



The pool cues were hung by the tables with care...



Photos courtesy of Vilna Historic Pool Hall & Barbershop

By Brandie Majeau

There's a certain magic that lingers in the old walls of the Vilna Historic Pool Hall and Barbershop, especially when the Christmas season rolls around. On December 6, 2025, the storied hall was transformed into a scene straight out of

a cherished holiday memory or favourite Christmas show. The sight of fresh-baked cookies mingled with laughter as townsfolk gathered, despite the cold weather, to mark the third annual Christmas event...bundled against the cold, hearts warmed by the nostalgia of tradition and

community spirit.

In the corner, live Christmas melodies floated through the air, thanks to the talented Jackson MacKenzie, whose tunes seemed to transport everyone back to simpler times. Mugs of made-to-order hot chocolate steamed in hands that had barely had

time to remove their mittens, while plates of holiday baked goods, and festive treats took everyone back to family kitchens and Christmases gone by.

Meanwhile, the familiar clack of billiard balls echoed through the hall,

Continued on page 12

Alberta pushes back against Ottawa with new gun rights law

By Brandie Majeau

The Alberta government has taken a dramatic step in its ongoing dispute with Ottawa over firearms regulation, enacting new legislation designed to give the province more control over gun rights. In a rural media roundtable on December 3, Minister of Justice, Mickey Amery, discussed this new proposed legislation.

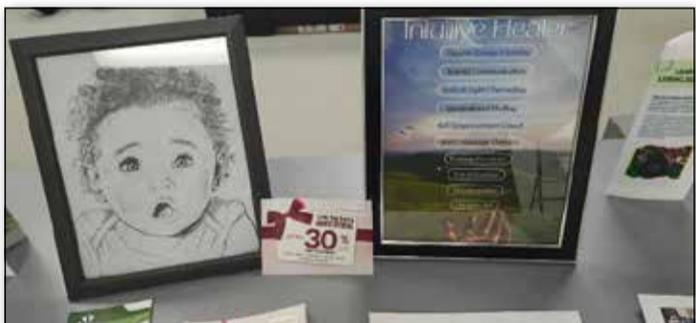
The Alberta Firearms Act, passed earlier this year, is the province's answer to recent federal crackdowns on gun ownership, including a sweeping ban on more than 1,500 models of firearms and a freeze on handguns introduced by the Trudeau government. These federal policies, largely supported in urban parts of Canada, have drawn sharp criticism in rural Alberta, where many residents view gun ownership as part of their way of life.

The new provincial law empowers Alberta to appoint its own chief firearms officer, direct police priorities related to gun enforcement, and provide legal and financial help to residents who face federal gun charges. In addition, the act allows the province to refuse participation in federal gun buyback programs, which Alberta officials argue unfairly target law-abiding gun owners.

Supporters say the legislation is a necessary assertion of provincial rights. Alberta

Continued on page 15

New location for Lyrehc Soul Healing



Photos courtesy of Lyrehc Soul Healing

By Brandie Majeau

After a period of personal transformation, a local holistic practitioner has reopened her practice, Lyrehc

Soul Healing, in Newbrook, Alberta. Formerly based in Smoky Lake, she took a hiatus to process significant life changes and focus on integrating new facets of

her work, including distance healing and the sale of handmade jewelry and crystals at local markets.

The practitioner's journey into holistic healing

began in earnest following a life-altering event in 2020/2021 that awakened her psychic abilities and

Continued on page 7

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Kinette Club's convoy hits the streets

By Brandie Majeau

The spirit of giving was alive and well on November 27 as the Kinette Club of Smoky Lake hosted their much-anticipated annual Toy & Food Drive. This special community event saw a festive convoy, led by the Smoky Lake Fire Department, wind

its way through the town's streets, collecting much-needed items for local families facing hardship this holiday season.

Residents eagerly participated, either by greeting the convoy with donations in hand or by placing non-perishable food items and new, unwrapped toys on their doorsteps or

driveways for volunteers to collect. The show of support exceeded expectations, with the Kinette Club reporting an impressive 620 pounds of food collected, along with a staggering number of toys. "I couldn't even guess [how many]!" exclaimed one Kinette Club volunteer when asked about the toy

haul, underscoring the generosity displayed by the community.

The annual drive is a lifeline for many in Smoky Lake, providing not only essential supplies but also joy and hope during a challenging time of year. The event's success demonstrates the town's close-knit nature and unwavering

commitment to helping neighbours in need. As with so many charitable events held in Smoky Lake, they are all done with a happy heart. Volunteers were eager to give up a few hours of their evening and wrap up in winter gear and join the procession as it made its way through the streets.

Organizers extended heartfelt thanks to all volunteers, donors, and the Smoky Lake Fire Department, whose leadership and enthusiasm helped make the event possible. As the holidays approach, the Kinette Club's Toy & Food Drive stands as a shining example of compassion in action.



Kinette Club of Smoky Lake photos



Six-plex for sale in Keremeos, British Columbia

\$850,000



4 two-bedroom and 2 one-bedroom units on 2 levels. 1974 construction on a .331 AC lot. Well organized property with tons of future potential. Metal roof, 20 years old, new on demand hot water system 2 years old, Electrical is the responsibility of the tenants, parking is ample and open. Storage available for all units. City water, private septic. Private lot with tall hedges. Investment-wise, Cap rate in the range of 6% and with increase in rents you will be laughing all the way to the bank. This is a smart opportunity worth looking into.

