



The Bugle

April 2026 CLARK FORK VALLEY ELKS NO. 2757 Volume 36 No. 4

Exalted Ruler's Message



Hello Elk Members! Can you believe it is April already! Happy Easter to all of you and your families.

PLEASE read all the information today. There is a lot of new stuff and some things that require immediate attention due to time constraints.

First off, I want to say thank you to the 25-26 Officers for the hard work and commitment to our lodge. Steve Miller Sr, Charlie Munday, Richard Vincent, Steve Miller Jr, Joe Donaldson, Jon Wakefield, Ruthie Cheney, Kenn Owen, Beth Moore, Christine Munday, Nancy Brown, Doc Milham and Ann Donaldson, please know that you are appreciated for all your time and the effort you put in to keeping our Lodge moving forward. Additionally, to all of the volunteers who put

so much hard work into the Charitable Fund, the Scholarships, Keep 'Em Warm, the Baby Shower, the Vet's programs, the youth programs, many special food events and all of the other things...you all certainly deserve our heartfelt thanks. Without all of you, these amazing programs would struggle. It truly takes a village as they say.

I also want to take a moment to honor and thank Karen Higgins. She has spent countless hours here taking care of the management duties of the Lodge. Scheduling, ordering, paying bills, running errands, listening to many complaints, finding emergency cooks and pulling her hair out at times! Please take a moment to thank her for the tremendous job she did and the countless hours she volunteered so that the Lodge could continue doing business.

Earlene should certainly not go unnoticed! Yes, she is the new secretary, and we are glad to have her; but she also needs recognition for doing the newsletter for all of these years. She does this tirelessly and spends a ton of time volunteering her services for all of us. Sometimes we have mistakes, but we all tend to make them. If by chance you catch one, please be kind when bringing it to her attention. Thanks Earlene!!!

I would also like to thank you all so much for putting your faith in me to lead our Lodge again. I previously served as ER for 2 years, 2019-2021. It has been a while, so bear with me. I will do the best I can to make our Lodge a warm and comfortable place to gather and enjoy each other's company, have some fun events and most importantly strive to fulfill our commitment to do all we can for the community, the children, the seniors and our veterans and active-duty military members. I have absolutely no problem with discussing areas of concern with all members. But, I would really like positive forward progress! I would ask that everyone be mindful of conversations that pertain to Elk's business, and to keep the information confidential; and be kind and respectful to all our Members. Brotherly Love is one of our core tenants.

Please continue reading the rest of the newsletter. It is packed with information about the upcoming year. Thank you.

Michelle Blackstone, ER



To be balloted on

The following candidates will be balloted on at the April 14th meeting:

Candidate	Proposer
Robert W Frederick	Tami Ingram
Richard A Peterson	Tami Ingram

Summer hours

Beginning May 1st, the Lodge will return to summer hours, which are Monday through Friday, Noon to 8:00 p.m..

We will still be closed weekends except for special occasions, which will be shown on the monthly calendar.

Installation of 2026-27 Officers



Thank you to Doc and Pat Milham for taking pictures.

CLARK FORK VALLEY ELKS NO. 2757

WINTER BUSINESS HOURS:

Tuesday—Friday Noon—6 p.m.

WINTER KITCHEN HOURS:

Non-Meeting Nights Noon—6 p.m.

Lodge Meeting Nights (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)

Noon—5:30 p.m.

4/3/26-GOOD FRIDAY FISH FRY 3-CLOSE (OR SOLD OUT)
Taylie and Kelly will be serving up the amazing Fish. Baked or Fried, with slaw and fries.\$21

4/10/26 OYSTER FEED---5PM SOCIAL. 6PM DINNER RESERVATIONS AND PRE-PAYMENT REQUIRED

We will be serving fresh oysters brought in by Jay Garrison that day. Reservations and payment are required in advance. The deadline for this is 4/5/26. Jay must have the amount well in advance of the dinner. Dinner includes a full dozen oysters, with a salad bar and garlic bread for \$25 PP which is a fantastic deal.

