

Lake Country Lure

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Advocate

The Maple Lake MESSANGER

Grooming is key to a happy and healthy pet Choose Paws and Claws

By Brenda Erdahl

Dogs have long been said to be man's best friend, but over the years relationships between people and their pets have grown even closer. Today pets are more than companions, they are family. And that's how Cathy Marquette and her daughter Katie Payne, owners of Paws and Claws Grooming on Division Street in downtown Maple Lake will treat you and your pets, like family.

Being a good pet owner requires more than just walking and feeding. Grooming is an integral part of keeping your furry friend healthy and happy.

"You know how we get up and take a shower and it feels so good, it's the same for dogs. Grooming opens up pores, cools them down and maintains a healthy coat and skin," Marquette said.

Marquette recommends grooming your dog every six to eight weeks and once a month for larger breeds. When choosing a groomer pet owners should consider the services they offer. A good groomer should do more than bathing, brushing, and cutting hair. At Paws and Claws, Marquette and Payne offer all those basic services, plus they monitor and trim hair in ears where necessary, express anal glands, brush teeth, wash out ears, blow the animal dry to remove excess undercoats and clip and grind nails.

Veterinarians used to trim nails, but fewer and fewer are offering that service anymore, Marquette said. That alone has kept the women busy. If dew claws aren't trimmed, they can curl into their pads and hurt your animal's feet. Marquette favors grinding claws to a round edge, so they don't inflict pain if the dog jumps up on people.

The women are also happy to educate pet owners on topics such as how to reduce shedding and how to keep teeth and ears healthy. For instance, Marquette strongly recommends brushing pets at home regularly. Brushing helps to ventilate your animal's coat, remove old and damaged hair, and allow your pet's skin to breathe. It also reduces grease and opens up pores.

Paws and Claws is also one of a few animal salons in the area that will trim and bath cats.

When it comes to cats their primary cus-



Paws and Claws Grooming on Division Street in Maple Lake will take care of your best friend no matter his or her size. Everyone is happy after a visit.

tomers are Main Coon Cats. They are big and have a lot of hair that can get matted. To get rid of matted fur, Payne and Marquette like the "lion" look. They shave their bodies but don't touch the hair around their head making it look like a lion's mane.

"It's up to the customer if they want the tail shaved with a ball left on the end or not," Marquette said.

Safety first

An integral part of the Paws and Claws salon is cleanliness, and they're not just talking about bathing the animals. The shop itself is cleaned regularly, and kennels sterilized so pet owners don't have to fear their animals will catch kennel cough. And when they have your animal on the trimming table, Marquette and Payne always position themselves on either side so there is no chance your pet will slip off.

Because Paws and Claws has limited space for kennels, they require customers pick up their pet as soon as their grooming is done. Marquette said that's usually in about an hour.

Book Ahead

Ever since COVID, Marquette and Payne have been busier than ever at their shop on Division Street in Maple Lake. She attributes it in part to the increased number of people who adopted pets during the shutdown. A couple groomers in the area also closed their doors recently, and they have picked up some of those clients. Because the demand is so high, Marquette and Payne ask pet owners to be patient when making appointments. Right now, they are booked out two weeks. For that reason, the partners recommend customers schedule follow ups the same day of their appointment. They also request customers call or text if they can't keep an appointment.

Katie's teenage daughter Maddie recently started working at the salon and she has been a big help keeping work flowing smoothly and quickly. "We call her the dog whisperer," Katie said. She washes the dogs, blows them dry and pets them which allows Marquette and Payne to concentrate on the other tasks.



Paws and Claws Pet Grooming initially opened in 2007 in the home of Cathy Marquette. Marquette tried office jobs before that, but didn't like being cooped up, so one day she tried her hand at grooming her own dogs, then her mother-in-law's dog. Before long she knew she had found her calling. Cathy's daughter, Katie Payne, was of similar mind, so they decided to get some formal training and go back to school together. The pair worked side-by-side for years before the fall of 2019, when they moved to their new location at 28 Birch Ave South, right across from the Maple Lake Messenger.