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Young tribute artist keeping rock 'n' roll legends alive

By Haylee Winger

Jaedyn Pilon has built a reputation as one of Western Canada's standout tribute artists, honouring the music of Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, and Buddy Holly with energy, authenticity, and unmistakable passion. A multiple award-winner, he has earned praise for performances that capture the spirit of rock's early icons while giving audiences a chance to relive the soundtrack of their youth.

Pilon's connection to music began remarkably early. Childhood favourites like The Wiggles sparked his interest, but it was The Beatles who truly set him on his path. At just six years old, he stepped onstage in his school talent show as John Lennon, performing "Twist and Shout" and discovering the thrill of performing. His curiosity

quickly grew into an enthusiastic study of rock 'n' roll history, leading him to legends such as Buddy Holly, Jerry Lee Lewis, Roy Orbison, Johnny Cash, and ultimately, Elvis Presley.

His journey as an Elvis tribute artist began in 2015 after a guest appearance at the Blue Suede Music Festival in Busby, Alberta, an experience that ignited what he calls the "Elvis bug." Only a year later, Pilon made history as the youngest competitor to appear at the Penticton Elvis Festival, earning a spot among the top seven finalists. Since then, he has collected numerous accolades, including a first-place win in the Non-Pro Division at the Lake George Elvis Festival.

Today, Pilon performs frequently across Alberta and throughout Western Canada at community events, senior residences, special

celebrations, and private gatherings. His career highlights include opening for country star Brett Kissel at W. Brett Wilson's Annual Garden Party and performing alongside Larry Strickland of the Stamps Quartet, who famously sang backup for Elvis Presley.

Alongside live performances, Pilon also produces original tribute shows. He currently tours several full-scale productions, including Elvis: The Early Years, Elvis: The Vegas Years, Boom-Chicka-Boom: The Sound of Johnny Cash and The Tennessee Three, and a faithful recreation of The Johnny Cash TV Show.

With a genuine respect for the artists he portrays and a commitment to keeping their stories alive, Jaedyn Pilon continues to captivate audiences and carry the legacy of Rock 'n' Roll forward—one performance at a time.



Jaedyn Pilon delivered a high-energy performance at Diamond Spring Lodge on November 25, bringing classic hits from Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, and Buddy Holly to residents and guests. **Shauna Krankowsky photos**



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Community Events Calendar

January 2026

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thur Fri Sat

<p><i>Artful Wednesdays at the Art Society</i> Beginning January 14 Every Wednesday from 1:00-4:00 PM</p> 	<p>Coffee & Pool at the Pioneer Club Mondays & Thursdays 9:00-10:30 AM</p> 		<p>1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! Town Offices Closed</p> 	<p>2 Shopping Bus - Call 780-222-4712 9:00 AM-3:45 PM</p> 	<p>3 </p>	
<p>4 Pioneer Club - Pancake Breakfast 9:00-10:30 AM</p> 	<p>5 Legion - Coffee 8:00-10:00 AM</p>	<p>6 Pioneer Club - Curling & Coffee 1:00-3:30 PM</p>	<p>7 Legion - Coffee 8:00-10:00 AM Legion - Whist 1:00-4:00 PM</p>	<p>8 Library - Toddler Time 10:15-11:00 AM Pioneer Club - Curling & Coffee 1:00-3:30 PM Library - Snack Attack 3:15-4:00 PM Retired, Not Expired Workshop 6:00-8:00 PM</p>	<p>9 Legion - Coffee 8:00-10:00 AM Legion - Pub Night 5:00 PM-2:00 AM Library - Movie Night 6:00-8:00 PM</p> 	<p>10 Art Society - Winter Hills - Art Class 1:00-4:00 PM</p> 
<p>11 </p>	<p>12 Legion - Coffee 8:00-10:00 AM</p>	<p>13 Silly Sprouts @ Pembina Place 9:30-11:30 AM Pioneer Club - Curling & Coffee 1:00-3:30 PM Library - Idea Zone 3:15-4:00 PM</p>	<p>14 Legion - Coffee 8:00-10:00 AM Legion - Whist 1:00-4:00 PM Pioneer Club - Community Supper (Book: 780-942-3772) 5:00-8:00 PM</p>	<p>15 Library - Toddler Time 10:15-11:00 AM Pioneer Club - Curling & Coffee 1:00-3:30 PM</p>	<p>16 Legion - Coffee 8:00-10:00 AM Legion - Pub Night 5:00 PM-2:00 AM</p> 	<p>17 </p>
<p>18 </p>	<p>19 Legion - Coffee 8:00-10:00 AM</p> 	<p>20 Silly Sprouts @ Pembina Place 9:30-11:30 AM Pioneer Club - Curling & Coffee 1:00-3:30 PM Regular Council Meeting 6:30-10:00 PM</p>	<p>21 Legion - Coffee 8:00-10:00 AM Legion - Whist 1:00-4:00 PM Library - Whimsical Wednesday 3:15-4:00 PM</p>	<p>22 Library - Toddler Time 10:15-11:00 AM Pioneer Club - Curling & Coffee 1:00-3:30 PM</p>	<p>23 Legion - Coffee 8:00-10:00 AM Legion - Pub Night 5:00 PM-2:00 AM</p> 	<p>24 </p>
<p>25 </p>	<p>26 Legion - Coffee 8:00-10:00 AM</p>	<p>27 Silly Sprouts @ Pembina Place 9:30-11:30 AM Pioneer Club - Curling & Coffee 1:00-3:30 PM Committee of the Whole 6:00-9:30 PM</p>	<p>28 Legion - Coffee 8:00-10:00 AM Casino Bus - Call 780-942-3524 9:20 AM-3:45 PM Legion - Whist 1:00-4:00 PM</p>	<p>29 Library - Toddler Time 10:15-11:00 AM Pioneer Club - Curling & Coffee 1:00-3:30 PM</p>	<p>30 Legion - Coffee 8:00-10:00 AM Legion - Pub Night 5:00 PM-2:00 AM</p> 	<p>31 </p>

Redwater fcss

KRIS KRINGLE HOLIDAY MINGLE

The Town of Redwater extends heartfelt thanks to the residents, community groups, businesses, and volunteers who contributed to this year's Kris Kringle Holiday Mingle. Your involvement truly brought this festive community event to life!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & PARTNERS!



