



CAMEL Tales



SEASONS Greetings

FROM ALL OF US AT
El Zagal



Potentate Travis Will & Lady Meghan



Chief Rabban Chad Decker & Lady Kate



Asst. Rabban Bruce Ridgway & Lady Kim



High Priest and Prophet Mark Kennard & Lady Bobbie



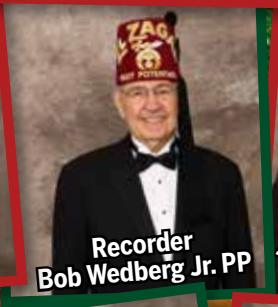
Oriental Guide Shane Heiberg & Lady Jandi



1st Ceremonial Master Casey Schoer & Lady Gretchen



2nd Ceremonial Master Tim Dawson



Recorder Bob Wedberg Jr. PP



Treasurer Jason Rockswold PP & Lady Tiffani



Director Blake Wrigley PP



Chief of Staff Jeff Woods & Lady Vickie



Membership Chairman Nathan Hopper & Lady Carolyn

Official Call

The annual stated meeting of El Zagal Temple will be held on **Saturday, JANUARY 4, 2025 at 9am** 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 kit.

Attest William R. Wedberg Jr. PP, Recorder Yours in faith, Travis Will, Potentate

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TUESDAY BURGER UNIT SCHEDULE 5:30PM - 7PM

- DECEMBER 3 ARAB PATROL
- DECEMBER 10 EMP
- DECEMBER 17 MISFITS
- DECEMBER 24 NO BURGERS HOLIDAY
- DECEMBER 31 NO BURGERS HOLIDAY
- JANUARY 2 EMP
- JANUARY 9 MISFITS
- JANUARY 16 DIRECTOR STAFF
- JANUARY 23 PROVOST
- JANUARY 30 ARAB PATROL

El Zagal Camel Tales

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DIVAN OFFICERS Elective

Travis Will.....Potentate
Chad Decker.....Chief Rabban
Bruce Ridgway.....Asst. Rabban
Mark Kennard.....High Priest & Prophet
Shane Heiberg.....Oriental Guide
Jason "Rocky" Rockswold, PP.....Treasurer
Bob Wedberg, PP.....Recorder

Appointive

Casey Schoer.....1st CM
Tim Dawson.....2nd CM
Blake "Ringo" Wrigley, PP.....Director
Jeff Woods.....Chief of Staff

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
Cal Braun.....Fargo	701-793-6586
Paul Witthauer.....Jamestown	701-320-5433
Lonnie 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

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Jon Juelich

Publisher/Creative Editor
J&M Companies

POTENTATE'S MESSAGE

Shriners the "Weigh" to go!



Potentate) Chad Decker has been working diligently to make sure everything is set to have a great time, although last year's banquet will be hard to beat! I have said this many times in the past, but to Lady Meghan and I this is our favorite event of the year! The "Parade to Glory", the food, the band, the people, what more could you ask for! If you have a potential candidate or friend who would like to see what it is that the Shrine does, invite them to come with you. What better way to showcase the Shrine to someone than to bring them to this event. Membership should always be on our minds and why wouldn't you want to share this fraternity with others.

In closing I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to lead El Zagal this past year. It has been an experience I will never forget.

Until we meet again, Keep "Shrining!"

**Yours in Faith,
Travis Will
El Zagal
2024 Potentate**

Greetings all, I hope you all are having a great Holiday Season. With this being my last Camel Tales article as Potentate, I would like to start this month's article with a sincere thank you to all the Nobles and Ladies of the El Zagal Shrine. You have made this year more fun than it should have been! What a great experience this has been. I have enjoyed getting to know so many of you better over the last seven years of being on the Divan and it is humbling to think that all the way from Western ND to Detroit Lakes, MN I have friends that I could call on if I ever needed something but then again, isn't that what this fraternity is all about!

A huge thank you to my Lady Meghan, without her, who knows how the year would have turned out. I would have probably spent more time looking for my fez than wearing it! She has been a huge supporter of this journey that we both decided to take on back in 2018, helping with what she could and taking care of things at home and work while I was out Shrining around. Her family is the reason I became a Shriner. Between her father, Mike Kennedy, and her grandfather, Max McMullen, both being Shriners, I guess you could say I married into the Shrine. Now all three of our sons are also Shriners and they couldn't be prouder to tell people about their heritage in this great organization!

