



CAMEL Tales

POTENTATE'S MESSAGE

We "R" For The Kids!

Hello all! My Lady Kim and I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter. Since I wrote my last article, we've traveled out west a couple of times and enjoyed several events put on by our hardworking Shrine clubs and units. Let's start where we left off. I traveled to Jamestown and attended The Mystics Fish Fry. As expected, a wonderful event and a huge thank you to all our Mystics who put this event together. I couldn't stay long though, since I needed to get back to Fargo for the Arab Patrol Wine tasting event held the same night! Lots of great hors d'oeuvres, silent auctions, and of course, nice wines to taste. This event always ends with a live auction of Laurie Rott's donated quilt - world class workmanship every time. My Lady Kim wasn't leaving without it, so yes, we brought it home! Thanks to all our hard-working Nobles of the Arab Patrol. A special thank you to Laurie Rott for donating another beautiful work of her art.



for staying out west for the Monday performances. Mark Kenard and I headed back later Sunday to be sure we got back for the Monday Divan Meeting. Thanks to all the Shriners and the many groups who donate their time to the Dickinson circus. I heard they had an extremely profitable circus. Congratulations!

Next, I headed out to Jamestown to attend the Mystic meeting as well as the Clown meeting.

I enjoyed the dinner afterwards at the clubhouse. Wonderful pot roast dinner, didn't win the 50/50, maybe next time. Thanks for the wonderful hospitality, Jamestown! Oh, a couple of 'em asked me if I could swim and how long I can hold my breath!! You're not scaring me guys. Our Spring Ceremonial is coming up in Jamestown, and I'm super excited about it. These Jamestown Clowns/Mystics people are super creative and fun. Thanks to Ken Grenz and his committee members for all the hard work and planning for this upcoming spring's ceremonial.

Detroit Lakes pulled off three shows on the same day. It was so fun to watch the well-oiled machine that is our DL Color Guard Shriners, led by Illustrious Sir PP Steve Larson. I had the pleasure of getting my picture taken with their bike winners as well as the coloring contest winners. Hotdog stand was right there next to where they had me...I mighta had a few. I'd like to thank all who volunteered and helped out Detroit Lakes this year. I know it was much appreciated.

Our Fargo Circus Management team is led by Mike Hennebry this year. There were lots and lots of hands on deck to get us ready for our first of six shows at the Fargo Dome. It was a well-run circus with lots of smiling faces, most of them painted! The crew was exhausted when it was all said and done, but it put the exclamation point on the end of the 2026 El Zagal Circus season. Nicely done, Everyone! And Thank You.

April concludes with Suds n Spuds, hosted annually by our own Director's Staff. This is a fan favorite and most, if not all, of our local brewers show up to showcase their products. It doesn't disappoint.

May 2nd starts with our Annual Ladies Appreciation Luncheon and the evening showcases our 2026 Pote's Ball. This year, we are honoring 2006 Illustrious Sir PP Drew Likness and his Lady Pam. It's been 20 years since he was Pote - how did the time fly by so fast!?! The Pote's Ball this year is a Vegas-Style Casino Night with a tip of the hat to Frank Sinatra and all of the Rat Pack crew! We hope you were able to make it!

Summer will be upon us before you know it - finally! Be sure to plan to attend the Stated Meeting on May 12th and get registered for the Spring Ceremonial coming June 5th & 6th.

**Yours in faith,
Bruce H Ridgway
El Zagal 2026 Potentate**



Mark Your Calendar!

- Stated Meeting _____ May 12
- Spring Ceremonial _____ June 5-6
- Shrine Bowl _____ June 20
- Here Comes Summer Party _____ June 25
- Imperial Session _____ July 12-16



**TUESDAY
BURGERS**
5:30PM TO 7PM

EXCEPT ON STATED MEETING NIGHTS

Next up let's talk about The Director's Staff hosting the 701 Poker Tour. For us here at El Zagal, it was a great opportunity to start up a new event -- hopefully many more to come! Thank you to the Director's Staff for realizing their vision of bringing new events to El Zagal.

The Easter Party was a lot of fun and well attended by over 140 Fargo little people. Lots of games and activities along with an indoor Easter egg hunt this year as it was pretty cold with snow on the ground. I was honored to be your Bruceter Bunny again and only made three kids cry. Ok, maybe five...

