

THE MAPLE LEAF

Newsletter of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270

2 Michael Anne Drive, P.O. Box 89, Coldwater, ON L0K 1E0 • Email: branch270@rogers.com • www.coldwaterlegion.com



June 2017

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FROM THE BOARD

Submitted by Pam Davidson, Outgoing Board of Management Chairperson

Comrades,

It has been six months since the Board of Management was introduced here in Coldwater. Many changes and initiatives have been implemented during this time to assist in the normal branch operations. Branch security has been upgraded and an inventory plan has been put in use.

I am pleased with the response we received during the branch executive search. Most positions are filled and I would like to thank all members that showed interest. I believe your full executive will be confirmed very soon. Your branch has great support partners in your Ladies Auxiliary. Also, the unselfish time the volunteer bar stewards provide and the many Ways and Means groups active here all assist in providing a financially stable, enjoyable branch.

I commend you on the mature and professional manner in which you've handled this delicate situation we have worked with this past six months.

As you may know, I have been elected District E Commander, and my duties will be expending. This is my final report to you. I've asked Comrade Bob Ladouceur, outgoing District Commander, to take over as Board of Management Chairperson, and I wish all involved a respectful transition.

As Board of Management Chairperson, I have one remaining report to prepare for Ontario Command, and I can assure you it will be favorable.

In closing, I feel you have a wonderful branch with many devoted members. You have made a tremendous recovery from dire circumstances and you should be proud of your efforts, yet always remain guarded to prevent this from reoccurring. I offer my very best to you moving forward.

YOUTH EDUCATION

Submitted by Comrade Debbie Robitaille, Youth Education Chairperson

As this is the calm time for this role, I have taken advantage of the time available to introduce myself to the school liaison and am working on setting up a meet and greet with the liaison before the summer break.

I have been approached by our local library to present to their reading program what our legion is all about, our role within the community and some military history of the people in our area. I look forward to doing this presentation.



Our Legion Colour Party looked very professional leading this year's Duck Race Parade in Coldwater.

SERGEANTS-AT-ARMS

Submitted by Comrades Dave & Debbie Robitaille, Branch & L.A. Sergeants-at-Arms

First, thank you very much to those of you who marched in the Duck Race Parade on May 27. It was a great turn out and our group looked very professional leading the parade (OK, right behind the cute little duck). We are now working hard on the Canada day parade and invite all our members to join the parade. If you are interested but don't think you can do the entire march, please let us know, we will do our best to accommodate. Please remember, full uniform is required. There are some extra blazers and gray pants available.

I (Debbie) would like to thank the Ladies Auxiliary members for nominating me for another year in this role. I will do my best.

ENTERTAINMENT

Submitted by Comrade Michele Russell, Entertainment Chairperson

In June we will have our regular Meat Draw on Saturday June 10, and the Jammin' at The Legion on Saturday June 17. These will be the last Meat Draw and Jammin' session for the summer as we will take a break for July and August.

Continued on page 4

CANTEEN SUMMER HOURS

TUESDAY, THURSDAY & SATURDAY 11:30 – 14:30

WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY 11:30 – 18:30

Michele Russell, Proprietor

Contact the Branch (705-686-3388) to order.

And there will be no live entertainment on the fourth Saturday in June since there will be a huge event the following week on Canada Day. On July 1st we will have entertainer and DJ Rebecca Pascall in "The Big Tent" in the afternoon, followed by The Penny Love Band in the evening. See you then.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Public Relations Officer

FACEBOOK & WEBSITE - Both are going well with new articles and photos posted regularly. You are encouraged to keep viewing our posts and sharing them with friends.

MAPLE LEAF - We have cut down to 50 printed copies because there were too many leftover in the winter months. Now we seem to be running out early. If you come to get a copy and there aren't any left in the holder near the elevator, please let us know – maybe put a note in the suggestion box - so we know we need to print more. Also, there may be more copies in the office as we cannot put all 50 at once in the holder. On that note, for those of you who enjoy reading it in the club room, you are encouraged to read the colour version in the plastic binders rather than use up a printed copy. There are additional photos and articles in the binders. Of course, you can also read it all on-line.