I have had the privilege of working with some great nobles over the last seven years and have learned a lot from these men. Their advice, whether you asked for it or not, has always been appreciated and I would like to think that I am leaving the board in as good of condition that it was entrusted to me. El Zagal has a great future thanks to the groundwork of some Past Potes who had the foresight to make great decisions in setting up El Zagal to be successful for year to come. One of those great decisions was to hire Andrea! Thank you, Andrea, for keeping things on track and making the Divan look like we are organized and prepared. Your dedication to El Zagal is very much appreciated and doesn't go unnoticed. Speaking of unnoticed, I would like to thank Jon Juelich for diligently preparing and editing the EZ Minute every week and the Camel Tales every month. You took on this responsibility last year and have done a great job with it.

If you haven't registered for the Annual banquet yet you had better get to it. The weekend starts out Friday evening, January 3rd at El Zagal with some sort of made-up stuff about the Pote. Saturday morning will be our Annual Meeting with the Banquet held that evening. Our Chief Rabban (and Hopefully incoming

Mark Your Calendar!

WGA For Kids _____ December 7

Clown For A Night _____ December 7

Kid's Christmas Party _____ December 14

Annual Meeting and Banquet _____ January 4

Wild Game Feed _____ February 15



TUESDAY BURGERS
5:30PM TO 7PM

Director's Staff

Another successful Pre-Turkey Day Pizza, Puzzles & Beverages. Thank you to all that came out to participate in our event, from those that come back every year to all the new faces. It is great to see everyone having such a great time.

Hoping you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and wishing you a great Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hope to see you all Jan. 3-5th at Roast the Pote and the Annual Meeting/Banquet.

Lastly, Thank you to Illustrious Sir Travis Will and Lady Meghan for a great 2024!

Salute,
Casey Schoer

FARGO SHRINE CIRCUS CLUB MEETINGS



2024-2025

- Saturday December 14, 2024: Circus Meeting: 10:00 A.M.
- Saturday January 4, 2025: El Zagal Annual Meeting/ Circus Meeting after Lunch
- Tuesday February 11, 2025: Executive Meeting: 7:00 P.M.
- Saturday February 22, 2025: Circus Meeting: 10:00 A.M.
- Saturday March 15, 2025: Circus Meeting: 10:00 A.M.
- Tuesday March 25, 2025: Executive Meeting: 7:00 P.M.
- Saturday March 29, 2025: Circus Meeting: 10:00 A.M.
- April 4th, 5th, 6th CIRCUS AT DOME

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Ladies Auxiliary

Answer to November's brain buster: two, inside and outside

Your new Ladies Auxiliary Officers for 2025 are:

Chair: Gretchen Schoer
Co-Chair: Sue Paul
Secretary: Mary Krinke
Treasurer: Marie Mueller

The Bakeless Bake Sale Fundraiser will close at the end of 2024. Many thanks for your participation. Our gift to the WGA 4 Kids this year is \$6500.

Upcoming 2025 meetings for the Auxiliary: Saturday January 11, 10 am, at the Shrine Discuss our upcoming style show on April 12. Saturday February 8, 10 am, at the Shrine We will be making blankets. We made 6 in 2024. April 12, Style Show at the Shrine Saturday, May 3, Potentates Lady's Luncheon

As 2024 ends, we give thanks for a great year. From the El Zagal Shrine Auxiliary, we send our greeting with a wish that is sincere; Have a good old fashioned Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Brain Buster
What has a head and a tail, but no body?

Look in the February issue of Camel Tales for the answer.

