

Lake Country Lure

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ANNANDALE
Advocate

The Maple Lake
MESSENGER

Maple Lake Wine and Spirits: Where they know you by name

By Brenda Erdahl

It's been said that the right drink can enhance any meal and with Christmas right around the corner now is the time to start planning the menu for your next holiday feast.

Maple Lake Wine and Spirit's off Highway 55 East in Maple Lake is the perfect place to begin. 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.

Wine is probably the most popular selection when it comes to pairing with holiday meals. If you are looking to impress your guests with a fun, local wine, General Manager Ang Berthiaume recommends trying something from Carlos Creek's Minnesota Nice series. Their Hot Dish Red is the Alexandria winery's No. 1 selling label and is promoted as pairing well with holiday leftovers but goes well with everything, Berthiaume said. Their You Betcha Blush is another popular pick with its fruity taste and rosé coloring. Then there is Wobegon White, which complements a variety of foods and is sure to please.

If you favor beer over wine, but still want something unique and fitting for the season, you might want to try Dangerous Man Brewing's Imperial Pumpkin Ale, Pecan Brown Ale or Chocolate Milk Stout. Brewed right here in Maple Lake at the Dangerous Man production facility, their seasonal brews are as popular as their standard House IPA.

Lupulin Brewing based in Big Lake is the newest local brewery carried at the Municipal Liquor Store. Also new for the liquor store are Crow River Winery products out of Hutchinson.

If you are looking for something that shouts tradition, Fireball has a new eggnog on the shelves called Yule Nog. Or if you are looking for something completely different, try some of Dangerous Man Brewery's THC cocktails.

The Maple Lake liquor store is also a great place to buy gifts for the hard to shop for on your list this season. They sell gift packs as well as gift cards which are generally very popular this time of year, 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



Assistant Manager Kate Heberling, left and General Manager Ang Berthiaume donated \$4,650 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.

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 \$4,650 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 many customers went over the top in their bids to make sure the fundraiser was as successful as possible. The local fire department uses the funds to purchase needed equipment and is always very appreciative.

Community minded

Maple Lake 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.

They also plan on helping the local public school with the Backpack Buddies program. This program provides families in need with a holiday "basket" filled with generously donated essentials like toilet paper, soaps, deodorants, etc. and all the fixings for a holiday meal and food to keep kids satisfied through the Christmas break. Throughout the year this program also provides backpacks of food every weekend to families struggling to put food on the table.

Last year was the first year the liquor store participated. They set out a collection jar on their counter and in one week collected \$410 to donate to the school's efforts.

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 discount on any wines customers buy to donate to the event's wine pull, plus, staff sees that the wine 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, Carlos Creek and Crow River, you can also find products from 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 still 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. "If you can't find



The Maple Lake Wine and Spirits Wine Club hosted a Battle of the Wine Guys this fall. Pictured are the winners, from left, Pete from Paustis Wine Company and Dom from Palm Bay Wines. The Wine Club hosts numerous fun events throughout the year.

Business Buzz

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something you are looking for, just ask and we'll order it."

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 credit.

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 for the staff at Maple Lake Wine and Spirits to promote the community, which is why they organize a successful Wine Club that currently has 300 members and meets every six to eight weeks. They hold numerous wine tastings throughout the year that are open to the public but offer discounts to members. In September they hosted a Beers Brats and Bourbon night and in October they held a Minnesota Hotdish Night that paired four different types of hotdishes with wines from Crow River and Carlos Creek. In November, they had a fun wine tasting contest. Two of their wine suppliers provided six wines each for the competition that patrons could taste and vote on, Berthiaume said.

To keep up with all the fun activities the Wine Club has planned, watch the liquor store's Facebook Page or sign up for email notifications on the City of Maple Lake website under the Maple Lake Wine and Spirits tab.

"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 business is appreciated

"We want to say thank you to all our customers for shopping locally 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: Christmas Eve from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Christmas Day closed; New Year's Eve from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; New Year's Day closed.

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School SRO is decorated Veteran

From the pages of the Maple Lake Messenger



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It was the summer before Tom Coon's senior year in high school when he walked into the army recruitment office in Hopkins and joined the military.

"Paratrooper school, that's how they got me," he joked. "They asked if I wanted to jump out of airplanes. I said, okay!"

That "okay" led to a 23-year career in the military, 13 1/2 as active-duty army and nine in the reserves. He's been sent overseas three times, including once as leader of a personal security detail for the top ranking general in Iraq, General David Petraeus.

On Monday, November 11, Coon was the featured speaker at the annual Veteran's Day Program hosted by Maple Lake High School. He talk to students and the community about what being a veteran means to him and how the military changed his life.