CANADA 150th CELEBRATION - Things are moving on with the planning for "The Big Tent" in our parking lot on Canada Day. We have secured a building permit with the Township, booked the tent, booked entertainment, and arranged for security. We still have a lot to do and we will need volunteers for various tasks, including monitoring crowd on the day of the event. If you are planning to be at the Branch on Canada Day and can give us a few hours, please put your name on the list available at the bar – see Maggie. Also, tickets for the Canada Day "dinner on the street" are available at the bar.



Corporal Alvin Galbraith wearing his battledress in 1943, prior to going to France and The Netherlands.

COLLECTION MANAGER

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Collection Manager

Our Collection of military artefacts is still growing. We have received a few donations for the collection including a Second World War battledress uniform and several photos of Alvin Galbraith, donated by the Galbraith family. Alvin Galbraith of Coldwater served as a radio operator with the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders during the Second World War. He served in Great Britain, France and The Netherlands. After returning from the war, Alvin married and settled in Coldwater, working as an auto mechanic. A member of the Coldwater Legion Branch 270, he passed away in 1987. Thank you to Elaine Galbraith who made the donation on behalf of the Galbraith family.

The other donated items are two sets of First World War medals from Comrade Dorothy Gerrard. One set of medals belonged to her grandfather Willard Whitney, the other to his son Orield (Dorothy's uncle) who was killed in action on October 26, 1918. He was 20. Thank you Dorothy. The medals and ribbons will be assembled and put on display at a future date.



Corporal Galbraith's battledress displaying war medals and campaign ribbons for service in Western Europe.



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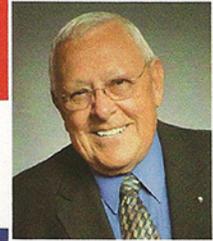
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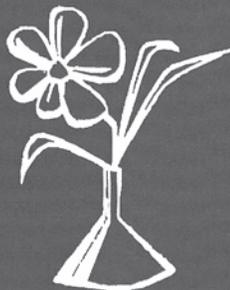
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SPORTS

Submitted by Comrade Bob Gourlie, Sports Chairperson

The League Darts have all finished for the season. This year there will be a Fun Dart Evening on Wednesdays for the summer. It is \$5 to play and is a blind draw for the teams each week.

On Tuesdays there is a Poker Pool League starting up. Anyone can join. Just show up at 7 p.m. Cribbage will still be on for the summer on Tuesday evenings as well. And Shuffleboard will continue on Thursday afternoons at 1 p.m.

There were no takers for the Zone Horseshoe Tournament from our branch and the tournament has been cancelled for this year.

Take note of the posting for the Zone Golf Tournament being held at Bonaire this year on June 10. Cost is \$140 per team and includes cart and a light lunch.

As a reminder, the Sports Room is open any time the Branch is open. The 8 Ball tables do not cost the Branch, in fact the Branch makes money every time they are used. Don't forget that the Branch donates money to a number of different causes in the community.

SERVICE OFFICER

Submitted by Comrade Randy Rice, Service Officer

As the Branch Service Officer, I am here to serve veterans and their families. "A Veteran is any person who is serving or who has honourably served in the Armed Forces of Canada, the Commonwealth or its wartime allies or who has served in the Merchant Navy or Ferry Command during wartime".

I can be contacted via the Coldwater Branch 270 Royal Canadian Legion, or my home phone (705) 739-0062 between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m., or by email at ricerandolph@gmail.com Remember: You do not have to be a member of the Legion to qualify for assistance.

SICK & VISITING

Submitted by Comrade Eleanor Schull, Sick & Visiting Chairperson

Please have a special thought or prayer for Comrade Jeannine Strain who has been released from Soldiers Memorial and is now at Clinton House in Brechin. We also send wishes of good health to Comrade Joanne Pellegrims. And of course, our thoughts are with Comrade Eleanor (Ellie) Schull at this very difficult time for her and her family.

TREASURER

Submitted by Comrade Betty-Jean Murray, Branch Treasurer

As was explained at the May General Meeting, the finances of the Branch are in good shape. Financial statements are presented to the membership once a month at the General Meeting, so we encourage you to attend and stay informed on how the Branch's money is spent, and on the outcome of our fund raising activities.

And while on that topic, I remind you that we are still looking for three volunteers to join the 'financial review' team, as we require this to be done for the year end - May 31, 2017.

