



# NEWSLETTER

5113 63RD STREET COLUMBUS, NE 68601 402.564.1451 THEELKSCC.COM ELKSCC@THEELKSCC.COM

## What makes the Elks great? You.

*Dedicated staff, high-quality experiences, and active, supportive members*



**CHRIS NAHORNY**  
Exalted Ruler  
Elks Lodge #1195  
nahorny31@gmail.com

As I finish out my year as the Exalted Ruler for the Columbus Elks Country Club and Lodge #1195, I must admit, it has gone fast. Years have a way of doing that, I guess.

Yet, we also accomplished a lot. We start our fiscal 2026-2027 year with:

- A strategic plan to re-evaluate how we can operate more efficiently
- Better use of our upstairs facility
- New membership offerings, including options for companies
- A due structure more in-line with our quality course and services
- A new superintendent
- A new administrative and event coordinator
- A new lead bartender
- New driving range mats
- New menu options
- New event ideas

And a renewed focus to serve our youth, veterans, and community as a philanthropic organization.

The Lodge officers and I invite anyone who enjoys supporting our community, awarding student scholarships, and honoring our veterans to step forward and serve with us this coming year. It's a relatively easy role, yet an important one, as we research whether or not the Elks can lease its property to a membership corporation of some sort.

I am proud to have been your ER and will continue to promote that the Columbus Elks is more than a country club and golf course. It's family. It's good friends. It's laughter and competitive ribbing. It's a beer while watching the Huskers and the State Playoffs. It's phone calls, prayers, and texts when your family is dealing with serious stuff. It's knowing you have a place you can go where you belong and feel accepted.



## 2026-2027 Elks Lodge Officers

Jon Faltys, Exalted Ruler

Justin Laudenklos, Leading Knight

Chase Piel, Loyal Knight

**VACANT**, Lecturing Knight

Sam Hogeland, Esquire & Scholarship Chair

Craig Mickey, Treasurer

Marty Divis, Chaplin & Veterans Outing Chair

Jeanne Schieffer, Secretary

Chris Nahorny, Past Exalted Ruler

*Contact any Elk listed to the right to learn what is involved with serving on the Elks Lodge board.*

From our

# GENERAL MANAGER

Dear Members,

As we welcome the month of March and the beginning of another exciting season at the Club, I'd like to take a moment to share several important team updates with you.

First, please join me in officially welcoming our new Superintendent, Shane Combs, and our new Administrative and Event Manager, Chelsea Lovell, to the Club family. We are thrilled to have them on board as we head into the heart of our golf and social season.

Shane Combs brings a strong background in turf management and course conditioning, along with a deep appreciation for the traditions that make private clubs special. You'll already begin to see his attention to detail across the course as we prepare for spring play.

Chelsea Lovell joins us with extensive experience in member services and event execution. With a fresh perspective and a commitment to excellence, she will play an integral role in enhancing your tournament, dining, and social event experiences.

Chelsea will also serve as an administrative team, ensuring that smoothly and efficiently. From supporting member services to operational processes, her steady presence are critical to the



I look forward to having her the scenes.

In addition, I am very pleased to reflects the strength of our team.

Michael Tremel, who joined us last August as a bartender, has quickly distinguished himself through professionalism, consistency, and outstanding member service. Effective immediately, he will be stepping into the role of Lead Bartender. This promotion is well earned, and I know many of you have already experienced the positive energy and attention to detail Michael brings to the Club.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge that transitions can be especially meaningful when they involve people close to us. As many of you know, Elle Schultz is not only a valued member of our team but also a close member of my family. Her dedication, professionalism, and care for this Club have meant more to me personally than I can fully express. I am incredibly proud of the work she did and am grateful for the foundation she helped us build over the last three years. Congratulations, Elle, on your next role!

Change is never easy – particularly when it touches both our professional and personal lives – but it is also an opportunity for growth and renewal. I'm confident that this next chapter will continue to move the Club forward while honoring the legacy of those who have helped shape it.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I look forward to seeing you around the Club as the season gets underway.

Warm regards,

-Trista

# Elks welcomes new personnel

**Shane Combs, Elks' Superintendent**, hit the ground running Feb. 2, 2026.

He brings 13 years of experience, in golf course and grounds management, more than half of which has been as a superintendent. As such, he has built a strong reputation for course conditioning, team leadership, and long-term planning. Most recently, Shane served as Superintendent at Indian Trails Country Club in Beemer, where he oversaw all course operations.

As Superintendent, Shane will be responsible for all aspects of golf course and grounds maintenance and will work closely with club leadership to ensure our facility continues to reflect the high standards of our club.

