Country Liure

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

Advocate The Maple Lake MESSENGER

Laketown Dental welcomes Dr. Riley Raskob, DDS

By Brenda Erdahl

As Annandale grows, so does its dental needs and Laketown Dental is committed to filling them.

Last summer, the local dental clinic completed a remodel that updated the current offices and added additional treatment rooms to accommodate a rising local demand for high quality dentistry. This summer, it was time to hire another doctor.

On Monday, June 17, the Laketown Dental staff welcomed Dr. Riley Raskob to the team.



Dr. Riley Raskob, DDS joined the Laketown Dental team in June to help meet the rising demand for high quality dentistry.

Dr. Raskob, a native of Maple Grove, earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota Duluth then continued his studies in a predental program at Marquette University in Milwaukee before he enrolled at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry. Some of his accomplishments include acceptance into an oral surgery honors course. He graduated from the U of M with his Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) on May 10.

Dr. Raskob knew early in his college career that dentistry was his calling. Always an eager student, he knew there would always be something new to learn as a dentist, and the fast-paced, hands-on work was appealing.

"I was never one to sit all day at a desk," he said.

He also likes working with people.

"You see your dentist typically more than your physician, hopefully twice a year. I like building those relationships with my patients and earning their trust."

He said the work itself is also very rewarding.

"If someone comes in with pain, I can relieve that pain, I can help them. That is very rewarding. So is being able to fix someone's front teeth and see how it rebuilds their confidence."

Dr. Raskob isn't a stranger to

a cabin on Sugar Lake since 2017. When a neighbor at the cabin found out he was a dental student she mentioned Laketown Dental was looking for an associate. The rest is history.

Working at the Annandale clinic is a lot different from the university's dental clinic where Dr. Raskob spent the last two years working under the supervision of the university faculty. It's definitely busier, he said, but he credited the Laketown dental assistants for their help making everything run smoothly.

"The dental assistants here are awesome," he said.

His goals as he begins this new adventure are to get to know his patients and co-workers, familiarize himself with the office equipment and procedure and "do really good dentistry."

When he's not working, Dr. Raskob enjoys playing golf and pickleball, reading and cooking.

About Laketown Dental

Doctors Meghan and Eric Rambow purchased Dr. Jeff Holmberg's practice on Park Street East in 2016 and opened Laketown Dental. They are a family and general dentistry clinic that also handles cosmetic dentistry, children's dentistry, restorative fillings, dental implants, root canal therapy, orthodontics and more. Capable of treating people of all ages, they are truly a family dental, one stop shop.

"Between the two of us and now Dr. Raskob, we are able to offer all those services locally," Dr. Meghan

The three doctors along with their dedicated team of hygienists, dental assistants and administrative staff are committed to providing quality, attentive, gentle care to all their patients.

Patients in turn rave about the Laketown team's friendliness, professionalism, compassion and knowl-

One patient wrote, "Dr. Meghan did a wonderful job on fixing my front tooth. She was very nice and made me feel comfortable. That is all a person can ask for when going to the dentist."

Another commented, "Thank you so much Meghan and Julie, what a huge difference you made in my day in just a couple hours, I feel like smiling big again."

Dr. Meghan and Dr. Eric

Dr. Meghan is originally from Eagan. She graduated Cum Laude from Concordia College in Moorhead before earning her Doctoral of Dental Surgery from the University of Minnesota. She has taken advanced



Harlan, Laketown Dental's therapy dog in training, brings comfort and calm during dental procedures.

training and continuing education in CEREC© "One Visit" Dentistry and is also a certified provider in Invisalign©.

Dr. Eric is originally from Litchfield. He graduated from Northern State university before earning his Doctoral of Dental Surgery from the University of Minnesota. He has pursued significant amounts of advanced training and continuing education to focus his practice on the specialized areas of dentistry including dental implants, endodontics (root canals), oral surgery and orthodontics.

When not in the office, the couple loves spending quality time with their three children.

Clinic expansion

Last summer the clinic expanded to use the building's entire available space which means more treatment rooms and new updated facilities.

"Annandale lost a dentist when Dr. Karg retired and suddenly we were getting phone calls from people who needed a new dentist," Dr. Meghan said.