Finally, we must thank the members of the Thursday Night Dart League who made a generous donation of \$1,000 to the Branch. Thank you very much!

BREAKING NEWS

Submitted by Comrade Rosalie J. Pratt

There's the shrinking violet and the shrinking dollar but at Branch 270 your three dollars will bring you two hours of tutorials, fun and hilarity!

The Two Five Seventeen Group (that's when this new event was given birth, May 2, 2017) is the new 'happening' activity which takes place in the Sports Room every Tuesday evening from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. (This name has not been cast in stone.) You are invited to come and play or learn to play a friendly game of pool. Your 'cue' (no pun intended) is to come early and choose your weighted 'stick', oops, it's a cue!

The starter group has voted to donate all proceeds to the Branch to help defray the printing cost of our newsletter. Nonetheless, there is a weekly attendance perk. Each week a home-made item is donated and one lucky pool player gets to take the prize home in exchange for bringing the following week's surprise gift. It's all in good fun and it must be homemade: pickling, jam, cookies, brownies, rice-crispy squares, knitted or crocheted item, birdhouse, etc. This is unique times two because one, the choice of donation is open to your imagination and two, a pleasure to receive because it was made by a Comrade for a Comrade!

While there are no shrinking violets in this group we are thankful that we no longer play 'pool' on the lawn (circa 1900). For many of us bending that far down is no longer an option.

For further details, Margaret Murphy is your 'go to person'. Come and meet the other players – your 'cue' is to have fun and who knows...your first night out with us and you could be walking away with the prize!

LADIES AUXILIARY REPORT



Greetings Comrades:

Wasn't it lovely to have a few days of summery weather, but alas, we are back into spring rains!

Our May 9 Roast Beef Sandwich dinner went very well! Thanks to all the Branch members and community for supporting the Ladies Auxiliary events! And a big thank you to the Ladies who helped out with the cooking, serving and cleaning!!!

Our elections for the 2017-2018 year took place at our May 18 meeting. The following is a list of your elected Officers and Executives for the coming year:

President: Donna Packer

1st Vice President: Marcia LeBlanc

2nd Vice President: Brenda Yule

Recording Secretary: Jennine Crowe

Treasurer: Anne McArthur

Sports Officer: Michele Russell (to be appointed in June)

Sergeant At Arms: Debbie Robitaille

Executives: Jane Lauder, Fran Pearson, Alida Turner, Bernice King, Jennine Crowe, Janis Cronin, Kathy Larkins, and Joanne Pellegrims (absent - to be appointed in June).

My thanks to the membership for entrusting to me the responsibility of being your President for another year. I look forward to an exciting year and working with the officers and executives. I will hold an Executive meeting in early June to appoint committees. I would also like to thank Betty Jean Murray and Norm Marion for attending our elections as scrutineers.

At our May meeting we initiated a new member, Sharon Tarr. We welcome her to the Ladies Auxiliary!

DECORATION DAY - SUNDAY JUNE 25TH. All Ladies Auxiliary members are asked to volunteer their time to help the Branch with this event. We will be providing a light tea/coffee and lunch following the decorating.

Royal Canadian Legion Coldwater Ladies Auxiliary

Meat Pies For Sale

\$4.00 ea



**Cooking Instructions:
Bake at 350 degrees for 40-45 min.**

**Made by the Ladies Auxiliary
Sports Team
Can be purchased at the Legion**

CANADA DAY - SATURDAY JULY 1ST – The Ladies Auxiliary will be assisting the Branch by selling water and pop at a table outside the Legion. Volunteers will be needed to take shifts.

NEXT MEETING - THURSDAY JUNE 15TH – This will be our last meeting before summer recess. We will have a Pot Luck Dinner at 6 p.m., followed by our meeting. Hope to see you all there!!!

Our thoughts and prayers are always with those comrades who are ill. A special prayer for Comrade Jeannine Strain who has been released from Soldiers Memorial and is now at Clinton House in Brechin. We also send wishes of good health to Comrade Joanne Pellegrims.

REMEMBER: Our Auxiliary has been and always will be only as strong as the general membership makes it, and your help is absolutely essential!!!!!!