Check out the Town of Redwater Facebook page for detailed posts of Kris Kringle Sponsorship and partnership involvements!

FESTIVAL OF TREES PARTICIPANTS
MDC Arts Association, Redwater Home Hardware, Redwater RCMP, Redwater Citizens on Patrol, Redwater Crafting Group, SCE's Station 7, Redwater Pickleball, Redwater & District Pioneer Club, Redwater Health Auxiliary, Redwater & District Museum, Wildrose Mama's (Red Matters Society), Redwater Lions Club, Ochre Park School Students, Redwater & District Agricultural Society, Redwater Dairy Queen, Redwater Fitness Centre

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
The Town of Redwater would also like to thank everyone who participated in the town-wide Festival of Lights—whether you registered your home or business or joined in the festive Scavenger Hunt! Your enthusiasm helped bring out the holiday spirit in our community.

KRIS KRINGLE HOLIDAY MINGLE IS ORGANIZED TO PROVIDE QUALITY, AFFORDABLE FAMILY PROGRAMMING FOR OUR COMMUNITY, AND TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY BONDS.

Snow Removal

Please watch for "No Parking" signs to help with winter snow clearing.

Read Policy 405.06 - Snow Clearing for priority areas.

www.redwater.ca/p/bylaws



Need Information or Assistance?

One call can connect you to community groups, resources, and information.

Town of Redwater - Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)
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Community Group Monthly Meetings

Monday, January 5
Pioneer Club Monthly Meeting 1:30-2:30 PM

Wednesday, January 7
Legion - General Meeting 7:00-9:00 PM

Tuesday, January 20
Redwater Museum - General Meeting 1:30-3:00 PM

Wednesday, January 21
Redwater Citizens on Patrol Meeting 7:00-8:00 PM

Wednesday, January 21
Legion Executive Meeting 7:00-9:00 PM






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Christmas Recipes



Christmas cupcakes make a perfect holiday treat

A little indulgence is par for the course come the holiday season. That's especially true in relation to baked goods, which find their way into entertaining areas at office parties, family gatherings and school functions.

Treats are indeed part of what makes the holiday season a special time of year. This year, families can whip up this Lines+Angles recipe for "Chocolate Christmas Cupcakes" to make the holiday season a little more flavorful.

Chocolate Christmas Cupcakes Makes 12 cupcakes

For the cakes:

- 8 tablespoons butter
- 1/3 cup caster sugar
- 2 tablespoons light brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/3 cup cocoa powder
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 cup chocolate chips

For the chocolate topping:

- 2/3 cup heavy cream
- 1 cup chopped plain dark chocolate, 70 percent

To decorate:

- Icing sugar
 - 8 ounces white sugarpaste
 - 8 ounces green sugarpaste
 - 4 ounces red sugarpaste
1. For the cupcakes: Preheat the oven to 375 F. Place 12 cupcake liners in a muffin tin.
 2. Beat the butter in a mixing bowl until soft and light. Beat in both sugars and beat until light and fluffy.
 3. Beat in the eggs, one at a time until well blended. Sift in the flour, baking powder and cocoa and fold in gently until incorporated. Stir in the milk and chocolate chips.
 4. Spoon into the paper cases and bake for 25 minutes until firm to the touch. Leave in the tins for 5 minutes, then place on a wire rack to cool completely.

5. For the chocolate topping: Put the cream and chocolate in a pan over a low heat until melted. Remove from the heat and allow to cool and thicken slightly.
6. Spoon onto the cupcakes and leave until almost set.
7. Roll out the white sugarpaste on a surface dusted with icing sugar. Cut out shapes to resemble snow and place on the cakes.
8. Roll out the green sugarpaste on a surface lightly dusted with icing sugar. Cut out 2 holly leaves for each cake with a holly shaped cutter or card template. Brush lightly with water and attach to the white sugarpaste.
9. Roll pieces of red sugarpaste into small balls for the "berries" and place on the cakes, as in the photo, attaching with a little water.



Step back in time with Christmas goose



The holiday season is a sentimental time of year. Nostalgia for past holiday seasons and excitement about what's to come make this a particularly special time of year for millions of people across the globe.

It's not uncommon for Christmas celebrants to include a little history in their decorations and celebrations each year. Some families may read Charles Dickens' early Victorian novella *A Christmas Carol* together before watching one of the many film adaptations of the beloved story. Many popular Christmas carols also date back to the nineteenth century if not earlier, adding another degree of nostalgia to the season. Even food can add a touch of the sentimental to Christmas celebrations. This year, holiday hosts can create some nostalgia around the Christmas dinner table by serving this recipe for "Roasted Christmas Goose" courtesy of the Food Network and Mark Slawson of the The Wort Hotel in Jackson, Wyoming.