Auxiliary Reporter
Barb



Misfit Munchies

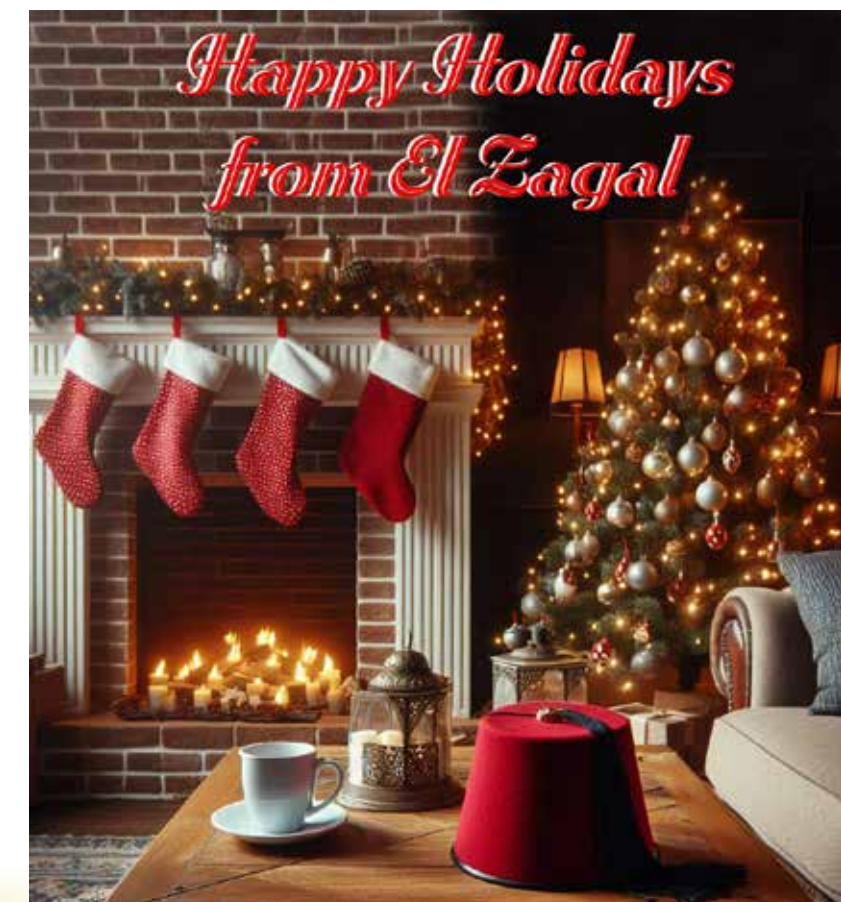


What a great day of giving thanks!! Misfits cooking club, under the guidance of Mike Dow PP, smoked up 100 Thanksgiving turkeys. What an opportunity to showcase the EL Zagal Shrine and the things we do for the children and our community. Thanks to the Nobility and our friends that bought a turkey for themselves or to donate to those less fortunate. Well done everyone.

With Christmas just around the corner, we have moved to a warmer climate of the Island of Misfit Toys, where all toys are welcome, no matter how atypical you are, you are valuable and together we can accomplish what seems impossible. Our focus will turn to temple events of the Wild Game Feed and Shrine Circus. Noble Don Roos is heading up the circus food. With no new food ideas, hot dogs for every meal it is. J.K.

Keep your plate full and the napkins handy

Misfits MR



Jamestown Clowns

Hello to all Nobles and Ladies,

Now Thanksgiving is over, or it's close, and Christmas is just a few weeks away. The New Year is upon us. 2025

Alex, our President, is wrapping up his reign. He was sufficient to keep us in line, which really is a huge job. Thank you for your leadership. We welcome our new leadership. What a complete surprise was Rory Timm asking how to get on the officer line to become Clown President someday. He was asking everyone at our social before the meeting. Quite a crusader. The zealotness, vivaciousness, ebullience and general vehemence, was exceptionally expressed by Rory!! Way to step up, when he was nominated, we think we heard him say---fine, in a low muffled tone.

Clown for a Night is Fast approaching. December 7. Jamestown Civic Center. Get your Tickets before they are gone!! ALL CLOWNS on deck!!! Many hands make light work.

Membership health report was Upbeat as Jon, Charlie, and Keith all are doing better. Keep thinking about them, it DOES help..

Circus, Bike Run or raffle, are coming. Let's get into the new year, before we get into the new year.

This concludes the 2024 season of articles.

Thanks for Reading This..... Weezer.



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2025 El Zagal Shrine

Annual Meeting, Banquet, and Parade to Glory

Saturday, January 4th

8:00 am. All Nobles Breakfast: Hosted by the Yoshi: El Zagal Lower Level

8:30 am. Camel Herders/Membership meeting

8:30 am. Hospital Dads and Hospital Rep Meetings: Upper level

9:00 am Annual Meeting: El Zagal Main Level

Lunch after Meeting for Nobels hosted by The Vikings in Upper Level

**Ladies Bubbles and Brunch at 11:00am for those that want to attend!

Lower Level of El Zagal, \$15/Lady at the door

Banquet and Parade to Glory at the Courtyard by Marriot

5:00 Social with music by the El Zagal Imperials

6:00 Dinner

Parade to Glory

Music by Who Took the Steak

\$75/adult \$20/child

Formal/Semi-Formal attire requested.
Please get your meal choices to Andrea (info@elzagal.org).

Meal choices are Glazed Chicken or Pork Ribeye (chicken tenders for the kids meal).

