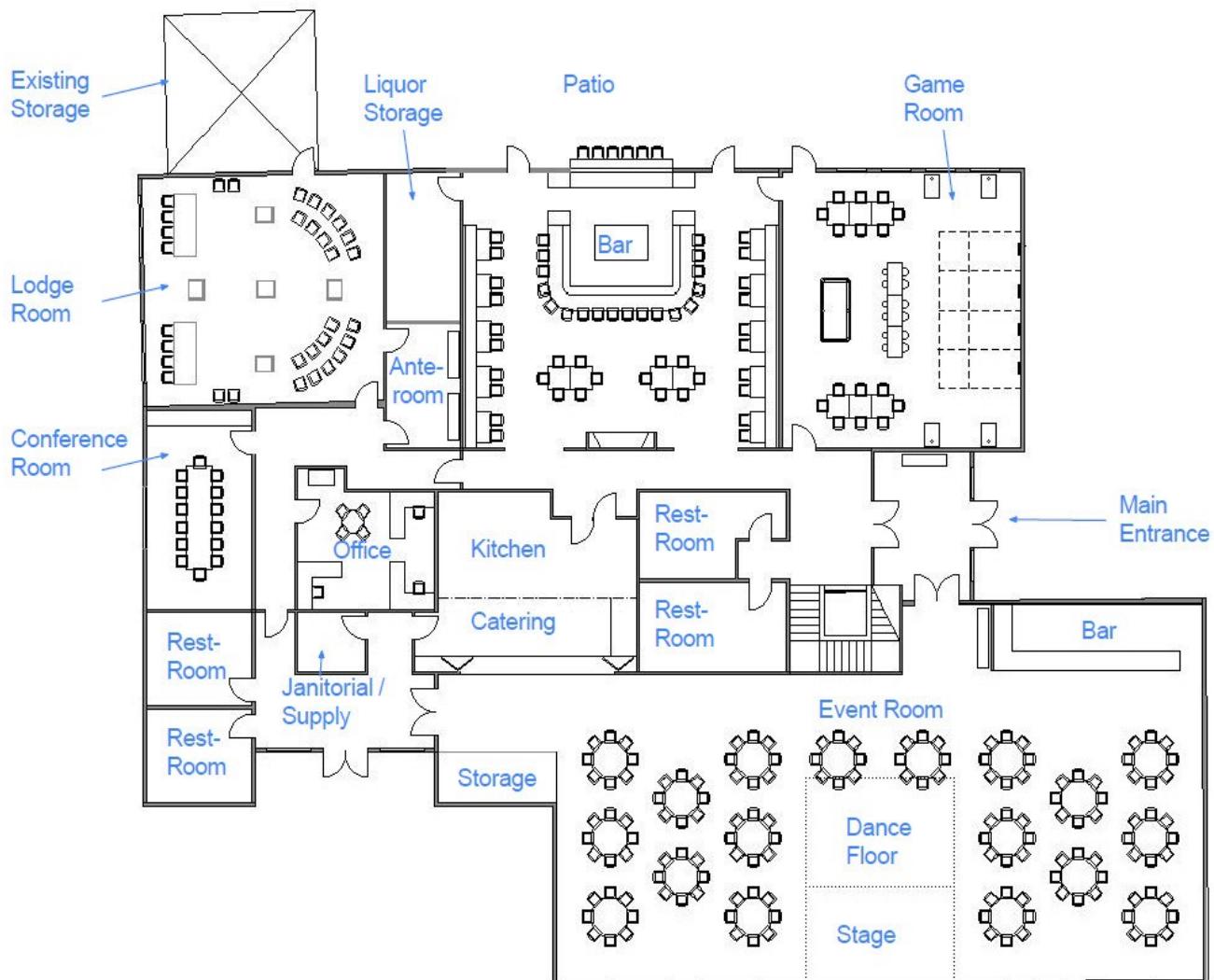
December Event Photos



New Building Update—Kathy Hernandez, Treasurer

As your outgoing Treasurer, I sincerely hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and that everyone is ready to embrace this New Year with enthusiasm. Just look around – the bar is buzzing and the dinner nights (both Wednesday and Friday) are filling the lodge room. You can all recognize we need more space – and if you haven't noticed the concept design in the lodge room, please take a moment to check it out. We have sent the application for approval to Grand Lodge to continue our efforts to bring this concept to life. In the meantime – we need to "Burn Down" the mortgage we currently have in order to fund the new building. Please watch for the thermometer visual to be displayed in the lodge room as we track our progress on the mortgage reduction. We just celebrated the Lodge's 25 th Anniversary on October 11 and honored those of our founding members that made it happen. We are now the next generation that will bring the new building to fruition. If you are able – and would like – to help our efforts in this aggressive mortgage burn down, please make any contributions to the Lodge with the message "Mortgage Burn Down". All additional funds will go directly against the principal - \$69K as of 12/9/25. Let's start the year with a "Can Do" attitude! While not your official Treasurer, I am still involved!

Kathy Hernandez





Veterans Committee - PER Bob Kielsa



Our Non Cash donations have reached \$106,784 Cash donations total \$18,312 and we have \$22,654 in Welcome Home Kits for our Homeless Veterans. This brings our total Veteran donations to \$147,750 for this lodge year ending on March 31, 2026. I realized, when reading some of my earlier reports, I don't always report all the donations and activities our committee contribute to our veterans. Below is an incomplete list of what we have supplied our veterans this year: We delivered 50 Welcome Home Kits valued at \$22,654. We delivered \$106,784 in used clothing, shoes, books & misc. items. We provided \$1,700 to help Escalante En Esperanza to meet VA requirements for up to date medical cabinets. We contributed \$720 for music for our Arizona Veterans Home. 5. Our Sewing It Forward group donated \$800 in Christmas toys, stuffed animals, pillowcases, soccer balls and clothing to Esperanza en Escalante. They also provided \$1,350 of new baby baskets for pregnant service personal or their spouses. 