Yours in comradeship,
Donna Packer, President



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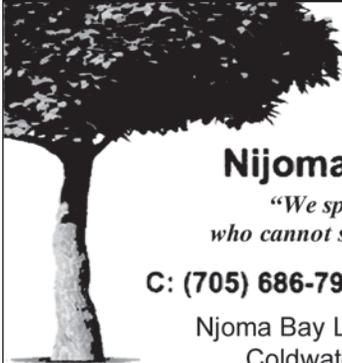
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HATS IN THE LEGION: TIME TO MOVE ON?

*Editorial feature submitted by Comrade Bob Ladouceur,
former District Commander and Branch 270 new Board of Management Chairman*

The issue of wearing hats in the Clubrooms of the Legions has become a wide spread topic in the past few years. Many Branches have asked the question and there have been just as many answers. No one answer suits everyone's idea of what is right. This discussion has taken place at all levels of Legion. It is the general feeling that branch autonomy lets the individual branch address this issue. The facts are that nowhere in the Legion By-laws is it required for someone to remove their hat when entering the Legion Clubroom.

There has been an unwritten rule that anyone who enters the Clubroom is to remove all headgear as a sign of respect to all our Fallen Comrades unless you are in Full Uniform. This has been the case for as long as I remember and it has been announced to anyone who dares to enter wearing a hat. Indeed in years past it has always been seen as a sign of respect that all men remove their hats when entering any church, bank or office building as well as people's homes etc. Comrades, in case you haven't noticed, this has not been happening for a long time. When was the last time you saw someone under 40 years of age remove their hat when going to a bank or restaurants or even entering your own home. It really is not their intention to be disrespectful, it is just generally accepted in society these days.

Our older members feel charged with the responsibility to enforce this in the Legions across the country but this is the age demographics we are trying to attract as members to ensure the survival of the Legions. Our younger Veterans are in this category, and to many of them the caps they wear these days are a symbol of their service, to many others with PTSD a security to them. I have spoken to Mark Bossi who is an Executive of the Legion Operational Stress Injury (OSI) Special Section who deals with many young Veterans, and this is a major hurdle for them joining the Legions. You can imagine a young fellow who is suffering from PTSD and finally builds up enough confidence to enter a Legion, and the first person he meets starts yelling at him to get the G.D. hat off or you're buying a round for everyone. He promptly turns around and leaves, never to return again. This is a scene that plays out across the country every day and we wonder why young people don't come back.

Everyone is aware that declining membership is a real problem in the Royal Canadian Legion and that young people are not joining up. This jeopardizes the viability of the Legion and our ability to our duty to Remembrance

and Service to our Veterans. We all say something has to change before this happens. There is no quick fix but if we start with just this one small change and we gain a few new members, the word spreads quickly. One successful Legion in our Zone has already done away with this unwritten rule and accepts that anyone wearing a hat will not be discouraged in entering their clubroom. At times a trusted member may educate the young person about the respect aspect, but in no way do they make an issue of it.

We had a general discussion on this issue at the General meeting last week because of the Canada Day weekend event coming up. It was generally accepted for that day to allow anyone to enter the building without being chastised. Let's think about this becoming a permanent policy change in this branch and remember that times have changed and times will always be changing. If we are to survive, change in the Legion will have to happen and this is one small step. Please bring your comments and any concerns to the next General meeting if you would like to talk about this.

Yours in Comradeship
Bob Ladouceur, BOM Chairman

Quote of the Month

"As we moved farther from the mother ship and closer to shore, it came as a shock to realize that the assault fleet just behind us had completely disappeared from view. Suddenly there was just us and an awful lot of ocean, or English Channel if you prefer. All that remained within sight was our own fleet of ten assault craft, moving abreast in the early-morning silence in a gradually extending line facing the shore, the A Company boats on the right and the B Company boats on the left. We had never felt so alone in our lives."

– *By Charles Cromwell Martin, D.C.M., M.M., C.M., Company Sergeant-Major with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, on his experience of the Normandy landing on D-Day, June 6, 1944.*

COLDWATER DUCK RACE

Photos courtesy of Wanda Beaudoin

On Saturday May 27, hundreds of people lined the sidewalks along the main street in Coldwater to watch the annual Lions Duck Race Parade. As per tradition, a Colour Party from the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater led the parade. More photos of the Coldwater Duck Race and parade can be viewed on our branch website (www.coldwaterlegion.com), on our Facebook page (www.Facebook.com/coldwaterlegion), or in the in-house Maple Leaf binders at the branch.