Roasted Christmas Goose

Yields 6 to 8 servings

- 1 14- to 16-pound goose
- 1/4 cup sea salt
- 1 lemon, halved
- 1 apple, cut into chunks
- 1 potato, cut into chunks
- 1 orange, sliced
- 1 cup chopped celery
- Basting Syrup (recipe follows)
- Stuffing (recipe follows)
- Cumberland Sauce (recipe follows)

Basting Syrup

- 1/3 cup corn syrup
- 1/3 cup cane syrup
- 1/3 cup melted butter
- 1/4 cup light brown sugar

- 2 tablespoons brandy

Stuffing

- 3 cups whole chestnuts, roasted and peeled
- 1 14-ounce bag stuffing mix
- 1 cup raisins
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 1/4 cup diced apple
- 1/4 cup diced onion
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 3 cups chicken stock
- 3/4 cup melted butter
- 1/4 cup heavy cream

Cumberland Sauce:

- 1 1/2 cups beef stock
 - 3/4 cup port wine
 - 3/4 cup red wine vinegar
 - 3 shallots, peeled and chopped
 - 1 tablespoon crushed black peppercorns
 - 3 oranges, juiced
1. Place goose in a large pot. Add water to cover and stir in the sea salt. Refrigerate overnight.
 2. Preheat oven to 450 degrees F.
 3. Remove goose from water and drain well. Remove all innards and trim excess fat from the tail. Rub inside cavity with lemon juice. Place apple, potato, orange and celery inside the body cavity. Truss the bird like a turkey.
 4. Place the goose in the preheated 450 degree F oven. Reduce oven temperature to 350 degrees F. Cook 20 to 25 minutes per pound. Baste the goose every half hour with the Basting Syrup.
 5. Carve goose and serve with Stuffing and Cumberland sauce.

Basting Syrup:

6. Mix all ingredients together in a small bowl.

Stuffing:

7. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
8. Coarsely chop the chestnuts and put in a large bowl. Add the stuffing mix, raisins, celery, apple, onion and salt and pepper. Toss to combine. Pour in the chicken stock, butter and cream and mix until evenly moistened.
9. Transfer to a baking dish and bake until the top is browned and crisp, about 1 hour.

Cumberland Sauce:

10. In a saucepan, combine the stock, port, vinegar, shallots, peppercorns and orange juice. Bring to a boil, cook until reduced by 2/3, about 25 minutes. Strain and refrigerate. Serve cold over roast goose.

Go beyond tradition with a gourmet holiday entrée offering

Tradition features prominently in the holiday season. Seasonal decor like menorahs, Christmas trees and string lights are everywhere come December, and each helps to make this such a

special time of year.

Food is another notable holiday season tradition. While traditional fare like turkey, ham and, of course, holiday cookies are sure to be sought-after each December, cooks also can experiment with new and unique dishes to impress guests. Holiday hosts looking to do just that can try this Lines+Angles recipe for "Stuffed Partridges Wrapped in Bacon."

Stuffed Partridges Wrapped In Bacon

Makes 6 Servings

- 6 whole partridges, ready to roast
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 2 bunches large thyme
- 6 bay leaves
- 3 clementines, split in half
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
- 6 strips bacon

Heat the oven to 400 F. Wash the partridges and thoroughly pat dry with paper towels. Season the cavities with salt and pepper before stuffing with thyme, bay leaves and clementine halves.

Arrange the partridges in a roasting pan and securely tie their legs with kitchen twine. Rub softened butter all over the outsides and then wrap each with a strip of bacon. Season with pepper.

Roast until the thickest part of the thighs register at least 165 F on a meat thermometer, about 30 to 35 minutes. If you don't have a thermometer, check to see if the juices run clear when the thighs are pierced with a skewer. If they do, the partridges are ready.

Remove from the oven and transfer to a serving platter. Cover with aluminum foil and let rest for at least 10 minutes before serving.



Decorative cookies Santa can't resist

Kids know that cookies are a vital component of the holiday season. Come bedtime on Christmas Eve, youngsters want to make sure Santa Claus gets all the nourishment he needs to continue delivering presents to kids all over the globe. That sustenance is often provided in cookie form. With that in mind, families who want to be certain Santa won't leave their homes hungry this Christmas can whip up a batch of these "Chocolate Star Christmas Decorations," courtesy of Lines+Angles.

Chocolate Star Christmas Decorations

Makes 4 dozen

- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup Dutch processed cocoa powder, unsweetened
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 large egg yolk
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 large egg white
- 1 pinch cream of tartar
- 2 cups confectioners' sugar
- Sprinkles, for decorating

1. Whisk together flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, and salt in a bowl.
2. Beat butter and sugar in a separate bowl with an electric mixer until pale and fluffy, about 2 minutes, then beat in yolk and vanilla. On low speed, beat in flour mixture just until a dough forms.
3. Divide the dough in half, flatten each piece into a disc and then chill them, wrapped in plastic wrap, until firm, for 2 to 3 hours.
4. Preheat oven to 350 F with racks in top and bottom thirds. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. Roll out 1 piece of dough between sheets

of parchment paper into a 14-by-10-inch rectangle (1/8-inch thick). Cut out as many stars as possible, reserving and chilling scraps, then quickly transfer cookies to the baking sheet, arranging them 1/2-inch apart. (If dough becomes too soft, return it to the freezer until it is firm.)

5. Bake until firm and slightly puffed, about 10 minutes. Cool cookies on baking sheet for 5 minutes, then transfer to a rack to cool completely. (Cookies will crisp as they cool.) Make more cookies with remaining dough and scraps, rerolling scraps only once.
6. To make the icing, in an electric mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, beat egg white and cream of tartar until foamy. Sift in half the sugar and beat until smooth, about 1 to 2 minutes. With mixer running, gradually add remaining sugar and beat on high speed until icing is smooth and thick. Icing should be thick, but not too thick to be pressed through a pastry bag. Adjust consistency with more confectioners' sugar or water.
7. Transfer icing to a pastry bag with a small round tip. Pipe icing onto cookies and add decorations of your choice before icing hardens.

