# Country Liure

**NOVEMBER 2023** 

A FREE Monthly supplement of the Annandale Advocate and Maple Lake Messenger

Advocate

## Shop Maple Lake Wine and Spirits this holiday season

By Brenda Erdahl

It's been said that the right drink can enhance any meal and with the biggest meal of the season right around the corner on November 23rd, now is the time to start planning.

Maple Lake Wine and Spirit's off Highway 55 East in Maple Lake is the perfect place to begin the search. The local municipal liquor store carries a vast variety of popular, unique, and locally brewed products, plus its knowledgeable staff can direct you to the wine, beer or bourbon that will go perfectly with whatever dish you are serving.

If you are looking for something locally brewed but unique and fitting for the season, you might want to try Dangerous Man Brewing's Cranberry Cobbler Ale, General Manager Ang Berthiaume said. This seasonal favorite is brewed right here in Maple Lake at the Dangerous Man production facility. Their Cream Ale is another popular brew as is their House IPA, Peanut Butter Porter, and Coffee Stout.

If bourbon is your drink of choice during the holidays, and you are looking for something unique, Makers Mark Private Selection is hand-crafted bourbon made once a year by Minnesota Municipal Managers and is only available at municipal liquor stores, Berthiaume said.

Of course, wine is probably the most popular selection when it comes to pairing with holiday meals which is why, on Wednesday, Nov. 8, Maple Lake Wine and Spirits is hosting a wine tasting that will feature wines specifically tailored to compliment your Thanksgiving Dinner. Patrick from The Wine Company will share his knowledge on an assortment of wines that pair well with some of the traditional Thanksgiving foods like turkey, stuffing, and the trimmings, Berthiaume said. Before you leave, you will get to try some of the wines he talks about and enjoy a few appetizers as well. The event is open to the public. It starts at 7 p.m. at the Maple Lake American Legion and tickets are \$10. Wine and Spirit Wine Club members attend for free.

Since Christmas isn't far off, Maple Lake Wine and Spirits will hold another tasting on Dec. 6. This one will feature wine, spirits, and beers. Visitors will have the chance to sample drinks from 10 to 12 different vendors, plus there will be plenty of appetizers to go around and prizes given away. The cost is \$20 for nonwine club members, and \$10 for wine club

"As long as our wine club members keep attending our wine tastings, and continue ordering wines from the tastings, we can continue to have these great events," Berthiaume said.

## Your hometown "muni"

Maple Lake Wine and Spirits isn't just another run-of-the-mill liquor store. It's your hometown "muni" owned and operated by The City which means all the money you spend here goes back into local projects and works to keep city taxes low, but best of all, staff are legitimately happy to see you and serve you.

"You're not just a number to us. We know

you by name," Berthiaume said.

In return, their dedication has earned them the loyalty of their customers.

Berthiaume and Assistant Manager Kate Heberling announced just this month that they were able to donate a whopping \$4,960 to the Maple Lake Fire Department because of the generosity of their patrons.

For three weeks this summer they held an instore silent auction, and while high quality items like a Blackstone Grill and a Summit outdoor chair and umbrella set may have initially enticed, many customers went over the top in their bids to make sure the fundraiser was as successful as possible.

The entire campaign took place Aug. 1 through Sept. 11 with the auction held Aug. 23 through Sept. 10. Every year this event has grown a little bigger, and the local fire department, that uses the funds to purchase needed equipment, is always very appreciative.



Dangerous Man beers are brewed in Maple Lake and the municipal liquor store carries their products, including seasonal Cranberry Cobbler Ale.

## **Community minded**

Wine and Spirits shows its community mindedness in other ways as well. Right now, and through the month of November, the store is collecting donations for the local food shelf. The holidays can be hard for families suffering economic difficulties and that is where the food shelf comes in. They provide enough groceries during the holidays to feed an entire family healthy and flavorful Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. Food donations are always welcome, but cash goes further, Berthiaume said.

This year, for the first time, Wine and Spirit staff will host a silent auction to make their efforts more impactful. Like the fire department silent auction, it will take place in-house with items donated from their vendors. Watch for more information on when the silent auction will take place, Berthiaume said.