"I am extremely proud of what I did," he said. "It opened my eyes to the world. I don't know where I'd be if I wasn't in the military."

Today Coon is a deputy with the Wright County Sheriff's Department and School Resource Officer at Maple Lake Schools, but in 1996 he

was just a kid trying to figure out what to do with his life.

"It was a spur of the moment," Coon admitted. "I knew I didn't want to go to college. I got through high school; grades weren't an issue I just didn't want to keep studying. First the Marines called, and I mentioned that when I was a kid, I had sports induced asthma and they said, 'oh, sorry you're disqualified.' So, I walked into the office that had the Army, Navy and Air Force and it just so happened that the army was the first door, so I veered in there and I said I never had asthma."

He started basic training on July 11, 1997 at Fort Benning Georgia, home of the infantry. There he enrolled in Airborne School and got to jump out of airplanes as promised.

After basic training he went to Fort Drum, New York then Fort Carson, Colorado where he developed an interest in law enforcement. Law enforcement, he discovered, had its perks.

"I was in light infantry at the time, so we walked everywhere. Literally we'd see the military police driving by us in their trucks and that looked better than walking," he said.

He also knew that being



Thomas Coon received the Joint Service Achievement Medal along with the Iraqi Campaign Medal for completing deployment to Iraq in 2007. Coon is the featured speaker at this year's Veteran's Day program at Maple Lake High School. The program takes place at 10:15 a.m. in the auditorium on Monday, Nov. 11. The community is welcome to attend. Above, General David Petraeus, left hands Coon the award.

trained as a military police officer offered a better civilian future careerwise, than the infantry did.

In 1999 his unit went on a six-month peace-keeping mission in Bosnia with NATO where they oversaw the resettling of the country after the war. While he was there, he re-enlisted for another three years to become military police. It was momentous for his career, but he'll remember

it for another reason as well. As good luck would have it, his re-enlistment took place in the historic, former Olympic arena in Sarajevo. Although now riddled with bullet holes, in 1984 it was the site of the winter Olympics.

His military police training began in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Eventually he was assigned to Fort Rucker, Alabama where he was a Military Police Platoon Sergeant with

40 soldiers under his command. He also served as a military police investigator and traffic accident investigator.

In 2001, he was training to be a recruiter with the Minneapolis Recruiting Battalion when terrorists linked to the Islamic extremist group al Qaeda hijacked four commercial passenger airplanes and crashed two into the World Trade Center in New York City and another into the Pentagon. It was September 11.

"I joined the army not because of war, I joined the army just because I didn't want to go to college right away and I wanted to make some money. But then after September 11 hit, it was all about continuing to serve. There was a mission now. I wanted to do my part," he said.

Like all the others in that recruitment class he wanted to be back with his unit as they prepared to deploy to Afghanistan. "I intentionally tried to fail my recruitment test," he said. "They didn't even grade it, they just said I passed because recruitment was still an important mission."

He wouldn't get another

chance at deployment until he retired from active duty and joined the reserves in 2006.

In October 2007, Coon was chosen to fill in on a team already deployed to Iraq in need of a single military police officer. The team's mission was to serve as the personal security detail for General David Petraeus, the leader of all U.S. troops in Iraq.

Coon had had one other opportunity to see combat during his career. Back in 1998 a rapid deployment mission had them on a plane to Kuwait, but it was cut short.

"There was a time when Saddam Hussein wouldn't let weapons inspectors back in and my unit was called up as a rapid deployment company to go to the middle east. We were up and gone within three days heading to Kuwait and by the time we got to Germany Saddam caved and let the inspectors in, so they flew us home."

Although they never reached Kuwait, it was an experience Coon and his family is not likely to forget.

(See 'Thomas Coon' Page 4)

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Canadian Pacific Holiday Train returns

The 2024 Holiday Guide is out! Check out the community events planned for the holiday's

This article is from the 2024 Holiday Guide. Many more community events can be found in the latest issue of the Holiday Guide found in the Nov. 27 issue of the Maple Lake Messenger and Annandale Advocate.

By Brenda Erdahl

The Canadian Pacific Holiday Train returns to Central Minnesota this year with stops in Buffalo and Annandale on Saturday, Dec. 14th.

The 1,000-foot train with hundreds of thousands of LED lights is scheduled to arrive at 6 p.m. at the 5th Street NE railway crossing in Buffalo. At 7:30 p.m. it will arrive at Downtown Park in Annandale near the Harris Street West railway crossing. Sometime between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. 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 CP Holiday Train's 26th year of touring. 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.