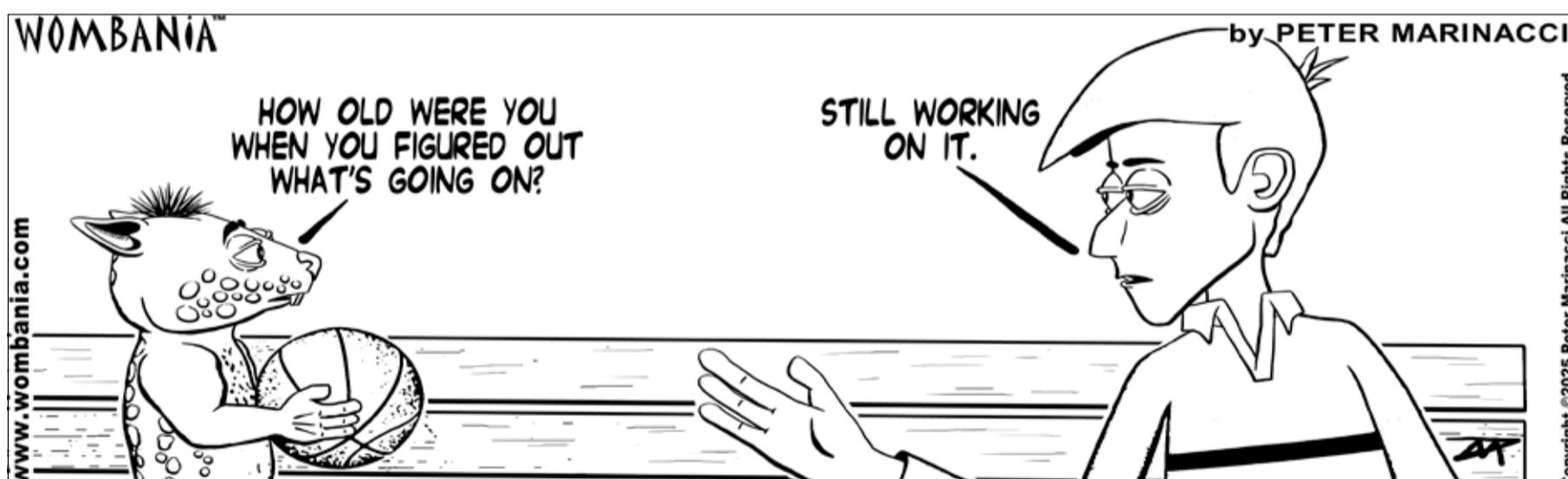


Ode to Smoresland

By Brandie Majeau

December's 6th arrived frosty,
oh but the sight,
Egremont's heart was shining
bright.
The Community Club, aglow
with glee,
Welcomed all to Smoresland,
festively.
A crisp winter breeze polished
the ice,
Transforming the rink to a
skater's paradise.
Children in scarves, cheeks
rosy with cheer,
Laced up their skates as
Christmas drew near.
The market brimmed with trea-
sures and treats,
Holiday goodies and sugary
sweets.
Shoppers delighted, selecting
with care,
Gifts for their loved ones, mem-
ories to share.
A bonfire crackled, casting a
glow,
Warming the faces of friends in
the snow.
Stories and laughter rose with
the flame,
Binding the hamlet in holiday
acclaim.
Hot dogs and cocoa, in gener-
ous spread,
Filled every tummy, kept spirits
well-fed.

Neighbours were smiling,
savouring bites,
Sipping hot chocolate through
magical nights.
Then Santa arrived, his pres-
ence so grand,
Greeting each child with a wave
of his hand.
He listened to wishes, both
whispered and proud,
Bringing bright smiles to the
gathering crowd.
The hall overflowed with com-
fort and light,
A community woven together
so tight.
Warmth spilled outdoors to all
who passed by,
A Christmas embrace beneath
wintry sky.
And best of it all, what everyone
sought
Were ooey goeey s'mores, per-
fectly hot.
Marshmallows toasted, choco-
late that flows,
Sticky fingers and laughter as
everyone knows.
So thank you to Egremont
Community Club, joyful and
dear
May the spirit of Christmas re-
turn every year.
With hearts full of love and
memories made,
The magic of Smoresland will
never fade.



Continued from **page 1**
set her on a path to help others address trauma, limiting beliefs, and energetic imbalances. Her services now encompass Soul Healing, Reiki, life coaching, intuitive readings, and animal communication, all tailored to address the unique challenges

faced by her clients. Despite initial skepticism from some community members, she continued to serve those appreciative of her multi-layered approach, which addresses emotional, mental, spiritual, and energetic well-being. Her animal healing services, including both Reiki and

Soul Healing, have been met with particular enthusiasm by pet owners seeking deeper connections and healing for their companions. The practice is non-denominational, rooted in spiritual principles but not affiliated with any specific religion. In collaboration with a registered

counselor, she also ensures access to affordable mental health services for those in need. "My mission is to make rare and valuable healing services accessible to underserved communities, to alleviate preventable suffering for individuals and animals alike," she said. Offering sessions in

person and remotely via Zoom, email, or phone, she remains committed to serving clients both locally and worldwide, while continuing her own journey of personal growth and healing. Lyrehc Soul Healing also collaborates with a registered counselor who is available to provide services

in Newbrook on Wednesdays by appointment. The practice offers a sliding scale fee structure to ensure affordability for individuals with low income. Counseling services include general mental health support as well as relationship and sexual health counseling.

Merry Christmas



Here's hoping your holiday season is a whole lot of merry and bright!