SPRING DISTRICT DEPUTY CLINIC-GREAT FALLS

The DD Clinic in Great Falls is on April 11, 2026 at 10:00 AM. Officers required to attend are ER, Leading, Trustee, Secretary and Treasurer. Any other officer or member who would like to go may do so. Please let Michelle know by April 3rd.

APRIL 17TH-TORGY AND PENNY'S SEND OFF PARTY

Let's pack the house and send Torgy & Penny off on their new adventure with a heartfelt goodbye. They will be relocating to Twin Falls in May. For our Friday night dinner, we will be serving spaghetti & Meatballs...Social time at 5:00, Dinner at 6.

WE NEED HELP! BEAUTIFICATION DAYS ARE HERE

APRIL 17TH This year the Goose Landing Clean Up will take place at 9:00 AM on April 17th. Meet at Goose Landing with your rakes, shovels, scoops, lawn sweepers or brushes or lawn vacuum systems, pruners, gloves etc... We are working on having a dump trailer available for the day to make things easier.

APRIL 18TH This year we will do some sprucing up at the Lodge on April 18th at 9:00 AM. We are trying to get a crew together to do some clean up. There are sticker bushes in the RV area that need to be pulled and sprayed. Weed whacking will make them worse. There are weeds to pull, drip lines and sprinklers to check, bushes to trim, the concrete could use a good pressure washing and sealing and the sheds need some serious attention! We need some light fixtures replaced as well if anyone would like to volunteer to take that project

on. Please contact the Lodge and get your name on the sign up sheet. Thanks!

5/5/26 CINCO DE MAYO, DINNER 4-7PM (OR SOLD OUT)

Save the date. Menu and cost will be in May's newsletter. Wear your finest Sombrero! Guest chefs are headed south of the boarder.

LIVE MUSIC EVENTS—REQUIRES ADVANCED RESERVATIONS AND PRE-PAYMENT. WE WILL NOT SELL TICKETS AT THE DOOR. CASH OR CHECK PLEASE

We are pre-selling tickets to our music events. This assists with funding the events and it also helps us calculate food amounts and seating arrangements, so we appreciate your prompt RSVP's. All of the acts are really great. These artists perform all over the place and some have been opening acts for big name artists. It is our goal to have more live music events down the road, but it depends on the turnout for what we have planned so far.

5/2/26 AT 5PM---DEVON WADE-PRE-PURCHASE MANDATORY

Devon is a country artist from the Coeur D' Alene area. He performs all over the PNW and has opened for some big names. He performed for us at the Lodge about 6 years ago. He was terrific. Tickets are \$20 Members / \$23 non-Members. We will have a taco bar set up that evening, sold separately. Tickets on sale now at the bar.

6/21/26 at 5PM—THE TANNER LAWS BAND (Yep, all of them!). PRE-PURCHASE MANDATORY!

This awesome Father's Day event will likely sell out fast. We really don't need much of a plug for our local guy and his band. We all love Tanner! This is going to be so fun. It will be an outdoor event, so bring chairs and layers. Tickets will be available May 1, 2026. Tickets are \$20 members/\$25 non-members. We will be BBQing burgers and dogs. Sold separately.

7/31/26 at 5PM---CAROL DAVIS AND PHILLIP PELLORANA PRE-PURCHASE MANDATORY

This amazing musical event includes a lovely dinner (Italian themed), Carol and Phil perform beautifully together! They have a vast set list (Continued on Page 3)

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(Continued from page 2)

that covers many genres. It will be lovely and make for a relaxing and wonderful evening. Dinner & a show \$36 Members \$40 Non Member

ELKS.ORG WEBSITE

There is a lot of information for upcoming events and plans for our new 2026-2027 year, so please check our “Elks-Clark Fork Valley #2757” Facebook Page and the “elks.org” website for current and future events. Establishing an account of your own on the elks.org website is easy and free. You only need your member number. There is a ton of info there, so I strongly encourage you to check it out.

WE HAVE A NEW CHEF!!!

We have some exciting news!!! Please welcome our new chef, Kelly Ferguson. Everyone knows Kelly, she has been a member of our Lodge for 18 years and has extensive experience in the service industry. Her positive attitude and great customer service will be an asset to the Lodge. Please note that we are going to make a few adjustments to our current menu, so she can get up to speed and get familiar with her new home. Kelly will be starting officially in April. We have a couple of volunteers who will help her get on track.