A typical Holiday Train event goes something like this: The train arrives and pulls to a safe stop in front of the crowd. The stage door lowers, and the band opens with its first song, followed by a brief presentation with the local food bank officials and other dignitaries on stage. Once the presentation is done the band resumes the show, singing a mix of traditional and modern holiday-themed songs, and popular original songs. After the final song the boxcar door closes, and the train is on its way to the next stop.

This year, Columbia Records/Sony Music Nashville artist-songwriter Alana Springsteen is teaming up with Seaforth, an Australian country-pop duo to deliver a toe-tapping Holiday concert that is sure the warm the heart even if it's a cold night outdoors.

The 23-year-old Springsteen has been called by E! News "one of Nashville's most buzzworthy emerging artists," while PEOPLE deems Springsteen "the future of country music." Delivering crossover collaborations with Tiësto and William Black, she's surpassed 221 million



The Holiday Guide can be found in the Nov. 27 issue of the Maple Lake Messenger and Annandale Advocate.

career streams globally.

Named for their hometown of Seaforth in Sydney, the Seaforth duo became known for their smooth harmonies, heartfelt lyrics

and catchy melodies that blend country and pop influences. Their breakout single, "Love That," introduced their signature feel-good sound, quickly earning them a devoted fanbase in both Australia and Nashville.

But the real heart of the Holiday Train isn't the lights or the music. Its true purpose is to fight hunger.

The Holiday Train tours Canada and the US every year to spread holiday cheer and raise money, food and awareness for people struggling with food insecurity. CPKC donates to the local food bank at each stop and encourages all attendees to make a monetary or heart-healthy food donation. Entrance to the show is always free to the public.

Since its inaugural journey in 1999, the CPKC Holiday Train has raised more than \$24.3 million and collected approximately 5.3 million pounds of food for community food banks in Canada and the U.S.

Last year, CPKC donated \$4,500 to the Annandale food shelf which serves the people of Annandale, Maple Lake and South Haven.

DNR EagleCam focuses on a new nest this year

Minnesota DNR Report

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources EagleCam, with viewers in all 50 states and more than 150 countries, will feature a new location and pair of bald eagles when it goes live Thursday. The original EagleCam will also remain on during the coming season.

The new camera will focus on the nesting behavior of a breeding pair of bald eagles that have successfully and consistently nested in the area for at least four years, rearing several broods of eaglets. The original camera will continue to show the territory that includes the previous eagle pair whose nest fell April 2, 2023.

Both cameras can be viewed on the DNR website and on the DNR YouTube channel. The webpage also includes a new video highlighting the installation of the new camera, the work of the DNR Nongame Wildlife Program and how anyone can donate to support the program. Since 2013, the Nongame Wildlife Program has provided the DNR EagleCam as another way to connect people with wildlife.

"While the DNR EagleCam brings Minnesota wildlife into homes and schools in an exciting and educational way, the Nongame Wildlife Program has helped restore and support populations of eagles, loons and many other species," DNR Ecological and Water

Resources Division Director Katie Smith said. "This vital work is supported by donations on our webpage, on state tax forms, and through bequests and other gifts."

The new camera was installed at this new location because it was not possible to run electricity to the original EagleCam pair's new nest. As with the original camera, Xcel Energy provided their services without charge, making this second camera possible.

EagleCam viewers are swept into the intimate lives of breeding birds, providing a virtual experience in nature. Research has shown that wildlife cameras provide the same mental health benefits as experiencing nature in-person.

The DNR EagleCam goes live each November to show the eagle pair courting each other and upgrading their nest. They bring in new nesting material and large sticks each year as a bonding activity. The pair typically increase their activity at the nest as winter progresses and normally by mid-February will have two or three eggs, which the adults incubate for about 35 days. Both adults participate in incubating the eggs and caring for the chicks. Once the chicks hatch, the camera zooms in closely to follow the delicate process of raising bald eagle chicks.



The DNR's EagleCam focuses on the nesting behavior of a breeding pair of bald eagles that have successfully and consistently nested in the area for at least four years.

Photo courtesy of MN DNR

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Get into the Holiday spirit in downtown Maple Lake

Meet Santa and his reindeer on December 7 at Christmas in Maple Lake



Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive by fire truck at 10 a.m. Saturday morning, Dec. 7 outside Sunfish Dental on Birch Avenue and be available for pictures inside the dental clinic until noon.

By Brenda Erdahl

Meet Santa Claus and his reindeer on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9:30 a.m. until noon at Christmas in Maple Lake in downtown Maple Lake.