Every fall, the liquor store also participates in the local library fundraiser. This event is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the all-volunteer run Maple Lake Library and Wine and Spirits contributes by offering a 10 percent dis-



Assistant Manager Kate Heberling, left and General Manager Ang Berthiaume donated \$4,960 to the Maple Lake Fire Department this fall. The money was generated through an in-store silent auction and free-will donations by their patrons. The local fire department will use the funds to purchase needed equipment. This Blackstone griddle was one of the items up for grabs.

count on any wines customers buy to donate to the event's wine pull, plus, staff sees that it gets to the fundraiser on time. Customers can also donate cash and liquor store staff will pick out the wine.

## A great selection

Maple Lake Wine and Spirits continues to offer a vast variety of items including many Minnesota-made wines, liquors, and craft beers. In addition to the Maple Lake made Dangerous Man Brewing, customers will find wines from Carlos Creek Winery in Alexandria, Millner Heritage Winery in Kimball and Winehaven in Chisago City plus rums, vodkas, and bourbons from Little Round Still in Wadena.

The store of course carries all the popular brands, plus a large selection of off-the-wall drinks sure to spur conversation around the dinner table such as pickle flavored vodka, BBQ whisky, and Eggo brand waffles and syrup cream liqueur. Plus, it's that time of the year for all the seasonal flavors to make their appearance, such as RumChata Pumpkin Spice cream liqueur and gingerbread and cookie dough whisky.

Maple Lake Wine and Spirits has a "great selection for a small, hometown liquor store and customers like that we have such a wide variety," Berthiaume said.

## **Rewards program**

To make shopping at Maple Lake Wine and Spirits economical, Berthiaume and her staff have a successful rewards program called the Lucky Irish Rewards where every pre-taxed dollar spent earns customers a point. When they reach 500 points, they get a \$20 in-store

Monthly specials on domestic beers, craft beers and wines, makes shopping at Maple Lake Wine and Spirits even more affordable.

## Wine Club

It's important to the staff at Maple Lake Wine and Spirits to promote the community which is why they organize a successful Wine Club that currently has 225 members and meets every six to eight weeks. In addition to the wine and spirit tastings they hold, the store has partnered with Kings 46 Wine Bar in Maple Lake to hold a food and wine pairing twice a year. The event is called "Big Wines and Small

Plates" and the next one is scheduled for January. Since Kings 46 can only accommodate 30 people, tickets do sell out fast, Berthiaume said. Ask about it and purchase tickets at Kings 46 or Maple Lake Wine and Spirits.

## Your business is appreciated

"We want to say thank you to all our customers for shopping local instead of going to the big box stores. We're friendly, we know you by name, plus, when you shop here, all the proceeds go back to city projects. It stays local and keeps city taxes low," Berthiaume said.

### Hours

The municipal liquor store is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Holiday hours will be as follows: Thanksgiving Day closed; Christmas Eve from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Christmas Day closed; New Year's Eve from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; New Year's Day closed.



Maple Lake Wine and Spirits hosts two wine tastings throughout the year. In addition to sampling and learning about a variety of wines and other spirits, Monica at the American Legion puts together a feast of appetizers for attendees. Above is her buffet style charcuterie board that delighted wine club members last year.

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## Area craft shows offer

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unique handcrafted gifts By Brenda Erdahl

he early bird gets the worm" is a well-known English proverb that historians trace all the way back to the 1600s. Though the words might first have been popularized hundreds of years ago, they remain as true today as they were then, particularly regarding holiday shopping.

Savvy shoppers have long touted the importance of starting early when looking for holiday gifts for loved ones. Seasoned procrastinators may never embrace early shopping, but others who want to a less hectic holiday shopping season can get an early start at these local craft shows. Craft shows have the bonus of featuring unique and often handcrafted items. Plus, many offer food, entertainment and if it's a fundraiser, your money will be going to support a good



Get your home ready for the season with unique finds at local craft fairs.

## Fall craft shows:

### **Holly Jolly Market**

When: Nov 3-5 - Friday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: 8906 Quantrelle Ave NE Elk River.