Rooms are being held under "El Zagal" until December 13th.

Please call 218-284-1000 to reserve your room at the rate of \$134/night.
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ROAST THE POTE

Join us for a night of laughter, stories, and unforgettable moments at the El Zagal event of the season:

Tales About Travis!

Date: Friday, January 3rd
Social Hour: 6:00 PM
Roast: 7:00 PM

Got dirt?
Come share your wildest stories, skits, and presentations about the one and only Travis Will.
Whether you have a hilarious skit or a jaw-dropping story, we want to hear it!

Contact your host, Steve Larson about your contribution:
Email: slarson@arvig.net Phone: 218-841-8533

Looking for your silly skit, presentation, and tall tales. Let's make this a night Travis will never forget! All are encouraged to contribute and attend. !!

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Color Guard Croonings

A cheerful hiddey ho from Color Guard Land! There is a nip in the air, so it must be about Holy Week around Minnesota, otherwise referred to as deer hunting season! Lots of orange in our neighborhood – no NOT Donald Trump – well, except over at Paul Meszaros's home on Big Floyd, you know.....where all the rich people hang out! Paul built a new shop on his lake property exclusively for all the Trump memorabilia he has been collecting. I never knew Paul was such a political follower! Lady Janie told me that even his long Johns are orange.....who would a guessed?

A few brave Nobles from the Color Guard braved the elements and held a Halloween booth in front of Johnson Chiropractic in Detroit Lakes on Halloween. A big THANK YOU to the Johnsons for letting us use the parking lot. The wind was brisk, but it was Gilligan to the rescue, complete with a generator and a 15,000-watt heater for in the trailer. We visited with a lot of kids – some spooks, and a couple of very friendly moms during our stint on the street. Randy Guetter even pitched in by scaring kids our way from the busy Summit Avenue. Next year, Randy might even wear a mask!

With the political season behind us, we have a new slate of officers at the Color Guard Club. Well, not exactly new, but new to us! Harold Holt was elected President for an unprecedented 3rd term, and his new running mate is none other than Justin Johnson, who we refer to as JJ. JJ will bring a new energy to the team. He has even promised to help the rest of the officers grow long hair, to resemble himself. It will be just like the Beetles invasion from the 1960's! Back at the keyboard is none other than Brikker – I am a dork – Ware as secretary, and Paul "Little Lars" Meszaros as Treasurer. We had a tough time with Secretary and Treasurer positions, but we felt sorry for both of them, as both guys recently learned how to count to 10 and spell El Zagal, so we thought they should have one more year of service.

The Color Guard is working on an update to the club by adding a chair lift. If you have visited our club, you will remember that we have a rather long stairway to our clubrooms, being on the lower level of our building. We had a very generous donation of a chair lift, and we are in the process of setting it up to fit, so some of our more challenged members can still attend functions without the long stairway. It will also double as a handy way to get Blake Melland upstairs after too much egg nog at Christmas time!

The Color Guard Christmas Party is scheduled for December 14th and is always a great time. All Color Guard Nobles and Ladies are invited. Song leader this year will be Mike Kunz, and of course as before, you can sit on the lap of Scott Berseith as he tells Christmas tales from your favorite electricians.

It's a great time to be a Shriner, but there is NOTHING FINER THAN A COLOR GUARD SHRINER!

Keep the snow off your pumpkins!
Lars

The El Zagal Shrine

Wild Game Feed

Anyone 21 or under must attend with legal guardian.
All ages need a paid ticket.

Saturday, February 15, 2025
5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

"Food served until gone"
Social and early bird games start at 4 pm
Grand Prize drawings at 9:00 pm

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

PRIZES

1st Prize	\$1000 Scheels Gift Card
2nd Prize	\$750 Scheels Gift Card
3rd Prize	\$500 Scheels Gift Card
4th Prize	\$250 Scheels Gift Card

*additional games and raffles throughout the night
**Must be 18 or older to participate in raffles
(proceeds benefit Temple operation only and is not a charitable donation)

\$40.00 in advance
Limited Tickets so get yours in advance, tickets may not be available at the door.

(Need Not Be Present To Win)

63RD ANNUAL
CLOWN FOR A NITE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024
AT THE CIVIC CENTER (WEST DOOR)

TICKETS \$40
MUST BE 21 TO ATTEND!