6. We contributed \$160 for Wreaths Across America at the Arizona Veterans Cemetery in Marana. 7. We contributed \$1,000 for counseling homeless veterans. 8. We contributed \$1,000 to Arizona Heroes Memorial. 9. We donated \$7,098 of food and

clothing for Homeless Veterans. 10. Our lodge membership has jointly sent over 250 Christmas cards to veterans in the Arizona Veterans home and to Recovering Soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in NW Washington DC. 11. We spent \$1,000 to help two vet families into their apartments. 12. We spent over \$1,000 for 19 Christmas gifts for our Arizona Veterans Home patients. None of this is possible without our members help and generosity! Your participation in our two fundraisers helps tremendously, as well as the money you place in the Vet Jar on the bar. Your donations of guns has brought in many dollars for us!

You can help our homeless veterans by contributing new Undershorts and T-shirts (Med, Lg, XL), Jeans (W 33, 34, 36) and Socks. Please place any NEW items in the White barrel in the lounge and USED items in the Pod in the front of the lodge. Do not place new items in the vet pod outside! The weather is turning cool, so any warm clothing you can donate, new or used, would be very helpful. Again, please place new items in the white barrel in the lounge. As always, a big thank you for your continued support for our veterans! Happy New Year to all our lodge members and their families!



Goodbye 2025 and hello 2026. Where do the years go? They seem to just fly by! When you are making your New Year resolutions why not make one to volunteer some time at the Elks. We have several committees within the house committee that could use your help. It could be in the kitchen or helping out at our various parties or weekly events. Even an hour or two a month would make a difference. You can find out what's coming up in the

Lodge Activities article or by attending a House Committee meeting. We meet the first Thursday of the month at 4:30 and would be happy to see some new faces. Hope to see you there. Let's all make this a great year for our Lodge.