PLEASE...come in for lunches and bring your friends! If you have requests, let Kelly or Michelle know and we will try to make everyone happy with the menu! We will continue to have Taco Tuesday unless another event is planned. We are in the process of working on a new pizza recipe, so Pizza Thursday should be back soon. Kelly will also have some fresh salad ideas and we will be putting our new salad bars to use starting in May, with a “Soup, Salad Bar and Breadstick” Lunch once a week.

EVENTS & VOLUNTEER SIGN UP SHEETS AND 3 MONTHS AT A GLANCE

We are going to try to be more organized in our calendar planning and event notifications. While it might not always work, we are going to do everything in our power to have events lined up 3 months in advance. We are hoping that give people more time to plan and more time to help organize whatever is coming up.

FUN---FOOD---FRIENDS---GRATITUDE

We recently have had some really great dinners. Peg, Shirley, Jane, Paul, Tami and Bella did an amazing job on our Italian Night. The food and service were fantastic! Thank you ladies and Paul!

St Patrick's Day Dinner was provided by our guest Chef RT!!! It was delicious and well attended. Thanks to everyone involved in getting this event done! We also had guest chefs Jan Pitts, The Vincent's and The Kegel's make traditional Reubans on St Patrick's Day, using our Past ER and Absent Member, Gary Pitts' recipe! Taylie did fish for us on the April 20th and will be back for the fish fry on Good Friday! Sooo Good!

Thank you all so much!

INCOMING OFFICERS

Welcome to our newly installed 26-27 officers! Michelle Blackstone (ER), Curt Kegel (Leading Knight), Jon Wakefield (Loyal Knight), Blaine Blackstone (Lecturing Knight), Trustees; Charlie Munday, Richard Vincent, Kim Hofland, Earlene Powell (Secretary), Denise Dwyer (Treasurer), Christine Munday (Esquire), Nancy Brown (Chaplain), George Milliken (Tiler) and Doc Milham (Inner Guard).

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The Lodge has many committees and sub-committees. More information is available at www.elks.org. We will have a list of the committee chairs available. Please check this list out and see what might interest you. There are so many behind the scene things that go on here at the lodge, that they are sometimes taken for granted. We need people to pick up the slack. Even if you change a light bulb, haul cardboard to the dump, grab a broom and sweep up if you see mud on the floor, change a filter, etc...it all needs to be done and we cannot dump all of that on our bartender and cook. So thank you and please let Michelle know what you can help with.

(Continued on Page 4)

VETERANS

Are you eligible for VA Benefits?

Montana Veteran Affairs Division can help! To schedule an appointment with a Veteran Service Officer in Thompson Falls, call Sara at (406) 721-1288.

WHERE
Thompson Falls, MT
Elks Club
2519 Industrial Way

WHEN
3rd Friday of the Month
10 AM - 2 PM

Appointments preferred for all outreach - otherwise, we are first-come first-served.
Visit our website at DMA.MT.GOV



MISSOULA OFFICE
By Appointment Only
(406) 542-2501
1911 Tower Street
Missoula, 59804

VA BENEFITS
May be able to provide assistance with:

- Service Connected Compensation
- Individual Unemployability
- Non-Service Connected Pension
- Surviving Spouse Benefits
- VA Healthcare Enrollment
- “Veteran” designation placed on your driver’s license
- Burial Benefits


QUESTIONS?
Call us! Our State Agency provides free advocacy to eligible veterans and their families with answers to their VA Benefits questions.

The date of Easter depends in part on that of the vernal equinox. For this purpose, the Christian Church has fixed the first day of spring to always be March 21.

It is unlucky to wash clothes on Good Friday.

April brings the primrose sweet,

Scatter daisies at our feet.