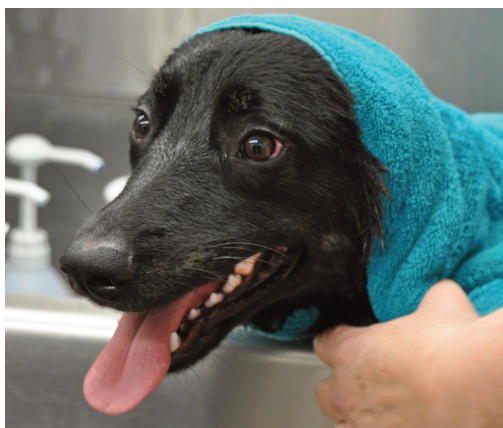
Marquette and Payne love their new location because it keeps them visible and very busy.

Paws & Claws is open Tuesday through Friday, every other Saturday, and some Mondays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. when they take their last appointment. Veterans should ask about their veteran discount.

For more information or to set up an appointment for your pet, call them at 763-228-0614.



PAID ADVERTISEMENT



Cathy and Katie give "Koa" a bath after a quick nail trim on January 24th.



Nick Pawlenty's dog "Chainsaw" is a frequent visitor to Paws & Claws.



"Gizmo" gets a mohawk cut with a lion tale at the request of his owner.

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The key to a successful trip is

Scouting

By Don Dittberner

Ice conditions and snow have been tough on Minnesota anglers this winter, especially this one. Cold weather, thin ice, snow and wind have brought many challenges for anglers trying to access their favorite fishing spots in 2022.

Scouting has been a very important tool for me this winter. I scout every year, usually with a portable, seeking green weeds, fish and solitude. However, this year scouting has been more about finding access than any thing else. A few weeks back I left home on a scouting mission not knowing if I would fish at all. I drove out to Lake Francis wondering if lake conditions were drivable or walkable. I found 12-15 inches on most areas of the lake and less snow than I anticipated and was able to fish right from the truck. I marked fish and caught a few too before settling on a spot and setting up the portable.

Recent snowfalls, wind and drifting have made it tougher on anglers looking to get out and off main roads and beaten down trails. Lakes also contain areas that may have flooding due to the heavy



The author caught this 14-inch crappie on January 22 while waiting for a new road to be opened up on a nearby lake.

snow, cracks in the ice or holes drilled on or near lake roads.

The farther north I have been the tougher the conditions. Anglers looking to get out in a wheelhouse should scout before heading onto the ice. Road conditions can change

by the hour, and some lakes are a series of mazes with dead end roads and no place to turn around. After scouting dozens of lakes, I have chosen to fish within a community of friends experiencing many of these same problems. The peace-of-



These items can make or brake your trip onto the lake this winter. Keep them in your truck when venturing out.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Shovel | 6. Jumper Cables |
| 2. Logging Chain | 7. Tire Chains |
| 3. Battery Charger | 8. Generator |
| 4. Winch | 9. Cell Phone |
| 5. Ice Chisel | 10. Warm Clothes |

mind knowing someone is near to help if help is needed is priceless.

Many of these ice fishermen I call good friends have spent more time helping others in need than fishing lately. Two weeks ago it was helping a stranded ice fisherman off the lake when his Honda Odyssey wouldn't start or shift into neutral without the vehicle started. This past weekend the crappie bite was going strong and at its peak when we noticed the walleye anglers trying to exit the lake started lining up outside the shack. The road in and out was blocked for over four hours after a man attempted to get his wheelhouse out to the hole we fished. He got stuck trying to squeeze down a narrow road that had drifted over after dark. A new road was opened up and the wheelhouse was pulled into the cleared road. The driver of the truck and wheelhouse was embarrassed, yet grateful for the help. As he drove off his wife joked "If he gets stuck

again make room for me in your ice shack!"

Anglers looking to get out may want to make it easy on themselves this year by picking up the phone and call a few resorts located on larger lakes such as Mille Lacs, Lake of the Woods, Winnebigoishish and Red Lake. Resort owners and local guides are keeping roads open for anglers to fish. Road passes are available for a small charge and well worth the price. If you do venture out on your own, leave the wheel house at home or drop it at the landing before scouting the lake. Check ice thickness as you go and carry the essential tools needed to help get back to the main road.

Good luck, be safe and help out a fellow sportsmen in need if you come across one. They may become another good fishing buddy and if not, maybe his wife will join you for a beverage in the shack while they figure it out.