The area was growing, and Laketown Dental needed to grow with it. With the new, larger clinic and the addition of Dr. Raskob the clinic is ready to meet the new demand.

Harlan the therapy dog

One other new team member has joined the Laketown Dental family lately. Harlan is Dr. Meghan and Dr. Eric's miniature golden doodle and he's become a favorite among patients to bring comfort and calm during dental procedures. As a therapy dog in training, patients can request he sit on their laps during dental work, and he never shies away from being a comforting companion for as long as he is needed.

Like his human companions, Harlan is at the office most days and when he's not, he is missed, Dr. Meghan said.

Make an appointment today

Laketown Dental is located at 300 Park Street East in Annandale. Learn more about the team and services they offer at www.laketowndental. com or call 320-274-8555 to make an appointment.







Dr. Eric and Dr. Meghan Rambow, purchased Dr. Jeff Holmberg's practice in 2016 and are in the process of expanding their office in Annandale.





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Celebrating Independence Day in Annandale

By Steve Prinsen

For more than 125 years area residents have united to celebrate the Fourth of July in Annandale. The celebration has grown from a single-day affair featuring a pair of area orators and a brass band from Kimball to a nearly weeklong celebration of American heritage with a wide variety of entertaining events.

The first organizers in 1889 would be astounded to see today's 100-plus unit parade, the whirling, rushing rides of the carnival, and the captivating fireworks display. They would be mystified by the boat parade on Pleasant Lake, the crowds reaching up to 10,000 people, and the street dances at night.

Some elements, however, would remain familiar, such as the festive wind tunes from the Annandale Community Band, a general sense of patriotic pride and perhaps even the basic elements of the modern softball games.

In all things, today's event coordinators work to preserve some of the favorites from previous years while bringing a variety of new entertainment into the mix.

Schedule of events

This year's celebration extends from Wednesday, July 3, to Sunday, July 7.

The Annandale Ambassador dessert social to introduce the Miss Annandale royalty candidates will take place at the City Park Pavilion



The carnival kicks off on Wednesday July 3 through Sunday July 7.



Once dusk settles in, a large fireworks display will light up the town from an offshore platform, capping off a long weekend and a great day celebrating the country's independence in Annandale.

beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12. The Kick-Off to the Fourth of July Gala will be held at 7 p.m. at the Southbrook Golf Course, lower level, on Friday, June 28.

The celebration opens with the carnival opening at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, July 3. Each year the carnival spreads out over a few city blocks near Municipal Park on Oak Avenue north of downtown with an assortment of food, rides and games that the whole family will enjoy.

Local food vendors will also be on hand along with the carnival's food vendors. Other Wednesday events include an evening performance by the Annandale Community Band.

Celebration centerpiece

The centerpiece of the celebration are all of the events on Thursday, July 4. The parade, which begins at 10 a.m., includes around 100 floats, cars, bands and more that fill Park Street, Main Street and Chestnut Street. Grab your spot early!

In addition to colorful floats and exotic displays, the parade will feature an assortment of musical talent. Parade entries can vie for most entertaining in the float contest.

The carnival re-opens immediately after the parade at noon, with bingo from noon to 6 p.m., and at 5:30 p.m. a new Miss Annandale will be crowned at 5:30 p.m. in the park.

The Fabulous Armadillos will return to play

the Fourth of July concert in the park at 7 p.m. and will play until 10. The Armadillos have drawn some of the largest crowds in memory during their recent performances. Once dusk settles in, a large fireworks display will light up the town from an offshore platform, capping off a long weekend and a great day celebrating the country's independence.

Events continue on Friday, July 5. The carnival opens at noon there is a live music performance at night, Concrete Jesus. There will also be the traditional fundraisers of Cake by the Lake and Brownies with the Band each evening.

The Firecracker 5K has been moved to downtown Annandale on Saturday, July 6, 8 a.m. start. The kiddie parade begins at 10:30 a.m. through the downtown streets. A number of activities get underway at noon or earlier at the park, including the men's softball tournament. This year there will also be a kiddie tractor pull at noon at the park. The West Metro Band performs in the evening, among other activities.