He is an Omaha native and holds an Associate Degree in Applied Science majoring in Horticulture and is committed to continuous improvement in course presentation and member experience.

Throughout the Trustee's selection process, Shane demonstrated a thoughtful approach to maintaining exceptional playing conditions while prioritizing sustainability and efficiency. He is mechanically and technically skilled and is a problem solver.

He and Brooke, his wife of 26 years, moved to Beemer in 2006. They have three adult children, Jacob, Kaitlyn, and Caleb. In addition to spending time with friends and family, he enjoys such hobbies as drag racing, golfing, bowling, camping and watching the Huskers. Shane, whose first name is really Christian, is also actively involved with the Beemer Community Theatre and the Beemer Volunteer Fire Department.



Superintendent Shane Combs and his wife, Brooke



Administrative and Event Coordinator  
Chelsea Lovell

**Chelsea Lovell, Elks' Administrative and Event Coordinator**, may look familiar to some members. She worked as a bartender for several social events in 2023.

That experience and the belief that the Elks has a lot more to offer are what made her interested in taking on more of the club's day-to-day responsibilities.

Impressed with the management team and impressed by all the changes made, she is excited to be back as a full-time employee and build on the wonderful and already established events/club.

"I can't wait to help make the elks the place to be," she said.

She brings eight years of experience as the Volunteer Coordinator for Columbus Community Hospital where she assisted and organized a large variety of luncheons, fundraisers, blood drives and special recognition events.

Born and raised in Schuyler, Chelsea has made Columbus home for more than 10 years. She is the mother of two sweet and rambunctious boys: Owen (7) and Drake (4).

Members may find her assisting Karen and the kitchen staff from time to time, as she loves to cook and tells us she makes a mean Kolache.

*Article continues on page 4*

## New personnel, cont.

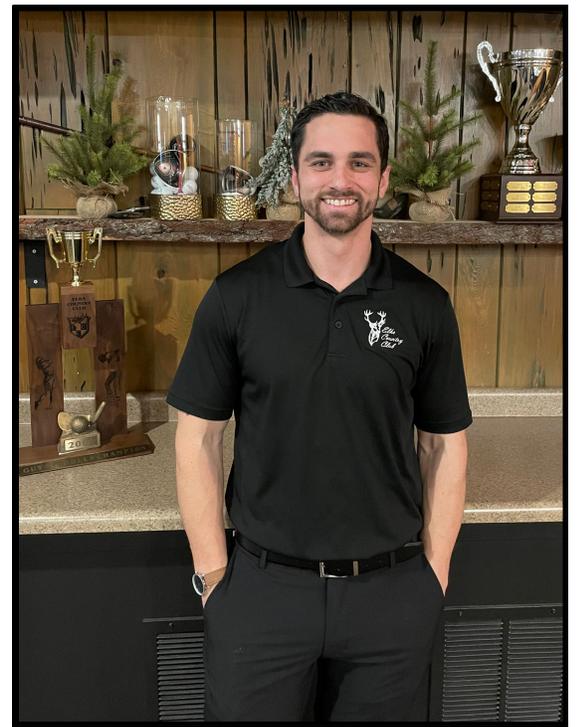
**Michael Tremel, Elks' Lead Bartender**, brings more than a decade of experience in high-end hospitality to the Elks Country Club. A native of Columbus and a graduate of UNL, he earned a bachelor's degree in hospitality, restaurant, and tourism management, with a specialized emphasis in Oenology (the study of wine and winemaking).

After seven years at the Country Club of Lincoln, he served three years at Wilderness Ridge Golf Course as Banquet Manager and Restaurant Manager, overseeing large-scale events and daily dining operations.

He believes the backbone of a premier country club lies in the "steps of service," and he aims to bring a sophisticated palate and technical expertise in wine and craft cocktails served at the Elks.

Excited to be back in his hometown, he looks forward to elevating the restaurant and bar experience at the Elks.

When he isn't at the club, he enjoys reconnecting with his family, spending time on the family farmland, and traveling whenever the opportunity arises.



Michael Tremel, the Elks' Lead Bartender

# Congratulations



## JACOB HEINRICH PLACES AT STATE HOOP SHOOT

The 2026 State Elks' Hoop Shoot competition was held Feb. 14 in York, Neb., following a district contest in York on Jan. 31.

Local Columbus youth Jacob Heinrich took home third place in the 12-13-year-old category, and the Columbus Elks' Lodge #1195 is quite proud of his accomplishment.

"This year's local Hoop Shoot was the most successful one we have had in recent years," explained ER and Hoop Shoot Coordinator Chris Nahorny. "We held three rounds at Scotus, Lakeview, and CMS locations, and more than 70 students participated. Winners from our local competitions advanced to the District Hoop Shoot in York on Jan. 31. Winners from that contest, including Jacob, advanced to state.

