

# Annual Newsletter

December 2025



## Table of Contents

### Pg. 1

- Annual Celebration (12/16)
- GM's Message

### Pg. 2

- GM's Message Contin.
- Superintendent's Message

### Pg. 3

- Bison House's Message
- President's Message

### Pg. 4

- President's Message Contin.

### Pg. 5

- 2025 Season Passholder Application

### Pg. 6

- Men's League Team Sponsor Application

## General Manager's Message

### *Greetings Golfers*

Everyone reading this has heard it from me before, but it truly was great to see how we finished 2025 at Buffalo Golf Club. The course was in fantastic condition, and there were a lot of positive changes taking shape. I've thanked the maintenance crew many times and will gladly do it again—Jeff and his entire team put in an incredible amount of work, and how much they care really showed this year.

I'd also like to highlight our Superintendent, Jeff Lipics, who was instrumental in turning the course around. Things were bleak in the spring, but Jeff stayed positive, kept his crew focused, and worked seven days a week to get us where we are today. We're fortunate to have him at BGC, and I'm excited to see what the future holds. Our shared focus right now is healthy turf, and Jeff will speak more on that, but I wanted to personally thank him and his crew for a spectacular 2025.

This winter we have a few projects we are tackling on the golf course, and the biggest one is to improve playing conditions around a few green complexes and teeing areas. Due to roots infringing onto a few greens and once small trees being planted too close to greens, they have now become an issue, and we are beginning to see turf health on greens and their surrounds start to deteriorate every season.

To improve these areas, we will be taking down a few trees on 5 different areas of the golf course. In all areas you will see a definite improvement in playability and healthy grass, and site lines will improve drastically as well, so I am eager to see them complete. There are a few spots where I wish nothing had to be done, but the grass is so poor, and the roots are taking over that we are left with no other option than to remove the trees causing the damage. I do feel like over time the area will look better and better but I can guarantee it will be a shock at first. This was a decision that was not taken lightly but after much discussion between the Board, Jeff and me, it simply came down to a choice between grass or trees. We were stuck with a tough decision to make, but ultimately, we need healthy grass and playable greens.

In terms of the restaurant our goal has always been to focus on the golfers, and the Bison House continues to grow and improve each year thanks to Dana and our head cook, Dayton Cudmore. They work tirelessly to make sure everything is done right. Thank you to both of them, the entire Bison House team, and everyone who continues to support the restaurant—it truly means a lot to us.

## Annual Celebration

**REMINDER:** The BGC Board of Directors would like to extend an invitation to all Golf Club Season Pass Holders to the Annual Celebration that will be held at the Club House on **Tuesday, 12/16**:

**6:00 PM** – Doors Open  
**6:15 PM** – Pizza & Wings Served  
**6:30 PM** – Presentations

- Drinks will be available for purchase.
- Holiday drink specials & some \$2 beers (while supplies last).
- Pizza and wings will be available free of charge (while supplies last).

## General Manager's Message – Continued

After a slow start due to tough spring weather, the golf course had a very busy year, especially in August and September. When it's busy, the golf shop can be challenging to keep up with, particularly in a year where many staff members took on new responsibilities. One thing you could always count on, though, was a smile and great customer service from Nik, Wyatt, and our part-time staff. Nik and Wyatt are currently working seasonally in Florida, and I'm excited for their return in the spring with new skills and experience. Nik was promoted to a more supervisory role at Adios Golf Club this year, and Wyatt is spending time at Royal Poinciana Golf Club in Naples—both are in great positions that will help them grow in this business, and we look forward to having them back in the spring.

I also want to touch on PGA HOPE and our veteran programming. In 2025, we added eight more graduates, bringing our total to 21—something we're extremely proud of, especially since the program didn't exist four years ago. With this growth, we're excited to offer more opportunities for our graduates to get on the course in 2026, and that's a personal goal of mine. PGA HOPE provides six weeks of free instruction to veterans of all skill levels. If you or a veteran you know is interested, please reach out to me directly. Thank you as well to everyone who supported our veteran fundraising events—because of you, we were able to provide golf equipment to graduates who needed it.

Thank you all for a great 2025. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year—2026 is shaping up to be another great year at Buffalo Golf Club.

**Dan Ashley**

General Manager, PGA Professional



## Superintendent's Message

It's December. Our first golf season together is behind us. I hope you enjoyed it. I did, most of the time. It wouldn't be right to not start off by thanking my staff. I had the luxury of meeting them during the interview process. They were a large factor in my decision to accept the offer. They did not disappoint. If you are unaware, it's a rarity to have a core group of employees as dedicated as we have. You all know them. When you see them, take the time to say thank you.