April means it's Circus time for El Zagal. And BOY did we go! As many of you know, I had the privilege of being the 2018-2019 Circus Chair. It's near and dear to me personally, and such an important event for all of us here at El Zagal.

We kicked off the route in Jamestown where Circus Chair Justin Fuchs and his crew demonstrated all the hard work that goes into pulling off such an event. Next, we traveled to Bismarck where they host five shows. A huge shout out to Bob Bartosh Bismarck Circus Chairman and his team of volunteers, fellow Shriners and their families. Thanks again Bismarck for such a fun couple of days.

Not done Circusing yet, or Potentating yet! Yep, that's my new verb - Potentating. I love it. Anyway, on our way to Dickinson for their circuses running Sunday and Monday. Thank you, Nathan Hopper,

Official Call

The regular stated meeting of El Zagal Temple will be held on
Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 7pm
at El Zagal Shrine Center.

The purpose of this meeting is as follows:
To conduct any business properly brought before the chair.
Please wear your fez.

Attest William R Wedberg Jr. PP, Recorder Yours in faith, Bruce Ridgway, Potentate.



TUESDAY BURGER UNIT SCHEDULE

5:30PM - 7PM

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| MAY 5, 2026 | PROVOST |
| MAY 12, 2026 | NO BURGERS (STATED MEETING) |
| MAY 19, 2026 | ARAB PATROL |
| MAY 26, 2026 | MISFITS |
| JUNE 2, 2026 | EMP |
| JUNE 9, 2026 | DIRECTORS STAFF |
| JUNE 16, 2026 | PROVOST |
| JUNE 23, 2026 | ARAB PATROL |
| JUNE 30, 2026 | DIVAN |

El Zagal Camel Tales

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www.ElZagal.org

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Andrea Kallstrom
Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Temple Office / 701-235-7521
Temple Fax / 701-235-7522

DIVAN OFFICERS Elective

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Bruce H Ridgway..... | Potentate |
| Mark Kennard..... | Chief Rabban |
| Shane Heiberg..... | Asst Rabban |
| Casey Schoer..... | High Priest & Prophet |
| Tim Dawson..... | Oriental Guide |
| Bob Wedberg Jr. PP, PGM..... | Recorder |
| Jason "Rocky" Rockswold PP..... | Treasurer |

Appointive

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Colin Wegenast..... | 1st Ceremonial Master |
| Joel Swanson..... | 2nd Ceremonial Master |
| Blake "Ringo" Wrigley PP..... | Director |
| Mark Grothe..... | Chief of Staff |
| Nathan Hopper..... | Membership Chair |
| David Rott, PP..... | Parliamentarian |

Membership

Nathan Hopper 720-938-8198
nathan.a.hopper@gmail.com

HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVES

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Ken Leggate..... | Dickinson | 701-483-1681 |
| Garret Njos..... | Bismarck | 701-426-3557 |
| Paul Witthauer..... | Jamestown | 701-320-5433 |
| Lonn Stippich..... | Hettinger | 701-567-2664 |
| Dean Anderson..... | Gwinner | 701-678-2695 |
| Gary Grindall..... | Detroit Lakes | 218-234-0821 |
| Jim Hildebrant..... | Valley City | 701-840-1056 |

CAMEL TALES DEADLINE 18TH OF EACH MONTH

CamelTales Email
cameltales@elzagal.org

Editor
Jon Juelich

Publisher/Creative Editor
J&M Companies

LADIES AUXILIARY

Our April 4th Auxiliary meeting was canceled due to our spring storm. Future updates will follow.

We continue to make plans for our style show to be held on October 4th, at 2pm. The planning committee will hold its first meeting at 6pm on Tuesday, June 9th at the shrine. Watch for updates.

Ladies, please remember the date, May 2nd. It is the Potentate's Ladies Appreciation Luncheon being held at 11am with a social hour, followed by lunch. Please RSVP to Andrea at the office, 701-235-7521.

Sit down to eat.

If you're eating while standing or on the go, your body misses the "I'm full" memo. Sitting down helps you eat more mindfully, tune into hunger cues, and avoid overdoing it. A 2021 study found that simply sitting and paying attention while eating led to better portion control and fewer calories. Not to mention, that it feels way more civilized than hovering over the sink with a granola bar.

See you at the Appreciation Luncheon. Have a great summer. See you on Saturday, September 12, at 10am at the Shrine.