This is an annual holiday event held at 101 Market just south of Elk River in Otsego. 30 plus vendors selling vintage, repurposed, primitives, furniture, and holiday décor. Free admission and parking.

## **Holiday Craft and Gift Show**

When: November 4 & 5, - Saturday 10 a.m. - 4p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Where: St. Cloud River's Edge Convention

At this second annual Holiday Craft and Gift Show the first 100 attendees get a rose. Admission is \$3 and kids under five are free. 20% of admission fees will be donated to local charity. Over 100 Vendors will be at this event featuring handcrafted items, unique gifts, jewelry, unique clothing, wellness and skincare products, woodworking, metal arts, local businesses, and lots

### **Fall Craft Fair**

When: Saturday, Nov. 4, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Where: Monticello Community Center 505 Walnut Street, Monticello

This 36th annual fall craft fair offers free admission, more than 70 vendors and is hosted by the Monticello Women of Today. For more details, email montiwtcraftfair.org.

## **Second Harvest Moon Craft & Gift Show**

**When:** Nov. 4, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Where: Howard Lake American Legion, 616 7th Ave, Howard Lake

Come one come all to this fun family friendly event. There will be great food and drink specials as well as amazing crafters, makers, and small businesses for you to start your holiday shopping early. Stop in and see what goodies are in store for you.

## Elk Pride Craft Bazaar

When: Nov. 4, 9 a.m.

Where: Elk River High School 900 School



Find holiday decor like this at a variety of local craft shows throughout the area this fall.

Street NW, Elk River.

All proceeds of the booth rentals/spaces go to the Class of 2024 Scholarships towards their post-secondary education.

of hand crafted décor and unique items.

The Maple Lake Chamber Fall Craft Fair in Maple Lake always has an assortment

### St. Timothy Shopping Extravaganza

**When:** Nov. 11, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Where: St. Timothy School on Division Street west in Maple Lake.

Support the local Catholic School by shopping a variety of vendors with holiday and religious craft and décor items plus much more.

## **Maple Lake Chamber Fall Craft Sale**

**When:** Nov. 11, 9 a.m. -2 p.m.

Where: Maple Lake Elementary School east of the stoplights.

The Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Fall Craft Sale featuring numerous vendors selling hand-crafted and holiday themed items, baked goods and more.

## **Designer Purse Bingo**

When: Nov. 11, 10 a.m.

Where: Monticello American Legion Post 260

Doors open at 10 a.m., Bingo starts at noon. A beautiful assortment of purses from your favorite designers - Coach, Kate Spade and Michael Kors; 50/50 raffles, food specials, drink specials extra games at the end to give you even more chances to win a gorgeous purse

Holiday train F delivers joy and goodwill

of your choice. First come, first served. All proceeds will benefit the local communities around Monticello (Vision screenings and glasses for local youth, hearing exams for children, meals on wheels for the elderly, Christmas Food Baskets, firefighter chili feed, backpack program, mattress donation, nursing home bingo, etc.)

### St. Michael-Albertville fall craft show

**When:** Sat. Nov. 18, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: 5800 Jamison Ave. NE, St. Michael.

Hosted by St. Michael-Albertville Women of Today, this annual fall craft show features 250 vendors and is known as one of the best craft shows in Minnesota. The event is a fundraiser for the STMA Women of Today who use their funds to give back to the community.



You might find something special like these ornate wreaths at this year's St. Timothy Shopping Extravaganza in Maple Lake.

## Canadian Pacific Holiday Train will return on December 13

## Find the full story and more like this in the 2023 Holiday Gift Guide!

## By Brenda Erdahl

The Canadian Pacific Holiday Train returns to Central Minnesota this year with stops in Buffalo and Annandale on Wednesday, Dec. 13th.

The 1,000-foot train with hundreds of thousands of LED lights is scheduled to arrive at the 5th Street NE railway crossing in Buffalo.

and at Downtown Park in Annandale near the Harris Street West railway crossing. It will pass through Maple Lake. For those wanting to catch a glimpse of the bedazzling locomotive, First Street on the south end of the Maple Lake Community Park is a good place to do it.