The crew and I were talking just this morning. On March 24th, I was only here 30 minutes, we dove right in shoveling snow off greens. From there we never let up until the last tarp was on the greens, November 14th. Along the way, we were supported by an excellent group of part time and seasonal staff. All working towards one common goal. We all got to watch it unfold. Each month we looked better than the previous. Driving the course as summer wound down, I thought, "it's beautiful out here". I know most of you feel the same way. Many of you took time to offer compliments, which is always appreciated. Every one of them was passed on to all the crew.

I have kept you apprised of the plan and results since newsletter 1 last Spring. Simple really. Improve the health of the turf. Keep the great parts great, improve the weak spots, and begin to repair our worst spots. Mission accomplished, but it's a process, not a task. The same philosophy will be applied in 2026, and areas will continue to improve. It takes time though. One of our biggest hurdles is that it takes less time to make nice turf bad than it does to make bad turf nice. Think about that. As the saying goes, when you're building a golf course the 2 things you need are drainage and irrigation. Once it's built, the 2 things you need are time and money. Same applies to turning conditions around.

I have purposely kept this from being a "this is what we are going to do next year" checklist. We all know the goal, and we'll continue doing what needs to be done to reach it. Even now as I type this, the crew is accomplishing tasks that will improve your experience at the club. That's what we do.

Have a great Christmas. Enjoy the Winter. See you in Spring.

**Jeff Lipics**

Superintendent

## Bison House's Message

We are very pleased with how the year went for Bison House. Although we had a few hiccups with really old refrigerators giving up on us, our daily routine still ran pretty smoothly. Our head cook, Dayton Cudmore, did an amazing job running the kitchen, consistently cooking delicious food and training new cooks that all plan on returning in the spring. We did unfortunately lose two of our long-time servers because they moved out of state. So, we will be hiring a couple new servers for the upcoming spring/summer.

Thank you for all your support this year. Many of you regularly visit for a meal and have helped spread positive comments to others in town. Because of your continued support, we were able to stay open with limited hours over the fall and winter.

Bison House will continue to be open through December and January. Our winter hours are as follows:

- **Thursdays: 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM**
- **Fridays: 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM**
- **Saturdays: 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM**
- **Sundays: 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

We will close for the month of February to give the staff a break and get some extra cleaning done. We plan on reopening mid-March. Follow us on Facebook for our weekly specials.

**Dana Ashley**

Bison House – Food & Beverage Manager



## President's Message

***Fellow Golfers,***

Looking back on another season at Buffalo Golf Club, I want to begin with a sincere thank you to the people who truly make our course what it is—our outstanding staff. From the grounds crew to the pro shop and food and beverage teams, their dedication, professionalism, and hard work are evident every single day.

This season came with its share of challenges, as many of you know, but our staff met each one head-on. Despite some early setbacks in the spring, they delivered exceptional results, and we're incredibly proud of how the course looked as the season progressed. I can confidently say Buffalo Golf Club was put to rest for the winter in as good of condition as we've seen in years. A heartfelt thank you to Dan, Jeff, Dana, and our entire team for working tirelessly each day to improve the course and the overall golf experience for us all.

As we continue to strive to make Buffalo Golf Club the best it can be, it's worth re-mentioning a point Jeff made in his message above: golf courses require time and money. It's no secret that as a non-profit organization operating a public golf course in Wyoming, both of those resources are limited, which makes efficiency very important—particularly when affordability remains a top priority for the Board.

That's why we're very pleased to share that the **prices for our 2026 season passes and green fees will remain the same for the third consecutive season**. Keeping golf accessible and affordable reflects thoughtful planning, responsible financial management, and BGC's ongoing commitment to our community.

Some other good news and highlights from the year and looking into 2026 include:

- BGC hosted **approximately 22,000 rounds of golf in 2025**, well above the national average for seasonal courses. This included multiple high school and junior events and numerous tournaments—many benefiting local and regional nonprofit organizations.