The Coldwater Legion's Colour Party marching through Coldwater.



A "Coast Guard" boat on parade, courtesy of the Midland District Shrine Club.



The Oro Lions Tractor Tramps precision unit entertained the crowd.



The Knight Riders unit of the Rameses Temple – The Shriners – in action with their popular little race cars

ZONE E4 SPORTS

SCHEDULE FOR 2017

GOLF

LOCATION: BONAIRE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

HOST BRANCH: VICTORIA HARBOUR LEGION BR 523

DATE: SATURDAY JUNE 10, 2017

TIME: Registration : 8:30 am
Tee off : 9:15 am

DONATIONS: \$140.00 Per Team (2) – Includes a light lunch after the game & Cart

DETAILS: 2 players per team.
No changes at tournament.
Age 55+ can play as Seniors. Both players must be 55+. Super Seniors are 70+.

CLOSING DATE: June 3, 2017

Please note: Signed entry forms and payment are to be mailed to:
Robert Gourlie
Zone E4 Sports Officer
336 Tiny Beaches Rd S
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Entries and payment must be received before the closing date!



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TUESDAY AFTERNOON EUCHRE**April 25**

Ladies High Hand – Marg Marchant
 Ladies Lone Hands – Toatie Nimens
 Ladies Low Hand – Vicki Scott
 Men's High Hand – Sam Bourgeois
 Men's Lone Hands – Brian Strong
 Men's Low Hand – Elva Laughlin
 Sunshine – Georgie Waterson

May 2

Ladies High Hand – Ann Stock
 Ladies Lone Hands – Shirley Giles
 Ladies Low Hand – Georgie Waterson
 Men's High Hand – Larry Hutchinson
 Men's Lone Hands – Ted Baker
 Men's Low Hand – Joe Barron
 Sunshine – Pat King

May 9

Ladies High Hand – Georgie Waterson
 Ladies Lone Hands – Shirley Giles
 Ladies Low Hand – Vicki Scott
 Men's High Hand – Brian Strong
 Men's Lone Hands – Larry Hutchinson
 Men's Low Hand – Marie Langley
 Sunshine – Elva Laughlin

May 16

High Hand – Pat King
 Lone Hands – Brian Strong
 Low Hand – Ted Baker
 Sunshine – Ted Baker

May 23

High Hand – Pat King
 Lone Hands – Vicki Scott
 Low Hand – Marg Marchant
 Sunshine – Brian Strong

THURSDAY SHUFFLEBOARD**April 27**

First – Betty Anne & Maggie
 Second – Larry & Brian
 Third – Joanne & Maggie
 Sunshine – Betty Anne

May 4

First – Roger & Brian
 Second – Maggie & Larry
 Third – Betty Anne & Lloyd
 Sunshine – Larry