This is the Holiday Train's 25th year of tour-

ing. Throughout the holiday season it makes stops at large and small communities across the United States and Canada supporting the local food shelves by raising

money, food, and awareness for food insecurity.

While it's a sight all on its own as it trundles across the country with its 14 brightly lit rail cars, each decorated with illuminated holiday designs, it's the show that will really fill your cup with holiday spirit. At 6 p.m. in Buffalo and 7:30 p.m. in Annandale, the train will open its side doors to a musical stage fit for a star – or two stars in this case.

The real heart of the Holiday Train isn't the lights or the music. Its true purpose is to fight hunger. Donations go a long way in helping the local food bank provide groceries to families in need in its three communities - Annandale, Maple Lake, and South Haven. Donations over the years have also helped the local food shelf buy a used van and build a new building.

Holiday Train shows are free to attend, Canadian Pacific only asks attendees bring a cash or non-perishable food donation if they are able.

The Holiday Train is just one of many local events happening in the Annandale, Buffalo, and Maple Lake area this time of year. There are dozens of opportunities that could be the start of a new tradition for your family, from Christmas in Maple Lake to the Main Street Holiday in Annandale. If you are looking for something a little more traditional, Pioneer Park hosts a vin-

Dallas Smith and MacKenzie Porter will step out to put on a holiday concert that will warm the heart. Look for details on this event and the many other Holiday events the area has to offer in the 2023 Gift Guide set to come out Thanksgiving week in the Maple Lake Messenger

tage "village Christmas" featuring wagon rides, Christmas music, and roasted marshmallows. Many events have opportunities for pictures with Santa Claus.

and Annandale Advocate.

For a complete list of all the area events, watch for the 2023 Holiday Gift Guide, a supplement to the Maple Lake Messenger and Annandale Advocate scheduled to come out Thanksgiving



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## **Firearms** Deer Season

## What Minnesota deer hunters can expect statewide

are preparing for the firearms deer season that opens Saturday, Nov. 4. The season offers opportunities to spend time outdoors with friends and family, find adventure and put venison in the freezer.

Deer hunting is the primary tool used to manage deer populations, and hunters help keep deer numbers in line with population goals across the state. Managing deer populations contributes to the overall health of Minnesota's landscapes, natural systems and economy.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' wildlife managers report that there should be good opportunities to harvest deer in

Hunters should know the deer permit area (DPA) number for where they plan to hunt prior to buying a license and ensure they understand chronic wasting disease regulations and sampling options for that area. Hunters can find these details using the DPA lookup tool on the Minnesota DNR's make a plan for deer season webpage (mndnr.gov/deerhunt).

Deer hunters are required to have deer 1 year or older sampled for CWD in all CWD management and surveillance zones during the opening weekend of the firearms A season Saturday, Nov. 4, through Sunday, Nov. 5, and during late CWD hunts Friday, Dec. 15, through Sunday, Dec. 17. Additional information about CWD requirements and sampling

ore than 400,000 deer hunters options can be found at the Minnesota DNR's CWD webpage (mndnr.gov/cwd).

### Southern deer report

Deer populations are increasing in southern Minnesota, and deer fared well over the winter.

River floodplains offer some of the best deer habitat and deer hunting in southern areas of the state. Following several years without a major flood, vegetation in these floodplains has grown to the point of offering excellent cover for deer — which bodes well for deer hunters. Large areas of grass with embedded wetlands are also prime deer habitat and if water levels stay low, hunters will have easier access to this type of habitat.

Hunters in the southern part of the state will have increased opportunities to harvest deer, following the 2021 public deer population goal setting process. The goal-setting process increased harvest opportunities in response to growing deer populations in southern areas.

## **Central deer report**

Deer populations remain robust and highly productive in central Minnesota, and deer also fared well over the winter.

Deer have been feeding on a bumper acorn crop this year. If dry conditions persist, hunters will continue to have easier access to wetland

Hunters can harvest as many as three deer in many deer permit areas in central Minnesota, and as many as five deer in CWD management zones. To help manage deer populations, wild-



Deer populations are robust in much of the state and hunting should be good this season according to the Department of Natural Resources.

life managers encourage hunters to take advantage of opportunities to harvest antlerless deer.