DRESS THEME
**FAVORITE
CARTOON
CHARACTER**

COMEDY
**JESSI
CAMPBELL**

SOCIAL 5:30PM
DINNER 6:00PM
COMEDIAN 7:30PM
BAND 9:00PM

TOONS
**"TRAIN
WRECKS"**

CLOWN SKIT FOLLOWING FIRST BAND BREAK
BUFFET DINNER PROVIDED BY THE CLUB 1883

Limited seating available. 600 maximum. First come, first serve. @person round table setting this year!
Proceeds are for the benefit of Jamestown Shrine Clowns activities. Payments are not deductible as charitable donations.

Calling all
Ladies

JOIN US FOR THE
WGA 4 KIDS LADIES
AUXILIARY


Christmas Breakfast

DEC 7
9:00AM

RSVP to Andrea
by Dec 1st
701-235-7521

EL Zagal Temple

*& Toy
Drive*



El Zagal Camel Tales
Submissions:

- To help insure accurate information, please include all names and locations of photos submitted.
- Submission deadline for Camel Tales is the 18th of each month prior.
- Submissions for EZ in a Minute can be made any time. Please allow 1 to 2 weeks for publication. .jpg or .gif preferred.
- To subscribe & unsubscribe, go to www.elzagal.org//ez-in-a-minute
- Please continue to send all submissions to cameltales@elzagal.org

WILD GAME FEED 2025
FEBRUARY 15TH

CALLING ALL NOBLES AND LADIES. WE ARE
LOOKING FOR DONATIONS AND PEOPLE TO
HELP WITH ONE OF THE YEAR'S FINEST
TASTING TEMPLE FUND RAISERS.

MEETINGS BEGIN OCTOBER 29TH AT 6 PM
NOVEMBER 20TH @ 6 PM
DECEMBER 18TH @ 6 PM
JANUARY 8TH @ 6 PM
JANUARY 22ND @ 6 PM
FEBRUARY 5TH @ 6 PM
PREP WEEK IS FEBRUARY 9TH - 14TH

Make sure to put the Wild Game Feed on your Unit or Club's agenda and make a point of attending WGF meetings. Each year we ask units and clubs to donate a raffle item, this year we would like your cash. We found out last year that our buying power goes a lot farther if we can purchase everything at the same time.

Contact Mike Hennebry at m.fhennebry@gmail.com or 701-238-3573 with donations, volunteering or tickets.

Bison - Elk - Walleye - Northern Pike - Venison - Alligator - Wild Boar - Pheasant - Goose - Partridge

Santa will be there for Photos

Free Games & Crafts

Join us for the *Kids*
Christmas
PARTY

Saturday 10AM to Noon | **14** | December 2024

El Zagal Shrine
1429 3rd St N
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Shrine Success Story

THE SWITZER FAMILY



Abigail and Zoey have been involved with the Shriners for the last nine to ten years. The family first got involved with the Shriners when they lived in South Dakota and found out that the girls' older brother had been diagnosed with legg-calve perthes disease. When Abi and Zoey traveled to Minnesota for their brother's diagnosis, that gave them an opportunity to receive better treatments for their pediatric scoliosis while in the same facilities.



Abigail and Zoey Switzer are sisters that have had the same Shriner experience together for the past 9 - 10 years. Abigail is 15, doing freshman homeschool classes and Zoey is 12 and working on sixth grade. When the sisters are not studying for school Abigail likes to read, craft and play the ukulele, while Zoey enjoys computer games like minecraft, as well as reading and baking. The two are very active outside and like taking care of their many animals. Abi has a leopard gecko named Fern and Zoey has 3 guinea pigs, Wibby, Wibby and Mary. They both help their mom, Darcy, take care of the chickens they raise in their backyard.

There are still some travel arrangements that the Shriners still help with. Both girls are looking forward to many closer outreach clinics that will be in South Dakota so they can be closer to their grandparents more often. The family has provided specialized treatments to their backs because of the Shriners, the family has had help with travel arrangements and access to the correct scoliosis treatment. The Shriners were able to help provide a surgery to Zoey and Abigail's brother so he is now able to walk.



The girls' are hopeful that because their brother was able to access the surgery he needed because of the Shriners, that they will continue to access the correct treatment so they can avoid spine surgery. The whole family is very thankful because of the Shriners help. Their family is able to live an active life without anyone being in constant daily pain. Without the Shriners the family would not have been able to access the correct treatment the kids needed because of distance and cost.



Written By Brinley Buechler

Brinley, a Bismarck Public Schools Empower[Ed] student, got in contact with the Switzer family to discuss how the Shriners made an impact on their life. Thank you for reading about one of the Shriners' many success stories!