Auxiliary Reporter
Barb



El Zagal Ladies Auxiliary

2026 Meetings

- February 14 @ 10 AM - Meeting & Blanket Day
- March 14 @ 10 AM - Meeting
- April 4 @ 10 AM - Meeting
- May 2 @ 11 AM - Potentate's Ladies Luncheon



You're Invited to a
Ladies Appreciation Luncheon

Join us for a fun, feel-good gathering filled with great food, bingo, and sunshine vibes!

WHEN:
Saturday, May 2nd 2026
11:00 AM - Social Hour & Lunch
Bingo to follow

Theme: Walkin' on Sunshine meets Floral Garden
Garden-inspired attire is encouraged
Yeti Bingo \$20 (optional)

RSVP by April 15th

rsvp to info@elzagal.org / 701-235-7521

We can't wait to celebrate and have fun in the sun with our amazing ladies!

DIRECTOR'S STAFF

As I write this (late as usual, sorry Jon), we are done with the circus for 2026. I don't know what overall numbers look like, but the Director's Staff was very busy with novelty sales. By the end of Sunday, there wasn't much product left. It was fun and tiring as it always is.

Our partnership with 701 Poker proved to be successful. We held the first of many Triple Stack Poker Tournaments at the temple last month and had 82 participants. As stated last month, 701 Poker has an incredible reputation for great tournaments to the extent that people travel regionally to attend their events. If you like to play poker, look for the next tournament sometime later this year.

There really isn't time for us to rest after the circus since we have Suds N Spuds coming up this weekend (April 25). With all of our great partner vendors, it is sure to be a good time. I will report on the results next month. It is sure to be a good time because, well, there is beer.

Besides that, we are gearing up for parade and competition season. Our ride team is committed and will start practicing very soon. With MSA being so close this year, it would be pretty cool to see more faces out there to cheer on our Motor Corp units!

So until next month, consider this less of an ending, and more of a polite pause before the next surprise.

Cheers,
Cal Braun



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(Busch Light, Bud, Bud Light, Coors, Coors Light, Ultra, Miller Lite).

Tuesday: Burger Night
Burger basket with fries \$11. (some sides extra)
Add: +\$2 for a domestic beer or \$2.75 for a premium beer.

Wednesdays: BOGO drink
Buy one and the next is on us!
(Limit one BOGO per person/per night)

Thursdays: Shriner appreciation night.
Happy hour pricing all night for Shriners and their Ladies.

Fridays: Free bar BINGO
Play at 6pm, 7pm, 8pm, and 9pm.
Win free drinks and bar swag.

JAMESTOWN CLOWNS

Hello to all Nobles and Ladies,

We were all grateful for Illustrious Sir Bruce for attending our meeting Tuesday, he is always a joy to talk with.... OK, enough of that. Thanks Bruce.....

We are hosting the Spring Ceremonial on June 5th and 6th. We need all hands-on deck. Please come and help out. Watch for the emails. Park Cleanup is trying to be May 9th, watch for the emails.

Nickeus Park Grand Opening MAY 20th. 5-7 pm. Jack is doing hotdogs. Everyone should go, couple clowns in make-up are needed.

The first Dinner at the Lodge is May 27th. Bring a guest and your spouse.

We need a Clown secretary now, so a good clown needs to step up. Also, the 27 Parades we are attending this summer will begin soon, watch the e-mails.

This short wealth of information is closing now.

Thanks for Reading This.....

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WE HAVE A WINNER !

First off, thanks to all that bought a ticket on the ND Shrine Bowl raffle. The net proceeds will be forwarded to Shriners Children – Woodbury. We will do our best to maximize on the generosity of the El Zagal and Kem family and friends.

Drum roll please; our winner was none other than Mark Kinnard! Congratulations Mark & Bobbie, enjoy your trip.

Thanks again for everyone's support. ND Shrine Bowl



EL ZAGAL DUSTERS CAR SHOW

The 5th Annual El Zagal Dusters Car Show was held March 7th and 8th at the Bismarck Event Center and I got to say that the quality of cars we have entering our show just keeps getting better. Our committee has worked their tails off to make sure that this is the show to show off your car in and I can't thank them enough! A thank you goes out to Illustrious Sir Bruce as well for coming to Bismarck to make his Potentate Pick which turned out to be a 57' Ford Thunder bird.