Sunday also includes activities including a co-ed softball tournament, bingo and the carni-

Check the Annandale Advocate this summer for more details. There is also a website devoted exclusively to Annandale's Fourth of July activities, www.annandale4thofjuly.org.

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The annual parade is the centerpiece of Annandale's five-day, Fourth of July celebration. The parade takes place on Thursday, July 4 at 10 a.m.

Photo contest deadline is July 4th

By Brenda Erdahl

The 2024 Maple Lake Area Community guide will be published and inserted into the next issue of the Lake Country Lure and your photo could grace the cover if you get your photo entry in by July 4th. The race is on for the best photo in town and it doesn't matter if you're a professional, amateur or a local resident, all photos are welcome. The contest is open to everyone, and the only rule is it must be a picture of the Maple Lake area.

Spend a morning or quiet evening with

your camera and capture the perfect image of our beautiful community and your image could be on the front cover of this four-color, high gloss community guide in

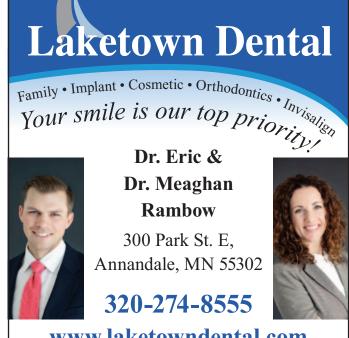
Winners will be announced in the Maple Lake Messenger and finalists will be recognized throughout the pages of this year's community guide.

Besides fame and bragging rights, the winning photo will earn \$100 in Business Bucks to spend at a local business of your

Please send digital images as large as possible to ads@maplelakemessenger. com. Be sure to include your name, phone number, address, and a brief description of the picture. An 8x10 color print may also be submitted if email is not an option. Feel free to use the door mail slot to drop off your photo after hours.

Remember, vertical photos fit the community guide's cover best. Now go grab your camera and show off what you got.









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Local artist work on display in Maple Lake

By Brenda Erdahl

The beauty of a sunset, the peaceful solitude of a quiet pond and the intricacies of a blooming flower have been known to capture the imagination of Susan Wright and inspire her to put paintbrush to paper. Watercolor is her medium because it moves like a flowing stream, reflects light like a breeze caressed lake and essentially brings life to her artwork.

For the next two months, fifteen of Wright's idyllic watercolor scenes will grace the walls of the Maple Lake Library bringing nature indoors for time. From June 3 to July 26th, readers will be tempted to lounge near a rocky vista with a good book or curl up under a starry sky lit up by the northern lights.

Wright is the second exhibitor in the library's year-long effort to display the work of local artists. She has called Buffalo home for the last 44 years but is originally from Duluth and the North Shore



Susan Wright

continues to be an inspiration for her artwork.

"Nature inspires me to make art with creative emotion," she said. "Plants, birds, a quiet pond, the movement of waves and clouds, are examples of what fuels my inspiration to paint. I have found that watercolor, its fluid nature and boundless color potential, works best for me to express my feelings and my experiences with nature."

Wright is a self-taught artist. She has a degree in biology and has taken graduate courses in forestry and landscape architecture which she put to use in her 24-year career as a landscape designer for Dundee Nursery. In 2004 she retired, but designing outdoor spaces for private residents had taught her a thing or two about drawing and understanding how people relate to the outdoors, she said.

She began painting in 2007 during a transitionary period in her life. Her two sons, Tristan and Eric had grown up and moved away and her husband, David, a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, had received a four-month job opportunity in New Zealand.

A year later, she joined the Buffalo Art Guild and has since displayed her work in several solo art shows as well as exhibited as an Art Guild member in local clinics and banks. Her most recent accomplishment is the publication

of a children's book she wrote and illustrated called "Gramma Lost Her Underpants." Her five grandchildren inspired the book she said. She donated a copy to the Maple Lake Library, and it is also available at Buffalo Books and on Amazon. She is currently working on the illustrations for a Christmas themed children's book written by a friend.

"We are fortunate that for the months of June and July her art will grace our walls," said exhibit organizer Judith Feenstra.