This will be the 19th year the annual event has been a highlight of the community's holiday festivities. Hosted by the Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce, it takes place outdoors along Division Street and Birch Avenue where families can enjoy kids' activities, snacks, and real-live reindeer. The focal point of the celebration is Santa Claus, who arrives by fire truck to the delight of the waiting children.

This year he'll disembark at Sunfish Dental clinic in the old McHugh building on Birch Ave. After greeting the congregated children, he'll head inside where families can pose for photos with him in the comfort of the heated dental office.

Just down the street in the empty lot, Bluestem Reindeer Ranch of Maple Lake will have a few special guests - Santa's reindeer! This is not a petting zoo, but children will be able to see up close the muscle behind Santa's Christmas Eve deliveries.

Nearby, members of the Maple Lake Royalty Program will be making their special magic reindeer food for children to sprinkle around their yards on Christmas Eve. They will need help and will have stations set up for kids to participate.

Make the Costume Shoppe your first stop for fun activities then check out the other participating downtown businesses for Christmas activities and fun. For instance, the Maple Lake Library will have coloring activities for the children and is a great place to warm up.

Throughout the morning, children will get a thrill from seeing some of their favorite holiday characters mingling with the crowd. In years past Olaf from Disney's "Frozen," paid Maple

Lake a visit along with elves, the Grinch, Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer and a walking Christmas Tree.

Christmas in Maple Lake has been a tradition looked forward to by the children in this community for almost 20 years. For many years it was held inside at the elementary school. A few years ago, organizers moved it downtown to show off the city's unique downtown while promoting local businesses.



Tikes will once again have the chance to see real-live reindeer courtesy of Bluestem Reindeer Ranch and well known holiday characters roaming the streets will give kids a thrill at Christmas in Maple Lake.

Thomas Coon

(From Page 2)

on a five-mile run as a battalion then they would release us for two weeks to go home, but that morning we went for a run and when we got back the Sergeant Major came out and said we got some good news, and we got some bad news. The good news is you're going to be using your combat skills, the bad news is block leave is canceled, start packing your bags."

Outside communication literally stopped on the fort and families who were expecting their soldiers home for Christmas were left for more than a day with no explanation when they didn't show up.

"My mom saw a story on news about Fort Drum soldiers preparing to deploy and she realized I wouldn't make any of my flights home," Coon said.

Coon's deployment to Iraq in 2007, was completely different from that near miss. Neither was it anything like his peace-keeping mission in Bosnia.

"I never dreamed of being a security team leader for the commanding general. That really wasn't on my purview," he said.

Coon was field training with the Wright County Sheriff's office when the call came up and he was given seven days to prepare for deployment. Coon's team was stationed in Iraq's green zone, which was a large area that housed all the embassies, the presidential palaces and the Iraqi administrative defense. Coon's team lived at the embassy where General Petraeus worked. Every morning the general would take a five-minute helicopter ride from his residence at Camp Victory to the embassy and their job was to escort

him around the grounds.

"We went to presidential palaces, met all the Iraqi leadership, it was fun," Coon said, but the green zone was also a well-known target for mortars and rockets.

"The last week we were there, it was Easter 2007, we were getting 20 or 30 mortars a day coming in on us. Whenever the U.S. got close to capturing this guy the attacks would just come in hard. We could hear them coming from the city, so when you heard the mortars being shot you just looked for a bunker. We still had to escort the general around though. We had his vehicles prepped one day and a mortar actually hit the side of the embassy. We were actually laying on the ground covered in dust, and he walked out and just kind of smiled, like 'well, let's get to work.'"

Coon was in Iraq for six months. When he returned to

the states, he took a position in the reserves as an instructor/trainer at Fort Snelling. After one more transfer to the military police training school in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri he officially retired.

"My wife said it was time," he said.

He still misses it sometimes and said for a while after leaving active duty, he "didn't 'know how to function.'" Fortunately, he found a new home with the Wright County Sheriff's Department,

and he even gets to wear what he's most comfortable in, a service uniform. It wasn't until he had children of his own that he considered putting in for an SRO position at a school. Maple Lake was the most desirable assignment, he said, and he had ties here. His grandparents retired to Maple Lake years ago and he has many childhood memories of visiting them at the lake. He also has a lifetime membership at the Maple Lake VFW thanks to his grandfather, a WWII veteran who was an

active member of the local VFW until he passed away last year.

Today Coon's not only the school's SRO, but he's also a

resource to students who, like him as a teenager, don't quite know what to do with their lives, and may be considering a journey with the U.S. military.