This year we were fortunate enough to have one of our very own Shrine Patient's attend our show. Annie Hannig (FB at Team Annie Hannig) along with her parents made the trip from Fargo so she could share her story with us. Annie hung out at the show on Saturday and visited with our patrons and attendees. She then spoke at our banquet Saturday night at the Elks and again at our awards ceremony on Sunday. She had people tearing up at both! It was a great way to showcase what the Shriners do for our kids to a new group of people! Thank you Annie and her parents for taking the time come over and share your story with us.

And finally a big thank you to our sponsors, With out you this show would not be possible. Puklich Chevrolet, West Dakota Chevy dealers, Mecum Auctions, Penny's Muffler Shop, Classic Auto Restoration, Wagner Financial, OK tire, 1st International Bank and Trust and others.

Sincerely,
Travis Will, 2026 Chairman.



RUSTY NAIL ANNOUNCEMENT

Shiloh #1 will be presenting a Rusty Nail Degree at 7 PM, Monday, May 11 and will be held at the lodge. Scotty Uhrich, Past Master, will be delivering the degree. The Rusty Nail is essentially a refresher course on Masonry. This one will include discussion on the origins of Masonry, explanations of the tools and implements of the lodge, the roles and duties of the various officers, review of the various signs and grips associated with each degree and information regarding the lodge itself. The purpose is to both inform our brothers and to make them more at ease about attending lodge. All Masons, regardless of lodge, are invited to attend.

You're Invited

El Zagal's 2026
**RAT PACK
VEGAS**
CASINO NIGHT

El Zagal's 2026 Pote's Ball
Honors Past Potentate Drew Likness
& Lady Pam (Pote 2006)
MAY 2ND

Casino Night Experience
Enjoy classic Vegas vibes, gaming tables, and a lively social atmosphere.

Food & Social
Heavy appetizers will be served as we mix, mingle, and celebrate together.

5:30 PM
- Registration
- 6:00 PM - Social Hour
- 7:00-9:00 PM - Casino Gaming

Attire
Cocktail dress, tux, or suit is suggested—but like Vegas, you'll see it all! Most important is that you come and have a great time.

RSVP DEADLINE: APRIL 15
Please RSVP to info@elzagal.org 777
701-235-7521
Pricing: \$60/person

REDNECKS

Another circus is in the books, and like everyone involved, the Rednecks are feeling it—in the best way. It was a memorable event made possible by the time, energy, and teamwork of so many dedicated individuals.

A special thank-you goes out to the Brothers of Lewis and Clark Lodge No. 132 for stepping up and jumping in wherever they were needed. Your willingness to serve and support truly exemplifies what brotherhood in action looks like.

As we catch our breath, the Rednecks will be taking the remainder of the month to recharge. We'll reconvene in May to continue planning for the 2nd Annual Redneck Hoedown coming up this October.

Waylon



Rednecks at the Bismarck Circus



Get-On-Board
with Fargo Shriners and host Shaun Engelsrud!



2026 WALLEYE CONNECTION: Thursday JULY 16 to Sunday JULY 19

Departure site: **FARGO, ND**



Destination: **Ballard's Resort on Minnesota's Lake of the Woods**

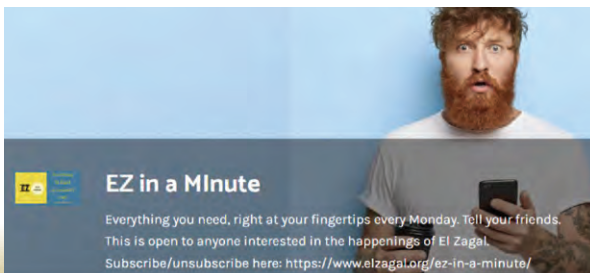
Per Person Package Includes:

Round trip motorcoach transportation...Three nights lodging...Two days guided walleye fishing...Eight meals...Rods...Reels...Bait...Tackle...Ice...Fish processing...All taxes...