Hunters also should be aware that DPA 344 was redesignated as DPA 644 after CWD was detected last year on private land near Whitewater Wildlife Management Area. Additionally, DPA 643 near Rochester has expanded to include DPA 343 after on of this region, where deer numbers are higher and not affected by winter weather to the same extent as permit areas farther north.

The highest deer numbers are expected in areas of mixed habitat of open fields and forest.

The VA notes that Veterans Day

Red poppies are ubiquitous on

Memorial Day. That's because the pop-

pies are typically worn to honor fallen

Scouting for local pockets of deer will improve hunter success. Hunters in far northern areas will again have fewer opportunities to harvest antlerless deer, and in some areas will only be allowed to harvest bucks. This will give local deer populations in these northern areas a chance to grow where their numbers are below goals established in public deer population goal setting process.

DPAs 604 and 679 are CWD management zones where hunters must follow mandatory CWD testing requirements the opening weekend of firearms A season Nov. 4-5 and carcass movement restrictions. The city of Grand Rapids hunts also have mandatory sampling of all deer one year of age or older taken in any sea-

## Northwestern deer report

Deer populations are mostly stable in northwestern Minnesota. While last winter was moderate to severe in some areas, especially around and north of Bemidji, the deer population fared well over the winter throughout most of the northwest part of the state.

Deer have been feeding on a bumper acorn crop this year. In low-lying areas, if dry conditions persist, hunters will have easier access to ditches and wetlands.

Many DPAs in northwestern Minnesota have two- or three-deer harvest limits, and in DPAs 111 and 203 hunters are only allowed to harvest bucks. Some DPAs have lower harvest limits because of concerns about the last two winters' effect on local deer populations, and the lower deer limits will give deer populations a chance to grow in these areas.

Hunters should also know that CWD sampling will be mandatory during the opening weekend of the regular firearms deer hunting season in parts of three areas of the region, including the East Grand Forks-Crookston-Climax area in DPA 661, as well as the Bemidji area in DPA 684. This year, mandatory CWD sampling will also occur in northwest Minnesota's elk range in parts of Kittson, Marshall and Roseau counties — although CWD has not been detected in these areas, the DNR is sampling there to assess the risk of disease in local deer and elk.

Deer hunting information is available on the Minnesota DNR's deer hunting webpage (mndnr.gov/hunting/deer).

> - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Report

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## **Veterans Day observations**

### By Brenda Erdahl

Millions of people recognize the service and sacrifice of military veterans on Veterans Day in November.

While Veterans Day is always officially observed on November 11, this year, because it falls on a Saturday, the federal observation date is Friday, November 10. Federal, state, and local offices will be closed that day, there will be no mail service and post offices will be closed. Many banks will be closed as well.

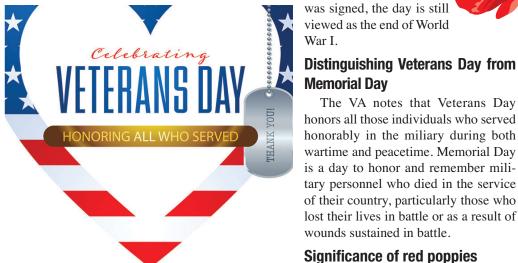
Local service organizations often hold programs in honor of the day. Vietnam Veteran Paul François of Dassel will be speaking in Maple Lake at the high school on Thursday, Nov. 9 at 10 a.m. Francois was an army medic in the war and is the recipient of the silver and bronze stars. The Maple Lake Messenger will publish a feature on honoring Paul Francois and his military career accolades in an upcoming issue this November.

Annandale will hold a service at the high school on Friday, Nov 10 at 10:45 a.m. Check with veteran service organizations in your community for programs they may be hosting this Veterans Day.

As Veterans Day approaches, here are some interesting facts about the holiday.

## Why Veterans Day is observed on November 11

November 11 is a significant day in world history because it marks the signing of the armistice between the Allies of World War I and Germany at 5:45 a.m. on November 11, 1918. Though the formal peace treaty, the Treaty of Versailles, was not signed until 1919 and hostilities between the sides continued for hours after the armistice



will be closed as well.