Snowmobile riders revving their engines across Minnesota

By the Minnesota DNR

Snowmobile trail conditions vary throughout Minnesota but, in areas where there's good snow, riders have been getting out with gusto. Snowmobile tracks are common sights in road ditches, on trails and atop the ice. This year's busy start to the riding season continues a surge in recent years of people riding snowmobiles to enjoy Minnesota's outdoors.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources conservation officers remind all riders to brush up on safety and prioritize safe rides. So far this year, two snowmobile riders have lost their lives and there have been multiple close calls, including several snowmobile riders who have fallen through the ice. During the past eight snowmobile seasons, more than seven riders, on average, have lost their lives each year.

"We're continuing to see new people get into the sport of snowmobiling and discover the unique way riding the trails connects them with nature," said Bruce Lawrence, DNR Enforcement Division recreational vehicle coordinator. "With more than 22,000 miles of snowmobile trails in Minnesota, opportunities abound. As long as riders make good decisions when they're out riding, snowmobiling is something they can do the rest of their lives."



Tips to ensure a safe ride

Stay on marked trails. Minnesota's snowmobile clubs work hard to maintain good riding on the state's trails. Wet conditions where trails go through low areas or across lakes mean trails aren't groomed. Riders should check trail conditions (mndnr.gov/snow_depth)

Leave the booze at home. Riding under the influence and speed are the main factors in crashes.

Be careful on the ice. In recent years, nearly every through-the-ice fatality has involved people who were riding a snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle.

Take a snowmobile safety course. It's required of anyone born after 1976 and recommended for everyone. Additional safety tips can be found on the snowmobile safety tips page of the DNR website (mndnr.gov/snowmobiling/safety.html).



A truck pulling a wheelhouse down this road got stuck on Jan. 22, 2022. Anglers on the lake at the time were unable to get off the lake for over four hours until another road could be opened up by fellow anglers.

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Bluegills abundant on Waverly Lake

LAKE OF THE MONTH

Joe Stewig
Area Fisheries Manager-Sauk Rapids Fisheries

Waverly Lake: Waverly Lake is a 485-acre lake located near the city of Waverly in Wright County. The lake is highly developed and has two (2) public access on the lake. As with many lakes in the area, Waverly Lake offers fishing opportunities for a variety of species and while the lake is stocked with walleye, it is probably better known as a bass/panfish/northern pike lake.

The lake has a history of fish stocking dating back to 1909; however, the first walleye stocking didn't occur until 1953. Walleye fry were stocked during the 1960's whereas a mixture of fry and fingerlings were stocked during the 1970's and 80's. Fry stocking was again the preferred strategy from 1990 – 2007 with fingerlings being stocked during years of poor survival. Because of poor fry survival, the stocking strategy changed to fingerlings starting in 2007 and are stocked every other year at a rate of 1 – 2 pounds per littoral acre (lake area that is under 15 feet deep) most recently in 2021. The most recent lake survey was conducted in 2019 and found average numbers of walleye (1.9/gill net) for the lake class, but below average numbers for the lake. Walleye caught ranged in length from 11 to 25 inches and averaged 17 inches and about 2 pounds. Growth is average for the area taking three (3) years to reach 15 inches.

While the lake is stocked with walleye, Waverly Lake is probably best known for its largemouth bass fishery and there are plenty of bass to be had. In 2019, we sampled 301 largemouth bass ranging in length from five (5) to 20 inches with an average length and weight of 11 ½ inches and one (1) pound. Fifty-four percent of the bass sampled were longer than 12 inches and 25% were longer than 15 inches. Anglers can expect some good bass action on this lake.

Northern pike were stocked almost annually from 1950 – 1993 and a state-owned spawning area was operated from 1968 – 1993. The spawning area was operated every third year with a goal of releasing 100 pike fingerlings per littoral acre (14,100 fish) for Waverly and 50 fingerlings per littoral acre (15,000) fish for Little Waverly. As northern pike numbers increased the need to stock decreased. Today, northern pike abundance is above average for the lake class and the average size is excellent. Pike sampled ranged in length from 20 – 35 inches and averaged 25 ½ inches and 3 ½ pounds. Anglers should have a good opportunity to catch some quality size pike as 33% of the pike caught were 26 inches or longer and 9% were 30 inches or longer. Growth of northern pike is average for the area, taking six (6) years to reach 25 inches. Since pike are relatively abundant in the lake, anglers are encouraged to take advantage of the new statewide regulations on pike. The new regulations, implemented in 2018, allow anglers to harvest up to 10 northern pike of which only two (2) can be over 26 inches in lakes within the North-Central Zone (excluding lakes with existing Experimental/Special regulations). All pike between 22 and 26 inches (inclusive) must however be immediately released.