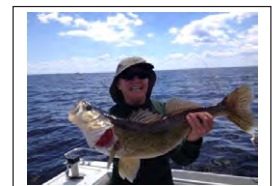
Special Rate = \$775 per person

\$300 Deposit Saves Your Space

Registration Deadline MARCH 31



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EL ZAGAL



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Tournament

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INFORMATION ON
PARADE DATES & LOCATIONS

SEND ANY PARADE INFO TO:
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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

REGISTRATION... 10:00-11:30
LUNCH..... 11:00
SHOTGUN START..... 12:00
DINNER..... 6:00-8:00
AWARDS PRESENTATION . 7:00

COST

FULL TEAM.....(4) ..\$1,100
HALF TEAM..... (2) ..\$600
SINGLE PLAYER..(1) ..\$375

HOLE SPONSORSHIP \$150

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Submissions:



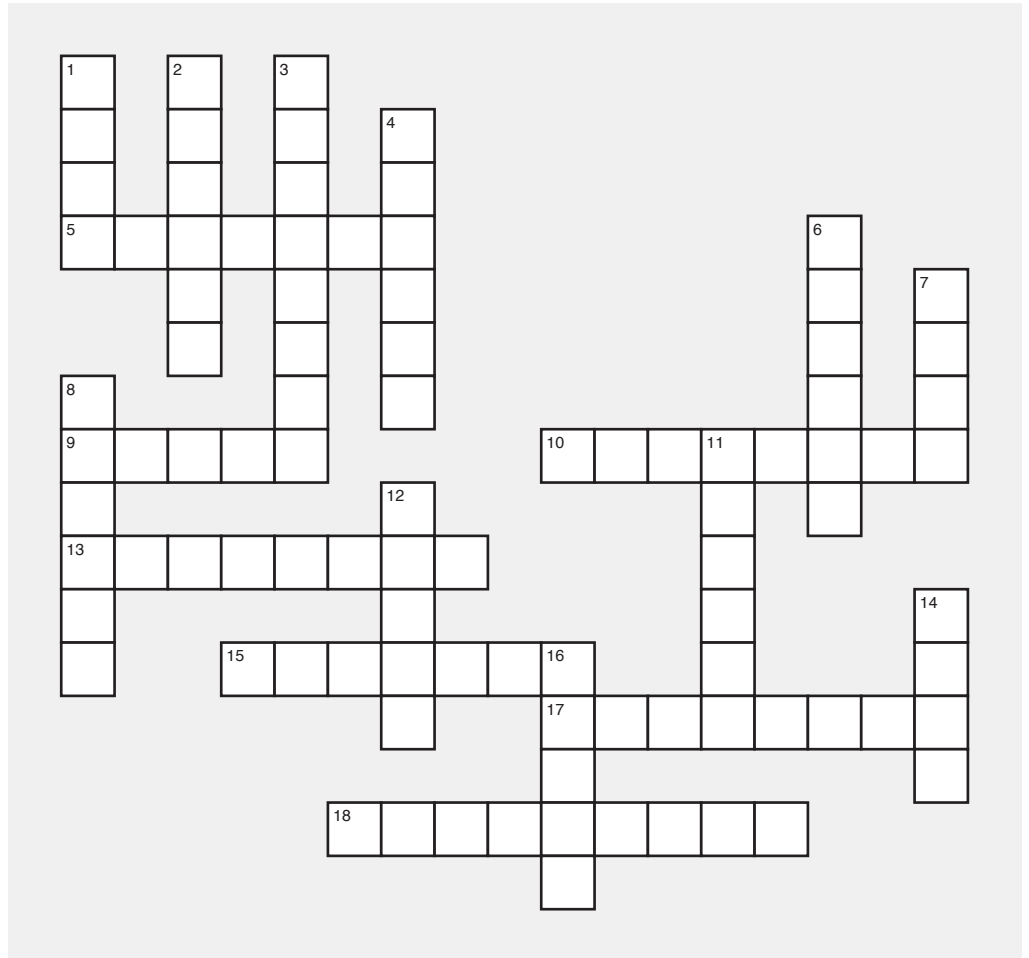
- ✓ Submissions should all be sent to cameltales@elzagal.org. Please include accurate information, including all names and locations of those in the photos.
- ✓ Submission deadline for Camel Tales is the 18th of each month prior.
- ✓ Submissions for the EZ in a Minute may be made anytime. Please allow one week for publication
- ✓ Photos should be of high quality .jpg, .gif, or .pdf. Please, no photos of photos.