Wright's artwork will be displayed throughout the library on the corner of Division Street and Birch Avenue in downtown Maple Lake and can be viewed anytime during library hours: Monday and Friday 12-6 p.m.; Wednesday 3-6 p.m.; and Saturday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

To view more of Wright's artwork, visit https://www.facebook. com/SueWrightArt



The watercolor paintings of Susan Wright will be on display at the Maple Lake Library now until July 26th. Susan Wright has lived in Buffalo for 44 years and is a member of the Buffalo Art Guild. The painting above shows her love of nature and moving water.

Prepare your pets for Independence Day celebration festivities



Pets will rest much easier in the evenings with plenty of daytime activity in the sun during Independence Day weekend. Make time for everyone and plan accordingly. Have an safe, enjoyable July with your pets, family and friends.

By Brenda Erdahl

Many people are eager for Independence Day celebrations in early summer. There is much to be excited about, as festivities often begin in the afternoon with barbecues and pool parties, and commence late at night after fireworks shows that light up the night sky. Still, not everyone enjoys the extra noise and busy nature of July 4th parties, particularly furry members of the family.

Animal control services often report an increase in lost animals between July 4th and July 6th. That's because the excitement of the holiday puts pets out of their comfort zones.

While pet owners need not cancel their July 4th plans, they should take heed of the many ways to keep their pets safe during the festiv-

Update identification

Prior to any July 4th events check your pets collars for current identification information. If an address or phone number has changed since the last time you updated microchip records, be sure to check the account is current.

Alcoholic drinks

Party hosts typically serve beer, wine and cocktails. Alcoholic beverages have the potential to poison pets, says the ASPCA. Animals can go into comas if they drink alcohol. Keep spirited drinks well out of reach.

Check with the vet

Many pets are prone to anxiety from loud noises, such as thunderstorms and fireworks, and lots of commotion - something that occurs in spades come July 4th. Some veterinarians recommend a small course of anti-anxiety medication or a sedative to help pets cope with the stimuli.

Quiet space

Allow pets to ride out the day in their comfortable, quiet and cozy retreats. If necessary, create a space in an interior room. Cover the pet crate with a blanket and offer favorite toys or bedding to create a soothing environment.

Place notes on doors and gates

While it's best to keep pets in a locked room

become very intoxicated, severely depressed or away from the fray, some pets like to socialize with guests and are not bothered by noises. However, alert guests with notes posted on doors and fence gates to check to make sure pets are not trying to escape behind them. Close doors firmly when entering or exiting.

Pick up debris

Firework debris can rain down on properties even if you were not shooting off the fireworks. Curious pets may pick it up or eat it, which runs the risk of an upset stomach or even an intestinal blockage. Check your yard before letting pets out to play.

Grilling Foods

Pets can be opportunists, and those burgers and chicken drumsticks smell delicious to pets. Pets that get too close to the grill can become injured. And if pets eat leftovers, they may end up with digestive distress or even be poisoned by foods that are toxic to cats and dogs.



Recently Immanuel Lutheran in Silver Creek celebrated a special Mission Sunday. During the service over 300 pillow case dresses and T-shirt shorts, made by the women of Immanuel, were given to a Mission entitled, "Shining the Light of God's Love in Uganda". Brian and Jesca Kuhl, two of the leaders of this Mission, once a year deliver these simple made dresses and shorts to children in Uganda. The children also receive a message of God's special love for them. Immanuel Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod may be a Church small in numbers but big in CARING HANDS. Our services begin at 9:00 on Sunday mornings. Visitors are always welcome. For more information call 763-878-2820 or 660-619-1164. Our address: 11390 Elliot Ave NW, Maple Lake (Silver Creek), Minnesota. - PAID ADVERTISEMENT







Plan for some fun at the Wright County Fair July 24-28

Looking for fun close to home this summer? The Wright County Fair in Howard Lake will fit the bill with five days of entertainment, education and competition, July 24-28.

This 154-year-old event features a midway with rides for all ages, an assortment of animals (some exotic), grandstand events including a demolition derby and tractor pull, live entertainment, and of course, fair food. Visit the junior livestock shows and check out the hard work of local 4-H clubs.