Many hands make light work

Elk of the Month - January

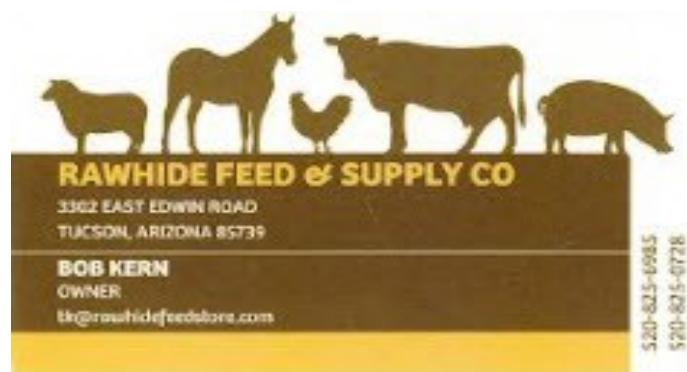
This month's Elk of the Month is Joel Lefaise. If you have ever been to a Wednesday dinner or Queen of Hearts, he is always in the kitchen working hard, but with a massive smile on his face. His willingness to set up and help make our lodge meals memorable is an excellent example for all of us to be joyful in our volunteering and make our lodge the best it can be!!





January Birthdays

01	Stanley Killinger	16	Stan Meise
01	Paul Schmidt	17	Jamie Horst
02	Jack Allison	17	Lamont R McConnell
02	Dominic Borland	18	Cheryl Anderson
03	Joseph W. Frank	19	Laura Lee Lowe
03	Jay Hillmer	19	Albert Peterson
04	Norma Surita	21	Bob Willing
04	John Wohner	22	Stephanie Kapp
05	Walter E. Reifsnyder	22	James Powers
05	Cayetano Ronquillo	23	Michael A Lowe
07	Frank J Fenton	23	John Trapp
07	Benjamin M Hensley	23	Jimmy Wall
07	Lanny Larson	24	Joseph Clark
07	Keith R. Pierpont	25	Frederick Golden
09	John Nanosky	25	Katherine Starjnski
09	Vicki Spear-Shipley	25	Deborah Trapp
11	Ross A Hazlett	26	Hilary Ring
11	Brittany Messer	26	Jean M Wright
12	Ronald D. Anderson	27	Bob Faggotti
12	Janice Bockhorn	27	Patrice Ross
12	Sheila Dahlgren	27	James Tallman
13	Nick A. Giordano	29	Terry Gruenwald
14	Jon-Erik Johnson	29	Raymond D Martinez
14	Shane Zerbe	30	Lisa Marie Jelderks
16	David Latting	30	Joel LeFaive



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Wednesday Dinner Menu

January 7th	January 21st
Light Dinner	Light Dinner
Build a Grilled Cheese	Chicken Sandwiches
January 14th	January 28th
Tacos \$2 each; 4:30-6:30 pm or UNTIL SOLD OUT	Rack Of Pork



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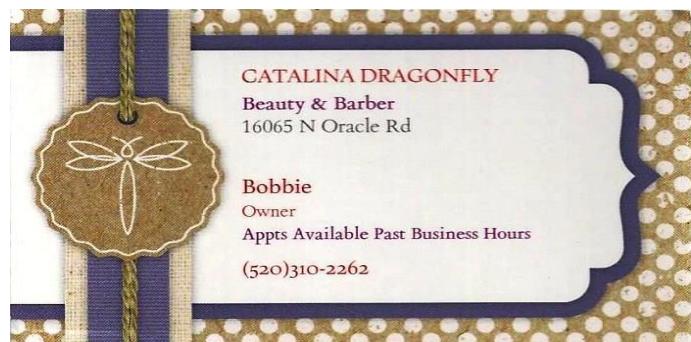
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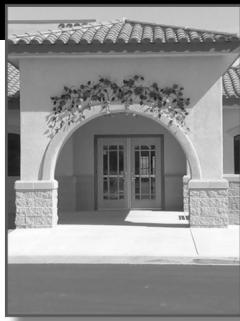
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UPCOMING EVENTS	
January	
January 1	<i>New Year's Day Potluck</i>
January 10.....	<i>Texas Hold'em/Darts</i>
January 14.....	<i>Trivia</i>
January 17	<i>Iron Elk/Darts</i>
January 24	<i>Texas Hold Em/Darts</i>
January 28	<i>DJ Music BINGO</i>
January 31	<i>Grill your Own Steak/Karaoke</i>

*Also check the Lodge Calendar
for additional events*