Because Veteran's Day 2023 falls on a Saturday (Nov. 11) the federal observation date is  $\,$  Memorial Day, but they're also visible Friday, Nov. 10. Federal, state, and local offic- on Veterans Day. Though it's not taboo es will be closed, there will be no mail service to wear red poppies on Veterans Day, and post offices will be closed. Many banks it's a tradition that aligns more with

military personnel. A 1915 poem written by a Canadian Lieutenant Colonel named John McCrae referred to the fields of poppies growing around the graves of World War I soldiers in Flanders.

## Other countries honor their military veterans

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Many countries across the globe honor their military veterans, and many do so on November 11 as well. For example, Canadians and Australians observe Remembrance Day in honor of their nation's respective veterans on November 11. Great Britain observes Remembrance Day on the Sunday nearest to November 11.

Veterans Day is a day to honor and commemorate the brave men and women who have honorably served in the U.S. military during wartime and peacetime.

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## **Turkey Trot is Thanksgiving tradition**



About 140 runners and walkers erupt from the starting line of last year's Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot in Annandale. This year's event takes place at 8 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 23. Four turkeys donated by Coborns in Clearwater are given away every year to the top male and female finishers in two age categories.

### By Brenda Erdahl

Thanksgiving is a day for turkey, stuffing, and apple pie, not a grueling three mile run in sometimes downright cold temperatures, but that's what some people around here have come to think of it as.

For almost 14 years, the Annandale Maple Lake (ANML) wrestling team has hosted the annual Turkey Trot 5K on Thanksgiving morning in Annandale, and every year 100 plus people turn out for a little early-morning exercise before indulging in holiday festivi-

"It's so cool to have people come together on Thanksgiving morning," ANML Head Coach Ben Youngs said. "At first glance, it seems like bad timing. However, everyone is gone by 9 a.m. on a typical day, so there is plenty of time to start the day with some exercise and get to a family gathering."

Youngs and fellow coaches Curt Nordlie and Jason Bartels started the race in 2009.

"For years it was just the wrestlers and coaches who met on Thanksgiving morning and ran a random 4.2-mile route. I mentioned it could be turned into a 5K fundraiser for

the team, and we set it up. Curt, Jason, and I wheeled off a course and the rest is history," Youngs said.

That first race drew 80 runners. Nate Hoffman was the overall winner in a time of 18:36 and Lisa Hines was the overall female winner in 21:09. Four turkeys donated by Coborns in Clearwater were given to the top male and female finishers in two age categories, and that



The Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning has become an annual tradition for many looking for a little exercise before taking part in the holiday feast.

tradition continues to this day.

By 2011, the Turkey Trot had grown to 135 runners. Last year, the event attracted 140 runners and walkers.

Because it takes place in the fall in Minnesota, the weather is often unpredictable for these intrepid athletes. In 2011 the day was described in the local newspaper as a "beautiful, Thanksgiving morning with temperatures at a frosty 30-some degrees" but not all race days were that nice. In 2014 temperatures hovered near zero degrees, according to the Annandale Advocate; in 2019 nine inches of snow fell the day before the race and in 2022, runners and walkers navigated the three-mile course through a thick fog.

The event draws mostly local people and Youngs suspects it's convenience that keeps them close to home for family gatherings later in the day. Many of the runners return year after year, including Annandale cross country runners, Maple Lake cross country runners and others who either walk or run it. Once in a while, the event attracts athletes from the Metro or locations further north.

The money raised through registration fees

and other donations goes entirely to the wrestling program. It pays for extra coaches, occasional surprises like fruit or Dilly Bars for the

wrestlers, a trip to a college match and a hotel stay in Alexandria when the team competes at a tournament up there, Youngs said. For 13 years the race has gone on, rain, snow, or shine. Not even Covid could cancel it. In 2020, organizers decided to move the 5K to

the Maple Lake school grounds and runners completed a two-loop course in a window of time to avoid a common start. In 2021 it moved back to Annandale and as of last year, the event is back to normal.