The Grandstand

Grandstand shows are always a highlight of the fair. They kick off on Wednesday, July 24 with the Motokazie Show at 6:30 p.m. Motokazie features high-flying, fast paced dirt bike and ATV racing. This supercross race contains ATV, dirt bike and pit bike classes. See racers jump 70-foot triples, navigate bermed corners and pound through the whoops. The combine, Power Wheels and lawnmower



Live entertainment including combine, tractor and demolition derbies are part of the fun at the county fair in Howard Lake.

Check the free Torres Family Circus every day at the fair.

demo derbies hit the grandstand on Thursday, July 25 at 7 p.m.; on Friday, July 26 is the traditional demolition derby at 7 p.m.; on Saturday, July 27 see a tractor and truck pull at 5 p.m. in the grandstand and the fun tops off with a final demolition derby on Sunday, July 28 at 5:30 p.m.

Midway

The Midway gets underway at 5 p.m. on opening day, Wednesday, July 24 then opens at 1 p.m. every day throughout the fair until 10 p.m.

Free shows and entertainment

Check out free shows most days by the All-American Lumberjacks, the Torres Family Circus, Xtreme Strong Man and Agri-Puppets.

Throughout the week the Entertainment Tent will feature The Neighberz Band, Mark Hawker, South 40, Darlene and the Boys, Red Dot Garage, Memories of Elvis Tribute Show by Chris Olson, Just Rite Country Band, Maiden Dixie and more.

Special days

Sign up for the 5K run starting at 8 a.m. Saturday, then head over to Machinery Hill for the Collector Car and Truck Show from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday is also Military Day when any person showing military identification receives free admission for themselves, their spouse, and children 17 and under. A Military Day Program will take place on the Free Stage at 11 a.m.

On Senior Citizens Day, Friday, July 26, seniors 60 and older get into the fair free until 1 p.m. The Senior Citizen Luncheon/program takes place that day in the Hoop Building. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. and the 1 p.m. program will recognize the 2023 Outstanding Senior Citizens, the oldest man and woman at the fair, the longest married couple at the fair, Century Farms, the Wright



Visit the junior livestock shows and check out the hard work of local 4-H clubs all five days of the Wright County Fair.



The Midway features rides and games for all ages. It is open every afternoon at the fair. Photos submitted

County Outstanding Family Farm and the Friend of the Fair Award winner. There will also be musical entertainment and prizes given away.

Throughout the week members of the local 4-H clubs will be showing off their prize cattle, goats, sheep, chickens, rabbits and more. The 4-H horse show begins bright and early at 9 a.m. on Wednesday. In addition to checking out all the 4-H animals and exhibits, support Wright County 4-H by visiting the 4-H Foodstand for breakfast lunch, dinner and everything in between. The annual 4-H Blue Ribbon Auction is Saturday, July 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the 4-H Dairy

Admission

Admission is free for children 17 years old and younger and \$5 for adults. Parking is \$5. Grandstand tickets are an additional charge and can be reserved online at www.wrightcountyfair.org/p/tickets.

The Wright County Fair is located at County Road 6 SW and 60th Street SW in Howard Lake. For a complete list of events and activities visit www. wrightcountyfair.org.



One of the best parts about the fair is the food and there is plenty to choose from at the Wright County Fair.

Have a fun outdoor adventure this summer at a Wright County Park



By Brenda Erdahl

There is fun for all ages at Wright County parks this summer with a variety of family-friendly programs to get you and your loved ones outdoors. From camping and hiking adventures to kayaking and winetasting for ladies 21 and over, here is the complete list of events for May through August. Parks and Rec. also offers many summer classes and opportunities for children. Visit www.co.wright.mn.us for more *Register soon at WrightCountyParksandRec.Perfectmind.com

Wild Wednesdays Wednesday, July 10

Wildlife Center- Live OWLS

Wednesday, August 7 Spin Fishing Class 6 – 7 p.m.

Location: Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park

Description: Join this free Wild Wednesday nature program in July and experience a live animal presentation showcasing Owls! In August, experience a handson fishing class. You'll learn the basics of fishing and enjoy a day by the water. All equipment is provided, so bring your curiosity and a sense of adventure.