Black Crappie are another sought after species in the lake and



In 2019 the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources surveyed 632 bluegills on Waverly Lake ranging in length from 3-9 inches . Photo by Don Dittberner

at times can provide excellent fishing. Crappie abundance appears to be low with both the gill net and trap nets catches near or below what we would expect to see for similar lakes. Summer assessments tend to not give a true representation of the actual size structure of the crappie population and so a targeted spring assessment would better represent the true size structure of the crappie population. That said, crappies sampled in 2019 ranged in length from six (6) – 10 ½ inches with an average length of just under eight (8) inches. Forty-three percent of the crappies sampled were longer than eight (8) inches and 2% were longer than 10 inches. There was a fair number of crappies between five (5) and eight (8) inches sampled in 2019 and so there should be some nice crappies to be had out there as this year class recruits to the fishery in the coming years.

“Black Crappie are another sought after species in the lake and at times can provide excellent fishing. Crappie abundance appears to be low with both the gill net and trap nets catches”...

Bluegills continue to be abundant and have been since 1984 although the size structure appears to be relatively stable. Six hundred and thirty-two bluegills were sampled in 2019 and ranged in length from three (3) to nine (9) inches with an average length of just over six (6) inches. Sixty-six percent of the bluegill sampled were longer than six (6) inches while only 2% were longer than eight (8) inches. Bluegill growth is slow, taking six (6) years to reach seven (7) inches. Based on the most recent survey, anglers should still be able to scratch out a good meal of sunfish if they are willing to sort.

There are no special fishing regulations on Waverly Lake; however, the lake is infested with Eurasian milfoil (2004) and more recently zebra mussels (2021) so care should be taken not to spread these invasive species to other lakes. Also, practicing selective harvest will continue to ensure healthy fish populations for future enjoyment.

February Fishing Forecast

Ice-fishing is steady on many area lakes

By Brenda Erdahl

Area lakes are producing fish at a steady rate according to Shawn at Lake Region Coop in Buffalo. Anglers are catching sunfish and crappie on Rock Lake, Ramsey, Sarah, and Little Maple; the Walleyes are starting to bite on Buffalo, and Shane at H&H Sport Shop in Maple Lake reports Northern Pike are being speared on the north end of Rock Lake. Shawn said the evening or overnight bite is best and anglers are using pink, green and white jigs that glow with wax-worms, Euro larvae, suckers, flatheads, and shiners if you can find them. Little Jim's Sport Shop in Annandale reports varying ice thickness ranging from 8 to 15 inches. A truck recently went through on Clearwater so be careful and know where you are going.

Rock Lake: Anglers are catching pan fish in 10 to 12 inches of water using a jig and wax-worms or Euro larvae. There have been a few northern speared on the north end of the lake in about 10 feet of water.

Ramsey: Ramsey is producing pan fish in the north bay in about 10 to 14 feet of water.

Big Maple Lake: The northern are biting on sucker minnows and shiners if you can find them. They are on the small side, but plentiful.

Little Maple Lake: Little Maple is again the hotspot for crappies and there are plenty of people out there trying to catch them.

Buffalo: The walleyes are starting to bite outside the courthouse, at Kings Point and near the flats on the south end of the lake. Many are small, but there are some decent size ones too.

Lake Sarah: Lake Sarah is producing crappies, sunfish and the occasional walleye in 15 to 30 feet of water.

Pleasant Lake: Anglers are catching Northern Pike in 10 to 15 feet of water on sucker minnows.

Lake John: Lake John is producing sunfish in 5 to 12 feet of water on waxworms and crappie minnows.

Granite Lake: Anglers are catching sunfish in 5 to 12 feet of water on waxworms and crappie minnows.

Clearwater Lake: Anglers are having luck with walleyes in 20 to 25 feet of water using mostly fathead minnows and shiners if you can find them this time of year.