MYSTICS

Hello everyone in El Zagal, hope all is well. I can't believe April is already here. April showers bring me flowers! Or 16 inches of wet snow. The El Zagal Mystics are still hard at it. March 20, we had our 45th annual fish fry. Big Jerry was frying fish like a mad man, Johnny B made his famous cheesy potatoes, and the Beer Man was dispensing his famous root beer floats. People thanked us for putting this amazing meal out. Can't forget, the Breadman running the car side to go. We want to thank all the Ladies for their help. It wouldn't be yeah possible without them. The Mystics 15th Annual Gun Raffle is out and selling fast. If you haven't gotten your ticket yet, reach out to a Mystic brother and one of them will saddle you up with one. \$100 gets you a chance to win 20 high-end guns or five cash prizes. Only 500 tickets are sold. Fishing for A Cause raffle tickets should be coming out soon. We have two new nobles coming in, doing their degree work as we speak. They will be ready for the Spring Ceremonial, as Jamestown is hosting this year. It will be amazing, as always.

We have two more things that we want to join. We just need to get the petitions signed. We need the Breadman to seal the deal. Hooray, hooray that's right. The El Zagal Shrine Circus was here and gone. Wow. People were rushing through the door, smiling cheek to cheek, glow sticks, glowing in the dark, and what's that smell? Oh boy, the El Zagal Mystics grilling those all beef hotdogs to order. Three dollars gets you an all beef hotdog. Breadman in his hotdog suit soliciting hotdogs! Come get your hotdog! I want to thank all the Mystics for their hard work to make this fundraiser successful. A big thank you to Dave Roberts and Curtis Krapp for their hard work as they were at the Civic Center all day. And a big thank you to our Mystic ladies, we couldn't do it without them. Thanks again. That's all for now, catch you next month. The El Zagal Mystics.

Spring Crossword



ACROSS

- 5) They're usually found in beds
- 9) Time for showers
- 10) Gloom's opposite
- 13) Yellow spring flower
- 15) Day for diamonds and dreams
- 17) Shower apparel?
- 18) Monarch, e.g.

DOWN

- 1) Sport with tees
- 2) Fledgling plant
- 3) America's pastime
- 4) ___ egg
- 6) Eating outing
- 7) When spring ends
- 8) Vegetable plot
- 11) One of four in a year
- 12) Breezy
- 14) Flying toy with a tail
- 16) Verdant





2026 SPRING CEREMONIAL



Honorees: Arlie Lind / Howard Weispfenning
“Hillbilly Temple” Jamestown Lodge June 5th – June 6th, 2026

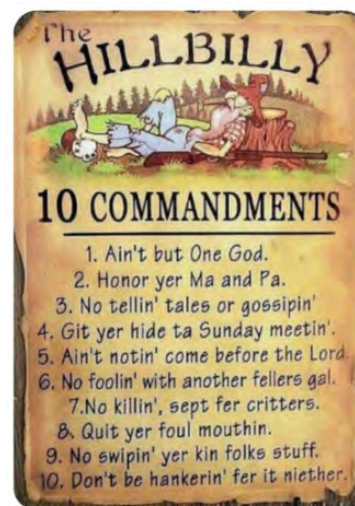
Friday, June 5th – Dress Theme – Hillbilly

- 9:00-9:45 Registration 4-person Scramble at Hillcrest Golf Course
(Call for sign-up 701-252-4320, Golf is on your own Cost \$62 includes green fees, cart & lunch)
- 10:00 Shotgun Start
- 4:30-6:00 Registration at the Lodge
- 5:00-7:00 Meal for all/Pote’s Reception
- 6:30-8:00 Hillbilly Games
- 7:00-8:30 El Banjo (Hillbilly Bingo)
- 9:00 Candidate vs Divan Contest
- 6:30-10:30 Social at the Lodge, Entertainment and Games

4:00-12:00 AM OR UNTIL DONE SHUTTLE BUS TO & FROM HOTEL ROGER HARRINGTON 701-251-8381

Saturday, June 6th – Day Attire unit attire/all nobles wear fez, evening attire causal/all nobles wear fez

- 8:30-9:00 Registration at the Lodge with Fez fitting for new candidates
- 9:00-10:00 1st and 3rd section, ladies welcome @ Lodge
- 10:00 Parade assembles downtown, lineup in front of City Hall (102 3rd Ave SE)
- 10:30 Parade Step off
- 11:15 New Ladies Orientation, Drift Prairie (121 3rd St NW)
- 11:30-2:00 Ladies Social and Lunch, Drift Prairie
- 12:00-12:45 Men’s Moslem Feast @ Lodge
- 1:00-2:00 2nd Session – Nobles and candidate only @ Lodge
- 5:30 Social at The Baymont – Casual Dress
- 6:30 Dinner at The Baymont
- 7:30 Fez Presentation, unit announcements, speakers & Honoree Program



Hotel Information: (Contact the Hotel directly)

- Rooms reserved at: **Baymont by Wyndham** – 701-252-3611 (Room rates for the weekend are \$135 per night (Double Rooms only). Block reserved until **FRIDAY, MAY 1st, 2026**, under Shriners Ceremonial. Contact person: Dave Phillips.
- Camping also available at the Lodge Park!