May your Christmas and the New Year deliver an abundance of health, happiness and good fortune to you and the ones you love.



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Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year from
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MERRY Christmas

Connelly-McKinley Funeral Homes

May the true spirit of Christmas shine in your heart and light your path.

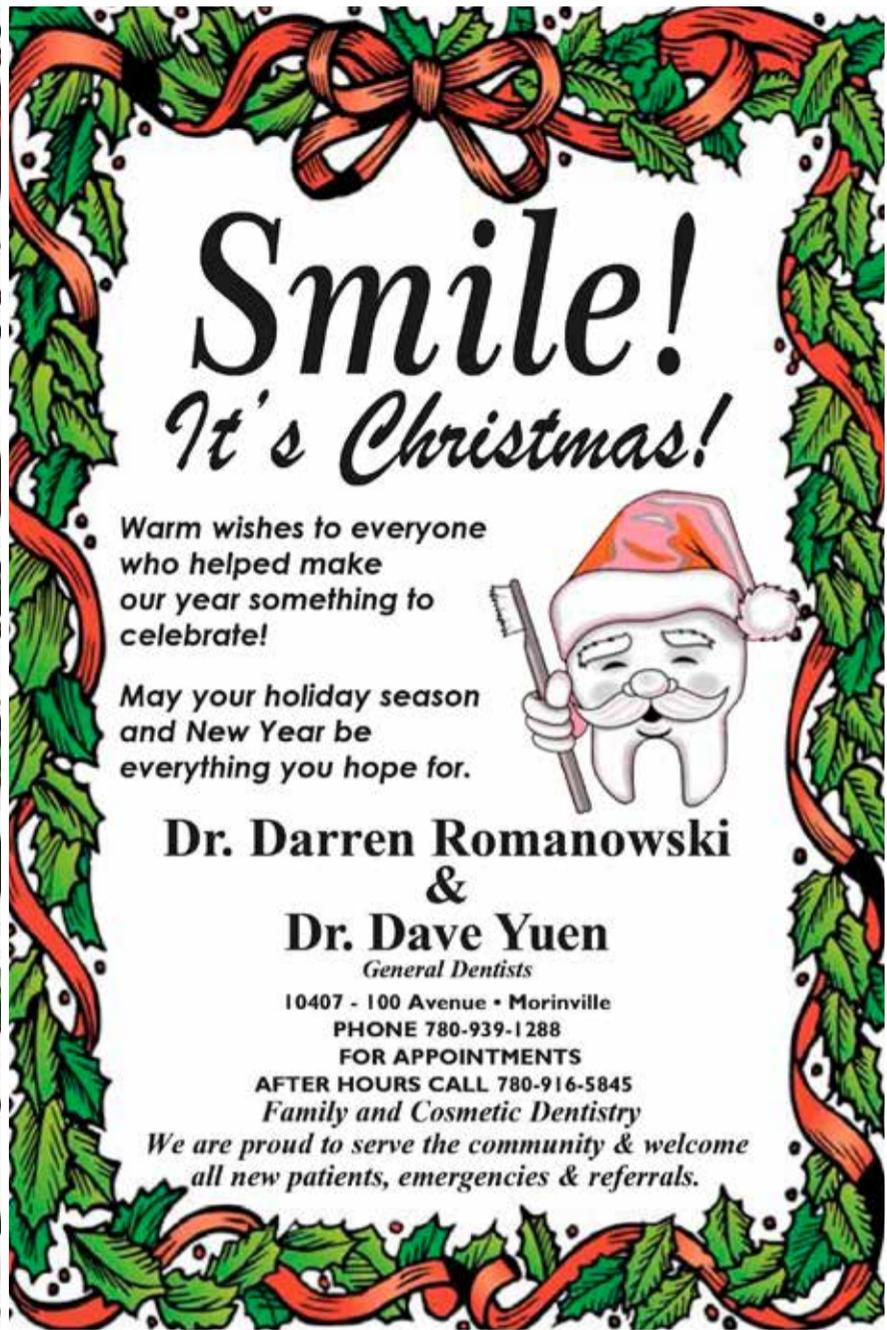
St. Albert Funeral Home
9 Muir Drive • 24 Hours 780-458-2222 • www.connelly-mckinley.com




Warmest Greetings of this Festive Season & Best Wishes for Happiness in the New Year!

Thorhild County





**Smile!
It's Christmas!**

Warm wishes to everyone who helped make our year something to celebrate!

May your holiday season and New Year be everything you hope for.

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General Dentists

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

Sending you and your loved ones heartfelt wishes for a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

Kris Kringle holiday mingle brings warmth to a chilly December night



Shauna Krankowsky photo



Shauna Krankowsky photo



Shauna Krankowsky photo

By Shelley Winger

Redwater's Kris Kringle Holiday Mingle once again proved to be a highlight of the season as families, friends, and neighbours gathered at Pembina Place this past Friday evening. Despite the chilly temperatures, the community's holiday spirit shone brightly, filling the night with laughter, music, and festive cheer.

The event offered something for everyone. Children lined up

eagerly for visits and photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, while families enjoyed horse-drawn wagon rides and the glow of fire pits with s'mores. Indoors, little ones showed off their creativity with cookie decorating, crafts, and face painting. The selfie zone and balloon artists added even more fun to the bustling atmosphere.

Skating with the Grinch proved to be one of the night's most talked-about activities, with the rink full of skaters

enjoying a playful holiday twist. Community performers, including Jeannie & Friends Carolers, helped set a joyful tone throughout the evening.