Sugar Lake: Sugar is producing walleyes in 20 to 25 feet of water.



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INDOOR Gardening

By Julie Weisenhorn and Adam Austing
MN Extension Educators

By now, our outdoor gardens are under a blanket of snow, so we turn our attention to our indoor gardens and caring for such plants as holiday cacti, cyclamen, poinsettia, orchids, succulents, cacti, foliage plants, etc. Based on questions we receive on our weekly WCCO Smart Gardens radio show, people over care for their houseplants - over water, over fertilize - or under care for their plants essentially ignoring them until they are dusty, dry, and drab looking. So how does the houseplant owner balance good care with not overdoing it? Extension has good information on some of our favorite indoor plants, but here are a few tips to help.

Understand your plant's growing needs

It's always interesting to remember that somewhere in the world, my houseplants are indigenous and grow untended. Take African violets (*Saintpaulia ionantha*). As indoor plants, they are considered a bit delicate and fussy yet the native parents of these little fuzzy hybrids we enjoy were found growing from shady, mossy rock crevices in the Tanga region of Tanzania. Located near the equator, air temperatures range from 65 to 85 degrees F., there is plentiful rain, and day length is consistent. Knowing this helps me understand that my African violets will benefit from well-drained soil (the rocky crevices), indirect light (shady moss), and lots of water and humidity.

Examine plants, scout for insect pests

Mealybugs. Aphids. Scale. Ugh, ugh and ugh. Insect pests on houseplants can be hard, but not impossible, to get rid of. These insects have natural predators like ladybugs, praying mantis, and parasitic wasps outdoors. Indoors, it's up to us as plant parents to scout for and manage these common insect pests with good sanitation:

- Repot plants in fresh potting media
- Clean off containers and saucers, even trivets used to protect your tabletop.
- Remove dead flowers, leaves, etc. from the soil surface.
- Wash plants with water about once a month (large plants go in the shower, small ones in the sink) to clean up dusty leaves.
- Regularly (weekly) examine plants up close. A hand lens and a small LED flashlight really help to show off insect pests.
- Hand-pick insects if possible.
- Treat as necessary with low-impact products like insecticidal soap, horticultural oil, and neem oil. They are available in ready-to-use sprays. These are contact pesticides and thus must come in contact with the pest. Follow all the instructions on the label. Use in a well-ventilated area.

Watering

More is not better. The key to watering houseplants is to feel your plant's soil (or bark or peat - whatever it is planted in) before

Indoor gardeners should learn how to balance good care without overdoing it.

watering and to make sure the pot is draining well. Root rot is a common cause of houseplant failure. It occurs when plant roots are constantly wet, when a container doesn't drain well, and when a plant is overwatered. Along with yellow leaves, and leaf and bud drop, a plant that is suffering from root rot looks wilted. People will often mistake this wilting for wilting due to dryness. As the plant roots die in the saturated soil or bark, the plant cannot take up water

to hydrate the rest of the plant and results in a wilted plant and, ultimately, a dead plant. Suspect you have some root rot happening? Repot your plant in fresh, new potting soil or bark. While the plant is out of the pot, examine the roots and snip off any that are dark or mushy. Once repotted, hopefully your plant will have enough roots to take up nutrients and water from the soil and grow some new roots.

Photo submitted

Bugs OF Winter

It's freezing out, why do I see bugs in my home?

By Marissa Schuh
UMN Extension Educator

As we barrel through another Minnesota winter, people are reporting an unwelcome guest: brown marmorated stink bugs. These shield-shaped, brown bugs are about a half-inch long and have a series of black and white bands on their rear end and antennae.

Why are these bugs here?

You probably last saw these stink bugs hanging out on your house or cabin last fall. At some point, they found some way inside. — maybe through the eaves, maybe through a gap in a door or window, or maybe through some unsealed point in your attic.

They need somewhere sheltered to survive the winter, and stink bugs find our homes quite suitable. Once inside, they are protected from the elements and can ride out the Minnesota winter.

Why do I see bugs now?

As the weather cools down, these insects shut down. The same way we think of bears hunkering down and hibernating in a den, stink bugs slow down all their body processes and wait for spring. Most of the time this happens in places in our house we can't see, but sometimes these bugs wake up a little and move around.



The brown marmorated stink bug, pictured above, can be one of many unwelcome guests invading Minnesota homes and cabins during the winter months.