If you know of any other family that is willing to share their Shrine Success Story, contact El Zagal at info@elzagal.org



2025 CASH CALENDAR

365 Chances of WINNING!

\$16,325 in Cash Prizes!

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- \$25** Daily (Monday through Saturday)
- \$100** Every Sunday
- \$300** On the 3rd Tuesday of EVERY MONTH!

- Calendars cost \$20.
- You CAN win more than once.
- Drawings are made randomly and prizes mailed monthly.
- It is the responsibility of the purchaser to notify El Zagal Shriners of any change of address in the year 2025.
- Proceeds are for the benefit of El Zagal Shrine activities.
- Payments are not deductible as charitable donations.
- No restrictions on members buying calendars.

Introducing the 2025 El Zagal Cash Calendar: Your Ticket to Daily Wins!

Get ready to turn every day into a payday with the 2025 El Zagal Cash Calendar! This year we're back with even bigger prizes, more chances to win, and the same exciting spirit that keeps you coming back for more.

- ☐ **Win Again and Again:** Yes, your name goes back in the pot, so you have the chance to win multiple times throughout the year!

Get Yours Before They're Gone! Calendars are available now, but they're going fast! Don't miss your chance to be part of the excitement. Reach out to your local Shriner to grab your 2025 Cash Calendar today! If you don't have a Shrine Club/Unit in your area, please let us know and we will reach out to you and take care of that.

Why Wait? With the 2025 El Zagal Cash Calendar, you don't just get a shot at daily prizes—you become a part of a community that's making a difference. So go ahead, make this your luckiest year yet, and support a cause that truly matters!

Grab your calendar now, and let's make every day a winner! Call Mark Kennard with any questions at 701-368-9521 or email fishtailkiwi@hotmail.com

What is the El Zagal Cash Calendar?

It's simple—purchase your 2025 Cash Calendar, and you'll have 365 chances to win! That's right: every day of the year is another opportunity to score some cash.

What Can You Win?

Regular daily wins are \$25, and Sundays are \$100. And the third Tuesday of every month pays \$300! We will give out \$16,325 in total.

Why Get Your Cash Calendar?

- ☐ **It's Fun!** Everyone likes a chance at winning!
- ☐ **Incredible Odds:** With only a limited number of calendars sold, your odds of winning are some of the best around.
- ☐ **365 Chances to Win:** This is not your average lottery! You get a shot at winning every day of the year.

How It Works:

- ☐ **Buy a Calendar:** Purchase your 2025 Cash Calendar from any El Zagal Shriner.
- ☐ **Daily Draws:** Starting sometime in Spring 2025, we'll draw a new winner every single day! If your number is drawn, you win the cash prize for that day.

Annual APPRECIATION DINNER

Your dedication and loyalty have not gone unnoticed. Thank you for being a cherished member of our El Zagal community for so many years.



Paul Meszaros - 25 Years



Vern & Lady Pat Habeck



Charles Munro - 50 Years



Monte & Lady Linda Routledge

25 YEAR MEMBERS

Sheldon Hein
James Hildebrant
Grant Thompson
Robert J Tubbs
Paul Meszaros

35 YEAR MEMBERS/ LIFE MEMBERS

James C Kapitan
Steve Looyzen
Mark R Sawyer
Kelly R Klusmann
Stuart Richter

50 YEAR MEMBERS

Keith D Bjerke
Andrew R Caylor
Curtiss O Goehner
Charles W Munro
Willard Nickisch
Norris O Sabe
Thomas C Dawson
Harold J Flom
Paul C Fortney
James R Howe
Donald J Laschkewitsch
Gerald L McNeil
Ronald D Samuelson
Robert H Simmers
Edward L Smith

60 YEAR MEMBERS

Wayne D Burow
J Daniel Halvorson
Richard E Schroeder
Melvin D Wall

65 YEAR MEMBER

Harry A Ohrt

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 2024

- January 1 - Happy New Year
- January 3 - Roast the Pote
- January 4 - Annual Meeting
- January 7 - Burgers
- January 14 - Burgers
- January 21 - Burgers
- January 28 - Burgers



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Tuesday Burgers	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Tuesday Burgers	11	12	13	14 Kids Christmas Party
15	16	17 Tuesday Burgers	18 Shrine Outreach Clinic	19 Shrine Outreach Clinic	20	21
22	23	24 Happy Holidays	25 Happy Holidays	26	27	28
29	30 Happy Holidays	31 Happy Holidays	DECEMBER 2024			



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