Hiking Wright

Thursday, July 11

Location: Stanley Eddy Regional Park, 16605 45th St NW, Annan-

Description: A hiking program offering diverse trails for all levels of experience, led by experienced guides through scenic landscapes. Participants will learn about nature and safety while challenging themselves physically and mentally. The program aims to help individuals achieve fitness goals, build outdoor skills, and connect with nature in a supportive and transformative environment.

Robert Ney Nature Center Saturday, July 20

10 - 12 p.m.

Location: Robert Ney Park Nature Center, 5212 73rd St NW, Maple

Description: Coffee and Crafts

Family Adventure Overnight Camping

Friday, July 26 5 p.m. - 12 p.m.

Location: Collinwood Campground and Park-Group Camp

Description: An introductory family camping experience at Collinwood Group Camp where all the basics of camping will be covered. Learn what gear is best to invest in, how to set up and take down camp, and camp cooking, including campfire pancakes. Enjoy kayaking, compass skills, plant identification, and many more fun experiences for the whole family. Bring your own bedding, everything else is provided. Each family will receive a six-person tent, cookware, sleeping pads, and a

Women, Wine, & Water Friday, August 23

6 - 8:30 p.m.

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Location: Bertram Chain of Lake Park, 9842 Briarwood Ave NE, Monticello

Description: Spend the evening kayaking, followed by a wine tasting and charcuterie boards at sunset. The guided kayak tour of the Bertram Chain of Lakes will be about an hour long. A local winery will provide wine. You must be 21+ to attend this event.



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Smoked Beef Short Ribs

SMOKED BEEF SHORT RIBS

(Allen Kiezel)

Serves 3

Spritz

1/4 cup beef broth 1/4 cup soy sauce 1 spray bottle

1/2 cup water Main

5 pounds beef short ribs 2 sheets butcher paper

1 1/2 tablespoons mayo **Dry Rub** 3 tablespoons black pepper

1 1/2 tablespoons garlic powder

3 tablespoons seasoned salt

1. Remove the beef ribs 1 hour prior to smoking. This will give the meat time to reach room temperature for more even cooking and allow the rub to adhere better. Trim off any extra thick fat and silver skin from the top of the short ribs. You can remove all of the fat, but I keep a thin layer for protection and added flavor. Slather the mayonnaise evenly over the entire surface of the beef ribs. Mix dry rub ingredients in a bowl and sprinkle evenly over the ribs. You'll want a heavy coating of the rub to help build the beef short ribs. The ribs are thick, so even a lot of rub won't overpower them.

2. Preheat the grill to 250 F. 3. Place short ribs on the grill and smoke at 250 F until it hits an internal temperature of around 175 F in the thickest part of the meat, approximately 5 to 6 hours depending on the size. I recommend using a good leave-in meat thermometer so you don't have to constantly check the short ribs. We're looking for a nice bark to have formed before we wrap the short ribs. If your bark isn't where you'd like it to be yet, keep smoking for an additional hour or so to help

the bark form. 4. Combine the spritz ingredients and place in spray bottle. Each hour after the first 3 hours or once the bark starts looking dry, open up the smoker and spritz the beef short ribs. Make sure your spray bottle is set to spray in a light, even mist and not a direct blast of the liquid. You just want to moisten the short ribs, not soak them.

5. When the bark has formed and the smoked short ribs hit our target temperature of at least 175 F, remove them

from the smoker, lay them in the center of 2 pieces of partially overlapped butcher paper (lengthwise), and then wrap tightly around the ribs. You can spritz the butcher paper a few times to help it form a tighter wrap around the beef short ribs. If you don't have butcher paper, you can use heavy duty aluminum foil instead. Just note, the bark will be a little mushy when it's done, as it's not permeable like butcher paper and will partially steam it.

6. Return to the grill, insert the meat probe again, and smoke at 250 F for approximately 4 more hours. The smoked beef short ribs are done when the internal temperature is around 205 F to 208 F and the meat thermometer slides in and out like a knife slicing through room temperature butter -barely any resistance. I find that this usually occurs around 205 F, but all meat is different. Remember to take the temperature in a few places as the short ribs tend to cook slower in larger areas.