May 11

First – Heather
 Second – Brian
 Third – Betty Anne
 Sunshine – Rose

TUESDAY NIGHT CRIBBAGE**April 25**

1. Ross Pipher
 2. Gary Hamilton
 3. Marcia Leblanc/Bill Kinnear
 4. Larry Hutchinson
 Sunshine – Larry Hutchinson

May 2

1. Ross Pipher
 2. Gary Hamilton
 3. Marcia Leblanc
 4. Janet Hamilton
 Sunshine – Bill Kinnear

May 13

1. Larry Hutchinson
 2. Marie Kinnear
 3. Janet Hamilton/Carl Swanson
 4. Gary Hamilton
 Sunshine – Gary Hamilton

May 16

1. Marcia Leblanc
 2. Ross Pipher
 3. Donna Packer
 4. Jackie Lennox
 Sunshine – Janet Hamilton

May 23

1. Jackie Lennox
 2. Doug Bennett
 3. Gary Hamilton
 4. Marie Kinnear
 Sunshine – Debbie Robitaille

FRIDAY NIGHT STEAK DARTS**April 28**

1. Rick
 2. Kathy
 3. Jeremy
 4. Rick
 5. Kathy
 6. Rick
 Sunshine – Jeremy

May 5

1. Larry
 2. Barb
 3. Anne
 4. Madison
 5. Kathy
 6. Madison
 Sunshine – Gaëtanne

May 12

1. Gaëtanne
 2. Gene
 3. Rick
 4. Mac
 5. Larry
 6. Mac
 Sunshine – Jeremy

May 19

1. Dorothy
 2. Dorothy
 3. Kari
 4. Larry
 5. Monica
 6. Gill
 Sunshine – Lorne

May 26

1. Brian
 2. Frank
 3. Gill
 4. Larry
 5. Mike
 6. Dorothy
 Sunshine – Gaëtanne

TUESDAY NIGHT POOL**May 2 (wins)**

Maggie Murphy (3)
 Dorothy Gerrard (2)
 Rosalie Pratt (1)

May 9 (wins)

Ron Simpson (3)
 Maggie Murphy (2)
 Cathy Larkins/Rose Pratt/
 Dorothy Gerrard (1)

May 16 (wins)

Tom Dearman (3)
 Louise Dearman (3)
 Maggie Murphy (3)
 Cathy Larkins (1)
 Dorothy Gerrard (1)

May 23 (wins)

Ron Simkin (4)
 Louise Dearman (2)
 Larry Hutchinson (2)
 Cathy Larkins (1)
 Dorothy Gerrard (1)

MAY 13 MEAT DRAW WINNERS

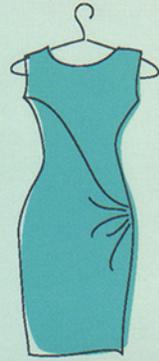
1. Sue Taylor
 2. Lorne McKay
 3. Larry Hutchinson
 4. Fran Bernard
 5. Grace Mahoney
 6. Joe Lazazzera
 7. Marcia Leblanc
 8. Doug Bennett
 9. Paul McTaggart
 10. Bea Saramak
 11. Dave Stoneman

MAY 20 JAMMIN' SESSION

We thank all those who participated in our *Jammin' at the Legion* session on Saturday May 20. We had the chance of listening to George Sinclair on keyboard and guitar; Joe Barron on fiddle and guitar; Clarence Cole, Doreen McCarron, Carl Assance, Barbara Curran, Ivar Johnson, and David Correy on guitar and vocals, and Jan McGee, vocals. Thank you all for joining us. Our *Jammin' at the Legion* sessions normally run every third Saturday of the month, from 2 to 4 p.m. Note that *Jammin'* will take a break for July and August. We'll be back in September.



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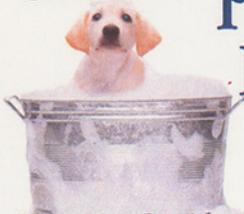
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-  11:00 Opening Ceremonies
-  11:15-3:00 Children's Activities & Street Fair
Escape the Box Challenge
Pie Eating Contest
-  12:00-4:00 Events at the Coldwater Mill
Music & Car Rally & Much, Much More
Heritage Themed Costume Contest at 2:00
-  4:00 Parade
-  5:00-7:00 Street Dinner
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- Tickets available at Em's Café, Royal Canadian Legion, Terry Henry's Barbershop, Christmas Villager, Home & Cottage Interiors, Home Hardware

 **Festivities & Entertainment at the Legion 1:00pm Until 11:00pm** 

**Celebration Of Christianity Hymn Sing at the Coldwater Mill Musical Barn 2:00
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
CLOSED	CLOSED	Euchre 1:30 T.O.P.S. 6:00 Cribbage 7:00 Pool 7:00		Shuffleboard 1:00 Steak Darts 6:00	Steak Darts 6:00	Meat Draw 3:00
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
CLOSED	CLOSED	Euchre 1:30 T.O.P.S. 6:00 Cribbage 7:00 Pool 7:00		Shuffleboard 1:00 LA Potluck and Meeting 6:00	Steak Darts 6:00	Jammin' 2:00 - ?
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
CLOSED	CLOSED	Euchre 1:30 T.O.P.S. 6:00 Cribbage 7:00 Pool 7:00		Shuffleboard 1:00	Steak Darts 6:00	
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Decoration Day Service at Coldwater Cemetery 2:00	CLOSED	Euchre 1:30 T.O.P.S. 6:00 Cribbage 7:00 Pool 7:00	Branch General Meeting 6:30	Shuffleboard 1:00	Steak Darts 6:00	