## President's Message – Continued

- Our **junior and veteran programming continues to thrive and grow**, creating meaningful opportunities both on and off the course. Our veteran programs, in particular, are doing truly remarkable work for a very deserving population, and there is nothing else like it in our region. Great job and thank you to Dan for his leadership and commitment to making those programs such a success.
- There were also several important infrastructure improvements made across the course. Approximately four miles of deteriorated asphalt cart paths were removed, with the majority replaced by grass. While a few areas will still need concrete—hopefully in 2026 when weather allows—this was a major step forward. **Thank you very much to the City of Buffalo, Johnson County, the Optional One Percent Sales Tax Board, and the Johnson County Recreation District Board for supporting this project!**
- The city also helped us fix a leaking pipe that was buried deeper than our equipment could handle, so **thank you to Kevin Silbernagel and his crew for their assistance as well!**
- We also installed new bridges and began reworking some of the stairs on the course, thanks in large part to the dedication of **one of our incredible volunteers, Mike Pertile**. I know Mike doesn't want the recognition (sorry, Mike), but we truly could not have done those projects without him.
- Looking ahead, this winter and spring we'll be extending portions of the irrigation system to help water more efficiently in certain areas, and we're continuing to invest in our tree management program as Dan discussed above. While this does include removing some trees that are encroaching on greens and tee boxes and impacting turf health, we'll also be planning for strategic tree planting in select areas as time and budget allow.
- Lastly, we launched an Online Pro Shop, which offers a wider range of products, brands, and sizes. You can still pick up some of our awesome merchandise in-person at the clubhouse, but this will give us all and our visitors more flexibility to shop BGC branded apparel and accessories for adults and kids. You can find a link to the Online Pro Shop on the top of our home page or simply visit, <https://buffalowygolf.tecommerce.shop/pages/home/buffalogc>.

On behalf of our dedicated Board of Directors—Bill Poniatowski, Sandi Bidonde, Brett McCoy, Barb Hodgson, John Taylor, and myself—thank you all for your continued support of Buffalo Golf Club. Also, to our other volunteers that I didn't mention, who've offered their time, talents, and expertise this past year, we are incredibly grateful for your help! We look forward to seeing you all out on the fairways again soon.

**Here's to an outstanding 2026 season ahead!**

**Adam Michelena**

President – Buffalo Golf Club

[board@buffalowygolf.com](mailto:board@buffalowygolf.com)



## 2026 Season Pass Holder Application

Please mail to: Buffalo Golf Club, Inc.

PO Box 759  
Buffalo, WY 82834

### Golf Season Pass Holder:

Single punch card: \$550   
\*(20) 9-hole rounds; weekdays only.

Single \$750   
Couple \$1,100   
Family \$1,300   
Student (under 25) \$185

**Cart Shed Lease:** \$500   
\*Signed lease and fee due by April 1<sup>st</sup>

**Handicap Fee** (per person): \$50   
\*Please pay handicap fee with your dues.

**Men's League Team Sponsor** \$100   
\*Sponsor only. Captain entry not included. Fill out form on next page.

**Men's League:** \$100   
\*Individual Entry Fee.

**Ladies' League (Cloud Peak):** \$100

**Ladies' League (Blacktooth):** \$30

**Season Range Pass:**

Single	\$250	<input type="text"/>
Couple	\$340	<input type="text"/>
Family	\$400	<input type="text"/>

**Season Cart Pass:**

Single	\$600	<input type="text"/>
Couple	\$750	<input type="text"/>

**TOTAL DUE:** \$

\*No refunds of a golf season pass after June 1<sup>st</sup>

**Names:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Addresses:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*Email addresses required for online booking and for club communications.

**As we all know, our nearly century-old clubhouse is nearing the end of its lifecycle, and the need for a new facility that will carry us into the future becomes more pressing each year. Our golf course is among the best around, and we envision a new clubhouse that not only serves as a vibrant community hub, but also offers year-round opportunities for golf and additional recreation for Johnson County residents.**

**Fundraising to achieve this ambitious goal is well underway and continues to build momentum. A dedicated savings account through the Buffalo Golf Course Foundation, Inc. has been established, and thanks to your generous support, the funds continue to grow.**

**Would you like to contribute to the new clubhouse fund and help bring this vision to life? Every donation makes a difference!**

**YES  \$10  \$25  \$100  Other**

### DEFINITIONS

- Single Season Pass Holders shall be persons over 18 years of age.
- Couple Season Pass Holders shall consist of any married couple.
- Family Season Pass Holders shall consist of any married couples or single parents with household children less than 18 years of age, or married couples or single parents with full-time students through 24 years of age.
- Student memberships shall consist of persons under the age of 25 who attend school on a full-time basis.



## **MEN'S LEAGUE TEAM SPONSOR FORM 2026**

**SPONSOR/TEAM NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00

*Please indicate below if sponsor is paying for Captain and/or Additional Players*

**Team Captain Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00

**Team Captain Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Player:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00

**Additional Player:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00

**TOTAL DUE**      **\$** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*All Men's League participants must have an active GHIN handicap\*\***

Please Remit Payment To:  
Buffalo Golf Club  
P.O. Box 759  
Buffalo, WY 82834

**Men's League Draft: THURSDAY, APRIL 30<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM in the Clubhouse  
League Play Begins Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**