7. Remove the smoked beef short ribs from grill and keep wrapped while it rests for a

1. Combine sweet pota-

toes, green onions, parsley,

and cherries in a large bowl;

2. Whisk vinegar, mustard,

minimum of 1 hour. If you need to keep the meat warmer even longer, place them inside of a good cooler for up to 4 hours.

8. Slice the short ribs between each bone and serve with the bone or slice into smaller portions and share. Enjoy!



SWEET AND SAVORY SWEET POTATO SALAD

("Vegan Cooking for Begin-

a nice bark on the outside of

ners") Makes 6 servings

4 cups cubed, peeled, cooked sweet potatoes (about 4 to 6) 3/4 cup chopped green onions 1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley 1/2 cup dried tart cherries 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons

rice wine vinegar 2 tablespoons coarse mus-

1 tablespoon extra virgin olive

1 clove garlic, minced

1/2 teaspoon salt 1/4 teaspoon pepper

oil, garlic, salt, and pepper in a small bowl until well blended. Pour over sweet potato mixture; gently toss to coat.

gently mix.

Serve immediately or cover and refrigerate until ready to

Note: You can cook the sweet potatoes in boiling water or in the oven.

WATERMELON FIRE AND ICE SALSA

Tortilla chips dipped in a tangy salsa often make the perfect opener to a meal. Salsa traditionally is made with tomatoes, but people often can find different fruits filling in for tomatoes or complementing them in various salsa recipes.

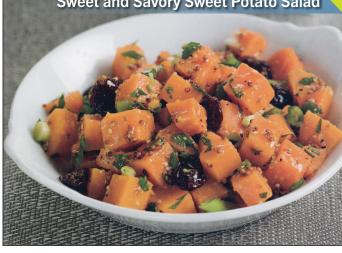
During the height of the summer entertaining season, salsa can be transformed by watermelon, a popular summertime fruit. Watermelon's high water content and subtle, sweet flavor contribute to its refreshing, some might say addictive, nature. However, this recipe for "Watermelon

Fire and Ice Salsa," courtesy of the The National Watermelon Promotion Board, adds jalapeño peppers to the mix to bring a little heat to those cool watermelon pieces. Makes 3 cups

3 cups chopped watermelon 1/2 cup green peppers 2 tablespoons lime juice

1 tablespoon chopped cilantro 1 tablespoon green onions 2 tablespoons jalapeño peppers

Combine ingredients. Mix well and cover. Refrigerate for 1 hour or more.





TIME TO SHINE

As the summer sun begins to shine, so too do our communities, bustling with people enjoying the outdoors and the summer festivities in the company of family, friends and neighbors. Don't miss out on all the news happening in your community this season and every season.