Photo submitted

When we get warm on sunny winter days or when we're really cranking the thermostat, the stink bugs wake up a bit and move around in a half-awake stupor. They are slow-moving, clumsy, and heat-seeking, which explains why people most often see them slowly crawling around in their bathrooms (attracted to

the heat of the shower) or in the kitchen (attracted to the heat of the stove).

What are the bugs up to?

Honestly, not much. They are just biding their time until there is warm weather outside. This means they are not laying eggs, not making more stink bugs, not damaging our

homes, and not biting.

At worst, they will release a bad smell when you crush them.

How can I get rid of them?

Not dealing with bugs can be one of the bright spots of a Minnesota winter, so seeing stink bugs now is frustrating. The best thing to do is squish them and throw them in the trash.

If you prefer a zero-contact solution, you can suck them up with a small vacuum and deposit them outside. If you're feeling vindictive, you can flush them down the toilet or offer them to your pet as a toy.

Buying something to spray or concocting something from your pantry isn't worth the time or effort.

If you want to avoid these unwelcome visitors altogether, spend some time in the warmer months sealing up your house. This can cut down on heating bills and keep unwanted bugs out.

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LAKE Country Lure COLUREING CONTEST

COLOR ME FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A SWEET PRIZE!

Color the drawing below and bring it to the ColLUREing sponsor of the month **LAKETOWN DENTAL** for a chance to win a **\$25 gift card to Annandale Embroidery and a one year subscription to the Annandale Advocate!** Extra copies of the picture are available at any of the businesses listed on this page. Deadline to drop off picture is **Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022.** All ages welcome to enter. Colorings will be judged by the ColLUREing contest sponsor of the month. Winners will be notified by phone.

**THE COLUREING CONTEST SPONSOR THIS MONTH IS
LAKETOWN DENTAL**

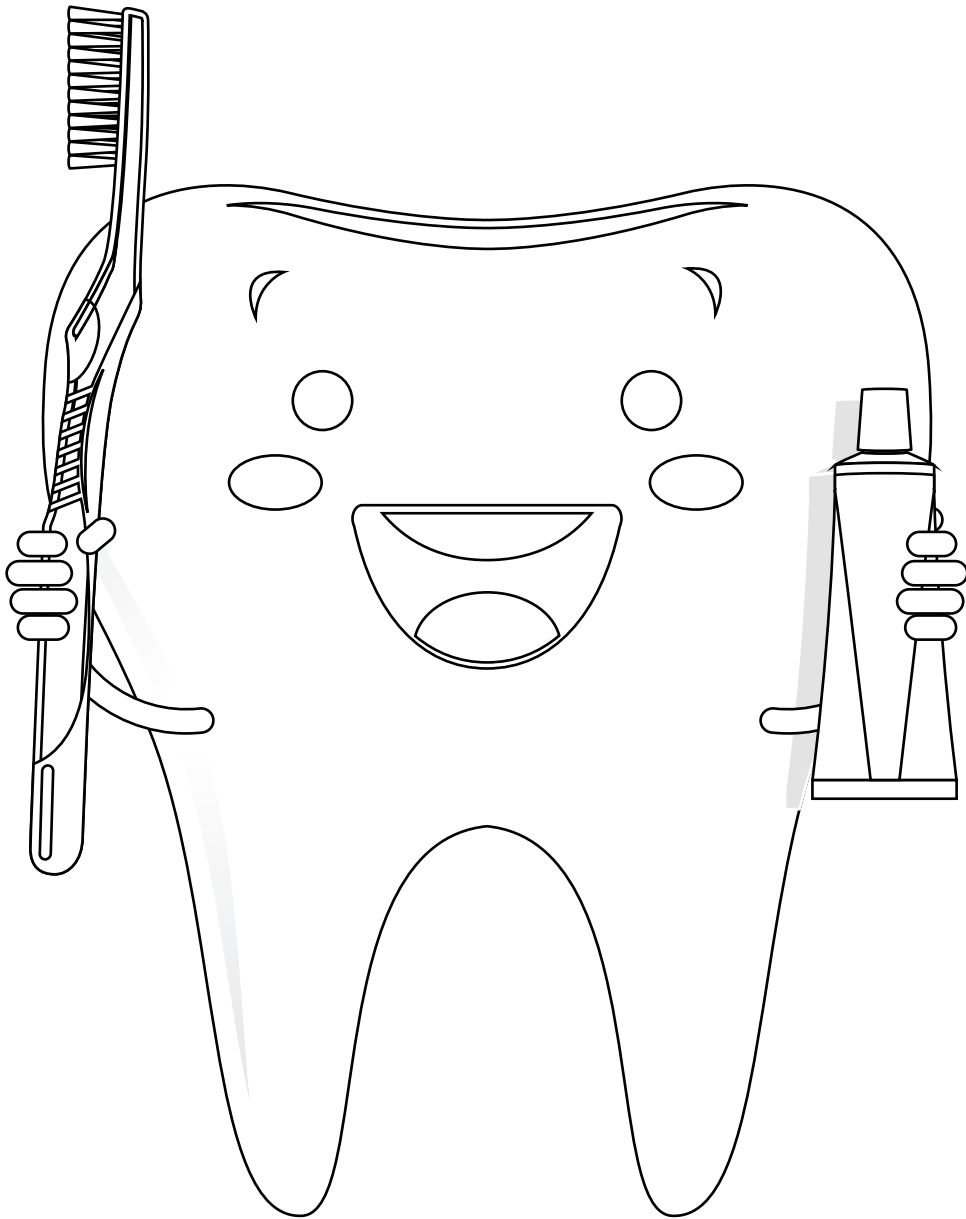
Drop Entries off at:
300 Park St. E., Annandale, MN
320-274-8555