"I want to thank all of our local students who came out to participate," said Nahorny. "We look forward to doing it again next year."

*Above left to right: Jacob Heinrich stands next to Nebraska State Elks President Jeremy M. Brandt at the Nebraska State Elk Hoop Shoot competition in York on Feb. 14. Myles Heimann (Cozad) placed second. State Hoop Shoot Coordinator Adam Berlin stands center back. First place winner and returning champion Cole Cavenee (Kearney) stand center, next to Luke Bohling (Lincoln) who placed fourth. Adam Berlin's wife, Chandra, stands on the right. The next Hoop Shoot competition is in Colorado Springs March 14, followed by the National Competition April 18, 2026, in Chicago.*

# New year, new Friday Afternoon Clubs (FAC)

ECC members gathered at the Elks February 27 to welcome Elks' new Superintendent Shane Combs. Karen and staff treated at least 70 people to an assortment of appetizers and drink specials. A second FAC is schedule for March 27 to officially kick off the 2026-27 golf season and welcome potential members. Please invite others interested in learning more about the Elks and its many membership benefits.



**OUR NEXT FAC: MARCH 27, 5-7 p.m.**



# From our **GOLF PROFESSIONAL**

Hello from the Golf Shop!

March marks the beginning of the golf season--in a way, that feels like the first few training sessions for the big marathon of the member event season running from April to October.

The Nebraska Golf Association, along with the USGA, says the official start of the golf season in our state is March 15. This is the first day of active posting season for your handicap. If you have any questions about posting scores using the GHIN app, or if you are in need of getting a handicap for the first time, please contact the golf shop.

Lastly, as we get back into the swing of thing (pun intended), don't forget about our online tee sheet. It is accessible through your member login on the <https://theelksc.com> website. If you are in need of a tutorial or a refresher, I am happy to help.

Hope to see you in the Golf Shop soon. Cheers.

- *Derrick*



BRING FAMILY & FRIENDS

## *Easter Brunch*

APRIL

SUNDAY

05

10 AM - 2 PM

### *Menu*

Prime rib,	French Toast
Applewood Ham,	Eggs
Chili Lime Cod,	Bacon
Chicken Tenders,	Sausage
Mac & Cheese,	Fruit
Mashed Potatoes,	Pasta Salad
Green Beans, Roll	Broccoli Salad

**Reservations  
Required  
402.564.1451**



# 4-CLUB RECIPROCAL IS BACK

those who are new to the Elks or for those who may not know, your ECC golf membership gives you access to three (3) great clubs in Eastern Nebraska: Hillcrest Country Club in Yankton, S.D., Fremont Golf Club in Fremont, NE, and Norfolk Country Club in Norfolk, NE.. This 4-Club Reciprocal agreement offers you the ability to golf at these three terrific courses at a reduced rate of \$50 per player plus cart fee.

To avoid abuse of this, the four clubs have set a few parameters for access.

- Each member is limited to two (2) rounds per month at each facility.

**NOTE:** *Please have your golf shop/professional staff book the times for you, so we are aware of play at each facility.*

- Each club will have its own available times during the week. These are listed in the chart. If you have any questions, please contact the golf shop.

	HILLCREST CC	FREMONT GC	NORFOLK CC
Monday	After 12 p.m.	After 11 a.m.	After 12 p.m.
Tuesday	Before 12 p.m.	As Available	Before 2 p.m.
Wednesday	As Available	After 11 a.m.	Before 4 p.m.
Thursday	Before 12 p.m.	As Available	As Available
Friday	As Available	After 1 p.m.	As Available
Saturday	After 1 p.m.	After 1 p.m.	After 11 a.m.
Sunday	After 1 p.m.	After 1 p.m.	After 11 a.m.





*Now Available!*



# CORPORATE MEMBERSHIPS



*Company benefits and membership packages for 4, 6, or 8 employees*



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REVIEW YOUR OPTIONS, THEN CONTACT TRISTA ENGEL TO DISCUSS HOW YOUR COMPANY AND EMPLOYEES CAN BENEFIT.



# March

## 2026 CALENDAR

**2** Central Community College Duel

**4** Elks Lodge Meeting, 8 p.m.

**5** CHS Cheer Banquet

**6-7** Prime Rib Weekend

**8** Daylight Savings Time

**10** Bridge

**17** OFC / St. Patrick's Day

**18** Elks Lodge Meeting, 8 p.m.

**20** First Day of Spring

**21** Formal Dance Club

**25** Cactus

**27** FAC & Club Membership Kick-off

**28** Private Event