Mail Registration and Payment of \$150/person by **MONDAY, MAY 11th, 2026**, to:

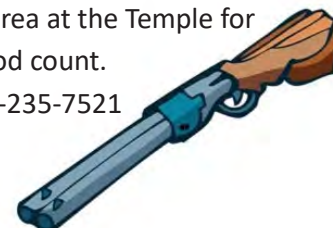
El Zagal Shrine
1429 3rd St N
Fargo, ND 58102

Questions: Email ken.grenz@outlook.com or call Ken Grenz @ 701-320-7425



Ladies attending the **Ladies Luncheon** please call Andrea at the Temple for food count.

701-235-7521





EL ZAGAL SHRINE PRESENTS

NASHVILLE

★ GETAWAY 2026 ★

November 12–15, 2026

Join Bruce and Kim to explore the sights and sounds of Music City! Stroll the world-famous Broadway strip, enjoy incredible food, live music everywhere, and even spend an evening at the legendary Grand Ole Opry if you choose. Come experience Nashville your way — with great people and unforgettable memories.



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- Grand ole Opry show - optional add on

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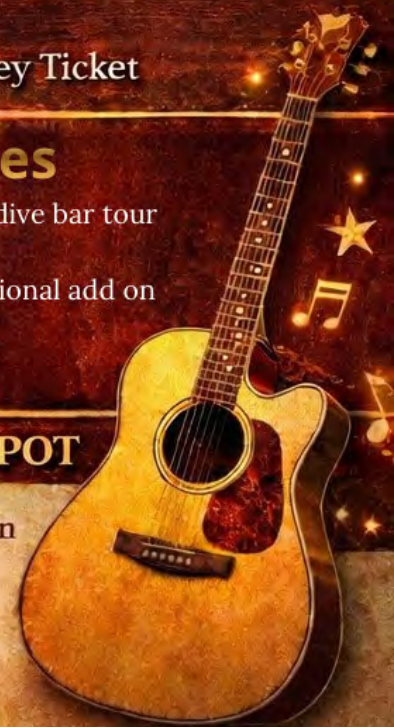
Based on double occupancy

• Single occupancy: \$1,435

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JULY 12-16, 2026
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Where:
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333 S. Franklin St.
Tampa, FL 33602

When:
July 12-16, 2026

Be Part of the Fun and Fellowship of Imperial Session in Tampa!

Welcome to the official website for the 2026 Imperial Session in Tampa, Florida. Check our site often for updates on the schedule of events, All Nobility Evening, Ladies Luncheon, Marketplace, Shriners Zone, Parade and more.

Tampa is know for its vibrant culture, beautiful waterfront and diverse attractions. The area also boasts stunning beaches, the scenic Tampa Riverwalk and historic Ybor City.

At the 2026 Imperial Session, nobles, spouses and families from around the world will gather together to celebrate our great fraternity. We can hope you can join us for the fun and fellowship!

[Imperial Session 2026](http://imperialsession.com)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 2026

- June 2 – Tuesday Burgers
- June 5 - 6 – Spring Ceremonial
- June 9 – Tuesday Burgers
- June 12 - 13 – Grand Lodge Annual Communication
- June 16 – Tuesday Burgers
- June 16 - 20 – Shrine Bowl Week
- June 20 – Shrine Bowl
- June 23 – Tuesday Burgers
- June 25 – Here Comes Summer Party
- June 26 – Mystics Gun Raffle
- June 30 – Tuesday Burgers



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MAY 2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|-----------------|-----------|----------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 Ladies Luncheon Pote's Ball |
| 3 | 4 | Tuesday Burgers | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | Stated Meeting | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | Tuesday Burgers | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | Tuesday Burgers | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | Tuesday Burgers | | | | |



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- North Dakota Grand Lodge - <http://ndmasons.com/>
- Minnesota Grand Lodge - <https://mnfreemasons.org/grand-lodge/>



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