Free hot dogs, hot chocolate, and popcorn were handed out while supplies lasted, and donations for the Redwater Fellowship of Churches Food Bank were gratefully collected as part of the Festival of Trees charity initiative.

Saturday continued the holiday excitement

with the Redwater & District Ag Society's Christmas Craft & Bake Sale and more Festival of Trees displays. The day wrapped up with the beloved Festival of Lights and the

town-wide scavenger hunt, which encouraged families to explore Redwater, admire holiday decorations, and complete festive clues together.

Many families also

took the opportunity to explore the Festival of Trees, where beautifully decorated trees filled the space with colour and creativity. Each

Continued on **page 11**



Town of Redwater photo



Town of Redwater photo



Town of Redwater photo



Town of Redwater photo



Town of Redwater photo



Town of Redwater photo

Spread joy not germs: stay healthy this holiday season

Primary Care Alberta reminds you to stop germs from spreading and get immunized against respiratory illnesses this holiday season.

To keep yourself and others healthy:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Cover your cough with a tissue. Always cough or sneeze into your arm, not into your hands.
- Avoid touching your face, including your eyes, nose and mouth with

unwashed hands.

- Regularly clean and disinfect surfaces that are touched often, like doorknobs, light switches and counters.
- Stay home when sick from work, school, social activities and visiting anyone in care facilities.
- Get immunized. It's not too late to get immunized. Getting immunized is one of several important steps you can take to prevent yourself and others from getting sick.

Immunization is very safe. It's much safer to get the vaccine than to

get the diseases that vaccines can prevent. To learn more, visit Immunization benefits and safety.

Antibiotics do not work against the influenza virus (or any other virus). Antiviral medications may be used for treatment or prevention of influenza. To learn more, visit Guide to Wise Use of Antibiotics - Do Bugs Need Drugs.

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Shauna Krankowsky photo



Shauna Krankowsky photo



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Shauna Krankowsky photo

Continued from **page 10**
tree reflected the personality of the group or business that designed it, and guests enjoyed walking through the displays, taking photos, and voting for their favourites.

Volunteers played a huge role throughout the weekend, from serving hot chocolate to guiding families through activities and keeping things running

smoothly. Their hard work helped make every part of the event feel welcoming, well-organized, and full of holiday magic.

This year's Holiday Mingle was also supported by an exceptional number of sponsors, partners, and community organizations whose contributions helped bring the event to life. From local businesses and service clubs to volunteer groups and

youth organizations, the outpouring of support highlighted how deeply Redwater values community connection. Their involvement ensured that every activity—big or small—was free, festive, and accessible to all.

The two-day celebration also served as a reminder of how events like these strengthen community bonds. Families paused to chat with neighbours they

hadn't seen in a while, children made memories that will last well beyond the winter, and visitors enjoyed a warm welcome that reflected Redwater's small-town charm. As the holiday season continues, many in the community say the Kris Kringle Holiday Mingle felt like the perfect start—a blend of tradition, fun, and togetherness that set the tone for the festivities still to come.

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Continued from page 1

as seasoned pool players and eager novices alike picked up cues, sharing stories and laughter around the green felt tables. The arrival of Santa Clause brought a sparkle to young eyes and a wave of excitement that swept through the century old hall. Children lined up, their cheeks rosy with anticipation, waiting for a moment with Santa and a treasured treat bag, just as generations before them had done.

Even Josh "the barber" found himself busy, scissors snipping and razors gliding as both young and old stopped by for a fresh cut or shave and got themselves all spiffed up for upcoming holiday gatherings and parties. The simple acts a tradition and sentiment that feels so timeless.

And at the heart of it all was a desire to nurture community connection. This is the mission championed by the pool hall's executive, President Ron Farmer, who knows the true magic of these gatherings is in the memories created and friendships rekindled.

The Christmas event would not have been possible without the dedication of members and volunteers who decorated, baked, and brought the day to life. This devoted group is the very spirit that embodies the heart of Vilna Historic Poolhall & Barbershop and this holiday tradition.



Photos courtesy of Vilna Historic Pool Hall & Barbershop

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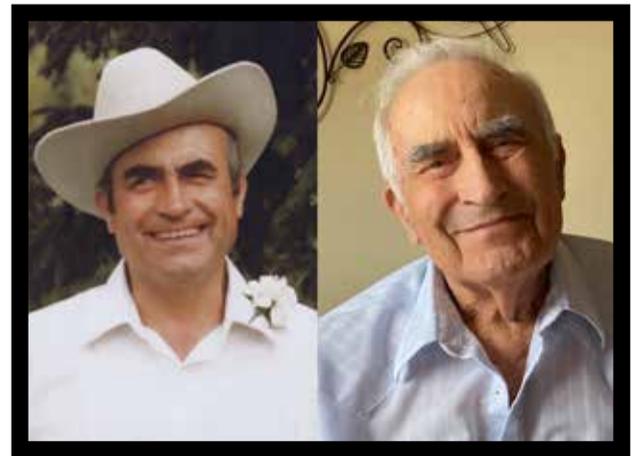
Thank you to all the Volunteers
We apologize if we have missed anyone

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Siegfried Loffelbein

May 10, 1936 - December 5, 2025



Siegfried died peacefully in the Smoky Lake Hospital Auxiliary on Friday, December 5, 2025, with his wife, Kathy of 70 years by his side. Siegfried will be missed by his children, Heide, Sindie and Rudie. He was predeceased by his son, Andie-John.

He will be lovingly remembered and deeply missed by his grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews in Alberta and B.C., and Marisa Ferrari in Edmonton, AB; niece, Elvire (Frank) and her family in Germany as well as his many friends in Germany.