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Happy April birthdays

01 Kathryn Blacic	11 Annie Wooden
01 Mary Gibb	14 Jens Jantzen
02 Jodie Bittinger	14 Lynn Lanzoni
02 Herbert Carpenter	14 Gussie O'Connor
02 Marsha Hart	15 Steve Burbach
03 Elizabeth Loomis	15 Denny Pargeter
07 Kerri Cobb	17 Paul Overman
07 Carol Thomas	20 Todd Wakefield
08 Don Manning	24 Monte Nesbitt
09 Candice Wilkes	25 Judy Leufkens

Every Tuesday is Ladies' Game Day



(Continued from Page 3)

HUCKLEBERRY FEST 8/8-8/10/26

We are getting an early start. Sign-up sheet is up now. Please take a 4-hour slot. Remember set up and clean up duties, shopping duties, etc.. It is a lot of work. Note the date and time you are available on the sign-up sheet and be sure to leave your phone number. Milliken's have volunteered to run the show for this event. Thank you!

NEW OFFICERS, INFO & BOARD MEETING

All Officers, please, make sure to attend the 1st Board meeting, April 14th. We will start this meeting a little earlier than usual, at 5PM. Future Board Meetings will be on the 1st meeting day of each month at 5:30.

New Officers should all have a copy of the Statutes and a copy of the Ritual Manual. Those will be made available by the secretary. All officers need to establish an account on elks.org. There are tremendous resources on that site. It also has all of the manuals you will need to fulfill your duties. One manual in particular that is helpful for new officers It is The ER, Officers and Committee Member Manual/ Handbook. All Manuals can be found under the "Members Only" drop down menu on the website.

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Chelle Mitchell, BA, LMT
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POST #52 AMERICAN LEGION
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 Meetings every 3rd Tuesday,
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Bill Beck, Commander PLN4109@blackfoot.net
 Ken Matthiesen, Adjutant xfirstsergeant@yahoo.com

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What a success!

By Kerri Cobb



Sanders County Community Baby Shower was held Saturday March 7th, 2026 at the Clark Fork Valley Elks Lodge. We were able to serve 25 New Mom's and Babies this year. They all received a large item gift, 4 smaller items, a case of Huggies Diapers & Wipes thanks to the Beacon Grant received from the Elks Foundation and generous Community Members Donations!



Lunch was provided by Valley Bank & a discount was given by Harvest Foods. Sanders County Health Department was well represented by Lisa, Kirsten, and Karen had a table at the event with give aways, raffle items, and lots of great information. Benchmark Home Visiting Program had a table with two lovely young ladies, Carma and Ceilia from Missoula giving information about their wonderful program for children 0-3. They also helped decorate and set up.



CASA and Youth Connections of Lake and Sanders County joined us with information on their parenting classes and a diaper give away. Clark Fork Valley Hospital Foundation donated 2 Car Seats and also sent two RN Volunteers, Sara Nester and Charlee who brought information on prenatal and post partum needs and also helped clean up! We had volunteers from our membership as well as community members and



friends of the Elks.

It was a great day and it is a great project for our Community!

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ELKS SHIRTS

There is a sign-up sheet for shirt orders. Please read this carefully. There are options.

The only 3 shirt colors:

Red, which are the Friday R.E.D shirts, with the logo on the front and back. We might have some special ideas for RED Fridays.

Black, with the Elks logo in front in Purple

White with the Elks Logo in front in Red and Blue

There are 4 choices of shirt style:

Men's T-Shirt Short Sleeve Blend

Men's Golf style Polo Shirt Blend

Women's V-neck Golf Style Polo Blend

Women's Racer Back Tank Top Blend

We are also looking at Black Aprons with the Purple Logo, so please sign up for those too. Please make sure your phone numbers in on the sheet. Please specify size. Prices will be put out in the next week or so. Payment required in advance please. Please specify size. (XXL and up extra charge).

Future Plans:

5/1/26-Summer hours Mon-Fri 12-close

5/2/26-Devon Wade Music 5PM

5/5/26-Cinco De Mayo Fiesta 4-close

5/25/26-Memorial Day

6/10/26-Operation Healing Forces Dinner

6/14/26-Flag Day Event with American Legion-Need Volunteers

6/21/26- Father's Day Bash featuring Tanner Laws Band

6/25-6/27/26-Yard Sale Event – Need Volunteers (Barb's in charge)

Do we want to do a breakfast on that Friday or Saturday???