Hours: Mon., Wed. & Thurs. 8 am - 5 pm, Tues. 7 am-5 pm, Fri. 8 am-12 pm

ENTRY INFORMATION (Please fill in the information below to complete your entry into the COLUREING contest.)

Name: _____ Age: _____ Town: _____ Phone: (____) _____



CONGRATULATIONS COLURERS, YOU'VE WON!

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UNSCRAMBLURE

Unscramble the letters to determine the words.

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P H O T E A T O T S

M S I E L

NUMBER CRUNCHER

Find the missing numbers (1-9) in the puzzle below. Solve the puzzle using the hints in gray.

			(-)
9			-1
		8	-9
3		4	-6
(-)	5	-1	-5

ANSWERS

4	5	3
8	2	1
7	6	9

Unscrambl-Lure answers:
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February



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Silver Creek Township Meeting 7 p.m. Corinna township Meeting 7 p.m. South Haven City Council Meets 6:30 p.m. ● February New Moon	2 Groundhog Day Maple Lake Chamber Meeting noon	3	4	5 Maple Lake Ice Fishing Derby
6 Sunrise 7:35 a.m. Sunset 5:30 p.m.	7 Annandale City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.	8 Late Start-Maple Lake Potluck Supper, Pioneer Park 6:30 p.m. Chatham Township Meeting 7 p.m. Maple Lake City Council Meeting 7 p.m.	9 Annandale Chamber Meets 11:30 a.m.	10 Sons of the American Legion 8 p.m. Wright County Legal Advice Clinic at Recorder's Office noon-1 p.m.	11	12
13 Super Bowl LVI Sunrise 7:25 a.m. Sunset 5:43 p.m.	14 Valentines Day Maple Lake School Board Meeting 7 p.m.	15 Corinna Township Meeting 7 p.m. Albion Township Meeting 7 p.m. Maple Lake Township Meeting 7 p.m.	16 Maple Lake VFW Meeting at The V 7 p.m. ○ Full Moon	17 Am. Legion Auxiliary Meet, 7 p.m. at Legion ML Lions Club Meeting, 7 p.m. at The V Wright Saddle, 7:30 p.m. at ML club house	18	19
20 Sunrise 7:14 a.m. Sunset 5:54 p.m.	21 PRESIDENT'S DAY No School-Annandale No School-Maple Lake	22 Wright Co. Snowmobile Assoc. Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Legion Club	23	24 Knights of Columbus meet at St.Tim's 7pm	25	26 March Lure Published Big Woods Boss Gobblers Banquet at ML Legion
27 Sunrise 7:02 a.m. Sunset 6:04 p.m.	28 AMS Parent Advisory Council 5:30 p.m. Safe Communities of Wright Co. 6:30 p.m.					

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