In his time with us, he fulfilled his dream of living free on his ranch surrounded by his family, nature, and his animals. He was an authentic, honest and gentle man. He enjoyed people and made many friends both at home and in his travels with his wife, Kathy.

Hand in hand with his best **Kathy & Family**

Honouring Siegfried's, wishes there will be no funeral.

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friend Steve Bezuko, they built Bellis Implements into a highly respected and successful dealership. Being a mechanic, he shared his knowledge teaching small engine repair to the boys and girls in the Smoky Lake/Waskatenau 4-H program. The students and their fathers then used their skills to repair their own farm equipment or go on to get good jobs. He was also active in the Woodland Ranchers Association and with his wife - a life member of the Smoky Lake Seniors Centre.

We would like to thank Drs. Stephan, Anton, Laurens, and Arian for the care and compassion they showed Siegfried during his illness in the Hospital, Lodge and Auxiliary — and thank you to all staff who made his days brighter by treating him with kindness and respect.

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The Review

**Happy Holidays from
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We will not be publishing
December 24 and
December 31. We will be
back January 7.

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Smoky Lake 10 am
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Sturgeon County winter operations

In Sturgeon County, crews work throughout the winter to keep roads safe, providing ongoing snow and ice control to maintain reasonable driving conditions.

To prepare for major storms or a snow event with more than 10 cm (4 inches) of snow on the ground, we have service goals and a priority sequence for clearing County roads.

Plowing priorities

When uninterrupted snowfall reaches 10 centimetres or more, a snow event is officially declared. Crews are dispatched during the event to keep roads safe and passable. The service commitment timeline for full snow removal begins once the snowfall stops, ensuring a timely and coordinated cleanup.

Roads are plowed in priority sequence, as detailed in the Snow

and Ice Control Policy:

- Priority 1: paved and oiled access roads (arterials, collectors) that have high traffic volumes.
- Priority 2: other paved and oiled roads within subdivisions (local roads).
- Priority 3: gravel roads (collectors, local roads) and subdivisions.

Serviced Goals

Our goal is to provide snow and ice control on Priority 1 roads within 24 hours, and Priority 2 and 3 roads within 72 hours after a snow event ends.

Transportation crews typically work weekdays from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. plowing, sanding, and clearing snow. However, after a significant snowfall of more than 10 cm, our plow operators will increase their hours and work seven days a week to meet this goal.

Clearing your driveway

When you are clearing snow from your driveway, be sure to push it off to the right side. This way, when the snowplows and graders come by, they do not push it back onto your driveway. Also, you should never push the snow across the road into the ditches. Crossing into oncoming traffic is dangerous, and the chunks of snow and ice left behind on the road can create a hazard for other drivers.

Remember, obstructing the road in any way, even with pieces of snow and ice, is an offence under the Traffic Bylaw and carries a fine of \$500.00.

A windrow or snow ridge is a pile of snow left at the side of the road after plowing. Crews try to minimize the size of the windrows, but

they are not able to circle back with the large equipment to clear windrows away from individual driveways. It is not expected that the County will remove windows or plow approaches. We ask residents to clear their own approaches.

Residents also have the option of hiring a private contractor to clear windrows from the road in front of their house.

Private Driveway Grading Service

Sturgeon County offers plowing and/or grading of private driveways at a full cost recovery. The private driveway grading service is available during winter months after all County roads are open. Download the Snowplow and Grading Agreement, fill it out and return it to Transportation & Engineering Services,

or call us at (780) 939-8252.

Using Salt and Sand

The ice control or traction product a snowplow operator uses depends on the temperature. Below -10 C, salt is not very effective. Instead, we apply a brine mixture as a de-icing agent and use sand for traction at many intersections.

Ice control measures, like salt, sand, and brine, are applied on an ongoing basis during snowfalls, frost, or freezing rain to improve traction for motorists.

Winter Driving Safety

Winter is here and we need to adjust our driving habits for the changing road and weather conditions. While County crews are out plowing, grading, and sanding the roads, please be patient and

allow our crews plenty of space to work.

What can you do to help keep operators and other drivers safe?

SLOW DOWN.

- Watch for equipment turning.
- Flashing amber and red means snowplow ahead.
- Leave 15 metres between your vehicle and any equipment.
- Do not pass a snowplow. Operators will pull over when it is safe to allow vehicles to pass.

Plan your route and check for road closures or delays. Find up-to-date, province-wide information at 511 Alberta.

Follow these winter driving tips from Alberta Transportation.

Consider enrolling new drivers in Winter Driving School to help them stay safe on icy and snow-covered roads.



Residents, families, and friends recently gathered at Diamond Spring Lodge for a delicious prime rib dinner with entertainment by Northern Heart and Soul, along with a bake sale and 50/50 draw. **Shauna Krankowsky photos**

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Continued from page 1
Ministers argue that this is about standing up for Alberta's values and protecting responsible firearm owners from Ottawa's overreach. However, legal scholars and gun control advocates warn the law is likely to face challenges. Critics note that the regulation of firearms is constitutionally a federal responsibility, and question whether Alberta's measures will withstand court scrutiny. Public safety advocates also argue that the priority should remain on reducing gun violence across the country. Despite the controversy, the Alberta Firearms Act signals a new phase in the province's ongoing push for greater autonomy. The coming months may see the legislation tested in court as the federal government maintains its authority over firearms rules, keeping the issue firmly in the national spotlight.

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Redwater Minor Hockey Association's festive entry in the 2025 Kris Kringle Festival of Trees — a Christmas tree decked out in full hockey gear, creatively decorated by Jade, Erin, and Larissa.
Redwater Minor Hockey photo

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