This year's race will take place on Thursday, Nov. 23 at 8 a.m. Check-in is at the Annandale Middle School. There is no advance registration. T-shirts are given out on a first come, first serve basis. Last year organizers made a slight adjustment to the old course, and they will stick with that change this year, Youngs said. Runners and walkers now run two identical loops through Annandale, but they don't go through the park.

"I liked having (the course) go through the park, but the path wasn't always plowed," Youngs said.

Businesses interested in sponsoring the race will get its name on the back of the T-shirt. Sponsors generally pay \$50 to \$100, but there is an option of being a primary sponsor. Primary sponsors' names will appear in larger print at the top of the T-shirt.

## **Essential gear for first-time Thanksgiving hosts**

## **Contributed report**

Hosting Thanksgiving is a large undertaking that can put some hosts under pressure. Unlike some other holidays that are less food-focused, Thanksgiving is largely about the meal. Turkey is the centerpiece of the celebration, and any guests who come over are going to expect turkey and a number of side dishes. Leaving hungry is never an option on Thanksgiving.

Individuals who are new to Thanksgiving hosting may be at a loss as to where to start with their preparation. There are certain musthaves hosts should familiarize themselves with. Many of these essentials revolve around tools for cooking in the kitchen and serving guests.

Large roasting pan: You'll need somewhere to oven-roast the turkey. While it's perfectly acceptable to purchase a disposable aluminum pan for this purpose, if you plan to host Thanksgiving year after year, investing in a quality

roasting pan will help deliver even cooking temperatures to the food and also can be used for roasting other meats.

Wire rack: The turkey is placed upon a rack inside of the roasting pan so that it will not swim in the juices and cause a soggy bottom during cooking. The rack can be used for other purposes as well, including cooling baked cookies or even drying out fresh herbs.

Food thermometer: Ensuring the turkey and other foods are cooked to the correct internal temperature is essential. You do not want to send guests home with foodborne illnesses. Food thermometers run very basic to programable, alerting cooks through an app on a smartphone. Turkey is done when the temperature reads 170 F in the breast and 180 F in the thigh. If stuffed, the stuffing should register 165 F.

Coordinated casserole dishes: Casserole dishes can hold all the sides served with the turkey,

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including stuffing, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, green beans, and more. A set of matching dishes will help the tablescape look more coordinated.

Service for over eight: Thanksgiving draws a crowd, so take inventory of silverware, dishes, wine glasses, and any other table needs to ensure that you can accommodate all of the guests. Purchase new items if you cannot set the table completely with what you have, as mixed and matched may be okay for informal events but may not set the tone hosts are aiming for on Thanksgiving.

lable and chairs: Determine if you have enough table space to seat all of your guests. Some dining tables come with an extension leaf, but you still may need to supplement with a folding table. You may need more seating.

**Turkey serving platter:** When the turkey is ready, it can be placed on an attractive serving platter



Make sure you have everything you need to make your first Thanksgiving as host special.

for your photos, after which you slice and then return the sliced poultry to the serving platter for dining.

Thanksgiving requires a number of essentials that hosts will need to have on hand to make the holiday complete.



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Color the drawing below and bring it to the CoLUREing sponsor of the month HOMESTYLE COUNTRY CAFE for a chance to win a \$25 gift card to In Hot Water 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, Nov. 15, 2023.

All ages welcome to enter. Colorings will be judged by the CoLUREing contest sponsor of the month. Winners will be notified by phone.

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

### THE COLUBEING CONTEST SPONSOR THIS MONTH IS **HOMESTYLE COUNTRY CAFE**

Drop Entries off at:

95 Elm St. E. · Hwy 55., Annandale · (320) 274-1404

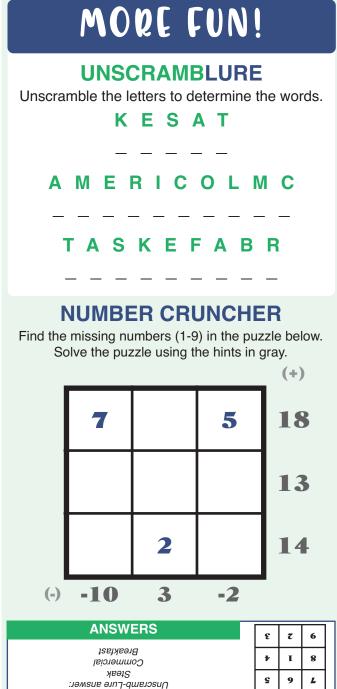
Hours: Sun.: 7 am-1 pm • M-W.: 7 am-3 pm • Th.-F.: 7 am-8 pm • Sa.: 7 am-3 pm