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Your Community Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	3	3	* * 4	5	6
		 Annandale Conservation Club- 7:30 p.m. South Haven City Council Meets, 6:30 p.m. Silver Creek Township Meeting, 7 p.m. Corinna Township Meeting, 7 p.m. Potluck Dinner Pioneer Park, 6:00 p.m 	Craft Beer & Wine Tasting, Delano, 3-5pm Maple Lake Chamber Meets, 11:30 a.m. Annandale Music in the Park, Annandale Municipal Park, 7 p.m.	Legion Riders Club meets, 7 p.m. Monticello Farmer's Market, 3:30-7 p.m. Annandale Fourth of July Parade, 10 a.m. Concert in Sturges Park, Buffalo 7 pm Cedar Lake Boat parade, 12-3:30 pm	Annandale Music in the Park, Annandale Municipal Park, 6 p.m. Wright County Swappers Meet, Three day Event, (7/5-7/7)	Firecracker 5k, St John's Lutheran Church Annandale, 8 a.m. Annandale Farmer's Market 8 a.m12 p.n. Buffalo Farmer's Market, 8-12 p.m. Annandale Music in the Park, Annandale Municipal Park, 7 p.m.
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
• Sunrise- 5:35 a.m. • Sunset- 9:03 p.m	 Annandale City Council, City Hall, 7 pm Maple Lake School Board Meeting 7 pm 	 Chatham Township Meeting, 7 p.m. American Legion Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Legion Club 	 Hasty-Silver Creek S.C. Meeting, 7 p.m Annandale Chamber Meeting, 11:30 a.m. Maple Lake Lakers vs. Waverly, 7 p.m. 	Waverly Daze, July 11-14 Monticello Farmer's Market, Library Parking Lot, 3:30-7 p.m. Lion's Club Meets, 7 p.m., at the V by HH Sons of the American Legion, 8 p.m. Party in Ellison Park, Monticello, 5-8 p.m. Concert in Sturges Park, Buffalo 7 p.m. Hiking Stanley Eddy Park, 7-8:30 p.m.	Maple Lake Lakers @ Dassel-Cokato, 7 p.m. Heart of the Lakes Cruise in, Downtown Annandale, 5 p.m. Riverfest, Monticello Annandale Municipal Park Concert, 7 p.m.	Annandale Farmer's Market 8 a.m12 p.m. Buffalo Farmer's Market, , 8-12 p.m. Laker's Colf Tournament, TBA, Whispering Pines Golf Course Taste of Monticello, Ellison Park, 10-3 p.m. Art in Ellison Park Monticello, 8-3 p.m. Cedar Lake Conservation Club, Music on the Water, 11:30 a.m6 pm
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
• Sunrise- 5:41 a.m. • Sunset- 8:59 p.m	Annandale School Board Meeting, AES Media Center, 7 pm	Maple Lake City Council Meets, 7:00 p.m Corinna Township Meeting, 7 p.m. Maple Lake Township Meeting, 7 p.m. Albion Township Meeting, 7 p.m. Silver Creek Township Meeting, 7 p.m.	Maple Lake VFW Post 7664, at the Maple Lake Legion, 7 p.m. Maple Lake Lakers @ Howard Lake, 7 p.m.	Wright Saddle Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Monticello Farmer's Market, Library Parking Lot, 3:30-7 p.m. Concert in Sturges Park, Buffalo 7 p.m.	Buffalo Crazy Days, 10-5 p.m. Annandale Music in the Park, Annandale Municipal Park, 7 p.m. Buffalo Community Theater presents "My Fair Lady", Buffalo High School, 7:30 p.m. Maple Lake Lakers vs. Delano, 7 p.m	Buffalo Crazy Days, 10-5 p.m. Annandale Farmer's Market, 8 a.mNoor Buffalo Farmer's Market, 8-12 p.m. Buffalo Community Theater presents "My Fair Lady", Buffalo High School, 7:30 p.m.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
 Full Moon Sunrise- 5:48 a.m. Sunset- 8:53 p.m. Makers and Growers Market, Downtown Maple Lake, 10:30-3:30 p.m. Buffalo Community Theater "My Fair Lady", Buffalo High School, 2 p.m. 			Maple Lake Lakers vs. St. Michael, 7 p.m. Buffalo Community Theater presents "My Fair Lady", Buffalo High School, 7:30 p.m. Wright County Fair starts, Howard Lake	Wright County Fair, Howard Lake Family Picnic in Otsego Park, 6-7:30 p.m. Knights of Columbus Meets Monticello Farmer's Market, 3:30-7 p.m. Buffalo Community Theater "My Fair Lady" Buffalo High School, 7:30 p.m. Concert in Sturges Park, Buffalo 7 p.m.	Wright County Fair, Howard Lake Friday Night Concert Series, Annandale Municipal Park, 7 p.m. Maple Lake Lakers vs. Champlin, 7 p.m. (Ice Cream Night) Buffalo Community "My Fair Lady", Buffalo High School, 7:30 p.m. Family Overnight Camping- Collinwood Campground, 5:00 p.m12 p.m.	August Lure Published Maple Lake Community Guide Inside! • Wright County Fair, Howard Lake • Buffalo Farmer's Market, 8-12 p.m. • Buffalo Community Theater "My Fair lady" Buffalo High School, 7:30 p.m. • Annandale Farmer's Market, 8 a.m12 p.m.
28	29	30	31			
 Sunrise- 5:55 a.m. Sunset- 8:46 p.m. Buffalo Community Theater "My Fair Lady", Buffalo High School, 2 p.m. Maple Lake Lakers vs. St. Michael, 1 p.m (Fan Appreciation) Wright County Fair ends, Howard Lake 						



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