7/5/26-Grand Lodge Convention-Chicago

7/17/26-MSEA Summer Convention Great Falls

7/31/26-Dinner & Show, Carol Davis Phil Pollerana

8/8-8/10/26-Huckleberry Festival

9/11/26-Remembrance Cruise through T Falls

10/1/26-Silent Auction Volunteers needed for Vet's Dinner

10/?-Oktoberfest?

10/31/26-Trunk or Treat

11/1/26 Daylights Savings Time Ends

11/6/26-Veteran's Dinner/ Music?/Silent Auction

11/11/26-Veteran's Day- Free burger and drink

11/26/26-11/27/26-Happy Thanksgiving-Closed

12/5/26-Christmas Parade

12/?- Elks Christmas Party

12/31/26-East Coast New Years Eve! 60's – 70's Themed...hoping for music...hours etc...TBD

Please note this schedule is tentative and may be changed.



Do you think these gals had fun on St. Patrick's Day?

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April 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

EVENTS/TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

			<p><i>1</i> All Saints Day</p> <p>Antlers</p> <p>3:00 PERs meet</p>	<p><i>2</i></p>	<p><i>3</i> Good Friday</p> <p>Fish Fry, 4-Close \$21</p>	<p><i>4</i></p>
<p>LUNCH SPECIALS DAILY Open to Everyone, 12-3 p.m.</p>						
<p><i>5</i> EASTER</p>	<p><i>6</i> CLOSED</p>	<p><i>7</i> All Day: Tacos Noon: Ladies' Game Day</p>	<p><i>8</i></p>	<p><i>9</i></p>	<p><i>10</i> 5:00 Social Hour 6:00 Oyster Din- ner, \$25, Pre-Pay</p>	<p><i>11</i> DD Clinic in Great Falls, Mandatory for Officers</p>
<p><i>12</i></p>	<p><i>13</i> Holocaust Remembrance Day CLOSED</p>	<p><i>14</i> All Day: Tacos Noon Ladies' Game Day 5:00 Board 6:30 Lodge</p>	<p><i>15</i></p>	<p><i>16</i></p>	<p><i>17</i> 9 a.m. Meet @ Wild <u>Goose Land-</u> <u>ing to clean</u> 5:00 Spaghetti Dinner for Torgy & Penny, \$16</p>	<p><i>18</i> 9 a.m. Lodge Spring Cleaning</p>
					<p>BEAUTIFICATION DAYS</p>	
<p><i>19</i></p>	<p><i>20</i> CLOSED</p>	<p><i>21</i> All Day: Tacos Noon: Ladies' Game Day 7:30 American Legion</p>	<p><i>22</i></p>	<p><i>23</i></p>	<p><i>24</i> National Arbor Day/ Montana Arbor Day Chicken Fajitas, \$20 5:00 Social; 6:00 Dinner</p>	<p><i>25</i></p>
<p><i>26</i></p>	<p><i>27</i> CLOSED</p>	<p><i>28</i> All Day: Tacos Noon: Ladies' Game Day 6:30 Lodge</p>	<p><i>29</i> 6:00 Bingo</p>	<p><i>30</i></p>	<p><i>May 1</i> Lodge will be open Mondays beginning May 1st</p>	<p><i>May 2</i> 5:00 Devon Wade (Pre Purchase mandatory) Taco bar separate</p>



CLARK FORK VALLEY ELKS NO. 2757

2519 Industrial Way; PO Box 1553

Thompson Falls, MT 59873-1553

Email: cfvelks2757@gmail.com

Phone: 406-827-7770

April 2026

ADDRESSED TO ONE OF THE BEST PEOPLE ON EARTH

2026-2027 OFFICERS/BOARD

Exalted Ruler—Michelle Blackstone

Leading Knight—Curtis Kegel

Loyal Knight—Jon Wakefield

Lecturing Knight—Blaine Blackstone

Secretary—Earlene Powell

Treasurer—Denise Dwyer

Tiler—George Milliken

Esquire—Christine Munday

Chaplain—Nancy Brown

Inner Guard—Larry “Doc” Milham

2026-2027 TRUSTEES

1 Year—Charles Munday

2 Years—Richard Vincent

3 Years—Kim Hofland