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## November



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Maple Lake Chamber Meeting, 12 p.m.     All Saints' Day	• Legion Riders at The Legion Club, 7 p.m.	Grumpy Old Men-The Musical, Buffalo Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m.	Deer Firearms Opener (Season A) Grumpy Old Men-The Musical, Buffalo Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m. Dassel-Cokato Craft Fair, Cokato High School 9-2 p.m. Civil War Veteran Workshop, WCHS, 10-11 a.m. Annual Fall Bazaar, Community United Methodist Church, Monticello, 9-3 p.m
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunrise- 6:58 a.m. Sunset- 4:56 p.m. • Grump Old Men-The Musical, Buffalo Performing Arts Center, 2 p.m. • MN Vikings @ Atlanta, 12 p.m.	Annandale, End of 1st Quarter     -No School	• Election Day  Full Moon	Hasty-Silver Creek Sportsmen's Club Meeting, 7 p.m     Annandale Chamber Meets, 11:30 a.m.	<ul> <li>Lion's Club Meets, 7 p.m., at the V by HH</li> <li>Sons of the American Legion, 8 p.m. at the Legion Club</li> </ul>	Maple Lake Teacher Workshop     -No School	St. Timothy's Shopping Extravaganza     Maple Lake's Fall Craft Sale, Maple Lake Elementary, 9 a.m2 p.m.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Sunrise- 7:08 a.m. Sunset- 4:48 p.m. • MN Vikings Vs. New Orleans, 12 p.m.	<ul> <li>Annandale City Council Meeting, City Hall, 7 p.m.</li> <li>Maple Lake School Board Meeting 7p.m</li> <li>National Education Week</li> <li>New Moon</li> </ul>	Chatham Township Meeting, 7 p.m. Potluck Dinner Pioneer Park, 6:30 p.m. American Legion Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Legion Club Maple Lake Schools- Late Start	Maple Lake VFW Post 7664, at the Maple Lake Legion, 7 p.m.	<ul> <li>Maple Lake Legion Auxiliary Meets, 7 p.m.</li> <li>Wright Saddle Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m</li> </ul>		Deer Firearm Season Opener (Season B)     Arts & Crafts Fair, Howard Lake School, 9:
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sunrise-7:18 a.m. Sunset-4:41 p.m • MN Vikings @ Denver 7:20 p.m.	Annandale School Board Meeting, AES Media Center, 7 p.m	<ul> <li>Maple Lake City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m</li> <li>Corinna Township Meeting, 7 p.m.</li> <li>Maple Lake Township Meeting, 7 p.m.</li> <li>Albion Township Meeting, 7 p.m.</li> <li>Silver Creek Township Meeting, 7 p.m.</li> </ul>	• 2023 Holiday Gift Guide is out, Pick it up in the Advocate or Messenger	Thanksgiving Day Thanksgiving Break, No School Annandale/ Maple Lake ANML Annual Turkey Trot 5k, Downtown Annandale (tenative)	• Thanksgiving Break No School Annandale/ Maple Lake	Small Business Saturday, Downtown Buffalo, Annandale & Maple Lake, Partici pating Chamber Businesses     Annual Tree Lighting, Riverfront Park, Delano and Clock Tower Park, Annandale
26	27	28	29	30		
Sunrise- 7:27 a.m. Sunset- 4:36 p.m	Full Moon  MNVikings Vs. Chicago 7:15 p.m.  Cyber Monday	Wright County Snowmobile Association Meeting - American Legion, 7:30 p.m.		Knights of Columbus Meeting, St. Timothy Church, 7 p.m.		

## **Community Calendar Sponsors**











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