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Color the drawing below to enter for a chance to win a **\$25 gift card to Homestyle Country Cafe** or a **subscription to the Annandale Advocate!** Extra copies of the picture are available at any of the businesses listed on this page and online at www.annandaleadvocate.com/CoLUREing. Deadline to drop of picture is **Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2024**. All ages are welcome to enter. Colorings will be judged by the CoLUREing contest sponsor of the month. Winners will be published in the following Lure and will be notified by phone.

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

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



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MORE COLUREING ACTIVITIES!

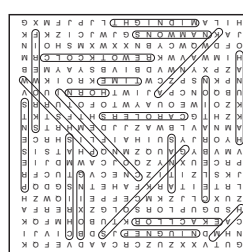
LURE WORD SEARCH

Find the words in the word bank to the right in the puzzle below. Words may be found in any direction including diagonally and may be overlapping each other. The solution is below the word bank.

G U T V X X Z U Z C R C A A D V E F Q K
N H M D N I U G N E P J S D B C I V J I
C A E K A C L L O R K T U B O H M F Q K
H S D G U P L O R S O L G Z X R E R F A
Z U X C L J Z K M C E F P E I I Q W Z H
L R T E I T A R K F A H E T N S G D Q P
J K S L Z I T I Z C N E C V G T U C F R
P R C E U X N Y Z Q O J C A W M D J I E
V M V B Y G A U Q Z M N Q P H A T S I S
H Y O R J Y S U I H A I F L I S H R C E
A M N A V L B W A Z J J D E M H R T S N
K Z H T G C A R O L E R S H T F S T K T
K Z O I W E O U A Y W T O F O T U R R S
U B Q O N C P A J I W T H O R N I U O V
N P K N S P Z C W T I M E K R O I K W W
A Z P X Y N W V D B I V B S Y A Y M E B
H I M W A V W K R E W O T K C O L C R M
O F D W Q W C Y B N X X W X M S H O I N
J A K N A M W O N S G J W J C I Z K F K
H I L A M I D N I G H T L J P J F M X G

WORD BANK

- BOXING
- CAROLERS
- CELEBRATION
- CHRISTMAS
- CLOCKTOWER
- CONFETTI
- FIREWORKS
- HAM
- HANUKKAH
- HORN
- KWANZAA
- MIDNIGHT
- PENGUIN
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- SANTA
- SNOWMAN
- STOCKING
- TIME
- WORSHIP



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2024 December



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 • MN Vikings vs. Arizona Cardinals, 12 p.m. Sunrise: 7:35 a.m. Sunset: 4:35 p.m.	2	3 • Annandale Conservation Club- 7:30 p.m. • South Haven Council Meeting, 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. • Annandale Boys Basketball 7:15 p.m. • Annandale Girls Basketball 5:45 p.m. • Maple Lake Girls Basketball 7 p.m.	4 • Maple Lake Chamber Meeting, 12 p.m.	5 • Legion Riders Club at Legion Club, 7 p.m.	6 • Christ Child Luncheon, St. Ignatius Church • St. Nicholas Day • Maple Lake Boys Irish Basketball vs. Long Prairie, 7 p.m. • Maple Lake Irish Girls Basketball @ St. John's Prep., 7 p.m.	7 • Pearl Harbor Day • Christmas in Maple Lake, Events run 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. • MN Pioneer Park Pioneer Christmas & Meat Raffle, 11-2 p.m. • Deck the Halls, Sturges Park Buffalo, 3-5 p.m. • St. Tim's Craft & Bake Sale, 9-6 p.m.
8 • MN Vikings vs. Atlanta Falcons, 12 p.m. Sunrise: 7:43 a.m. Sunset: 4:33 p.m.	9 • Annandale Council Meeting, City Hall, 7 p.m. • Maple Lake School Board Meets 7p.m • AHS Choir Concert, AHS Auditorium, 7 p.m.	10 • Chatham Township Meeting, 7 p.m. • American Legion Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Legion Club • Maple Lake Schools- Late Start • Maple Lake Boys Basketball 7 p.m. • Maple Lake Irish Girls Basketball 7 p.m.	11 • Hasty-Silver Creek Sportsmen's Club Meeting, 7 p.m • Annandale Chamber Meets, 11:30 a.m.	12 • Sons of the American Legion, 8 p.m. at the Legion Club • Maple Lake Lions, 7 p.m. at The V by HH	13 • Annandale Boys Basketball 7 p.m	14 • Holiday Train, Buffalo 6 p.m. • Holiday Train, Annandale 7:30 p.m. • Main Street Holiday, Annandale, 8-5
15 • Sunrise- 7:49 a.m. • Sunset- 4:34 p.m. • Full Moon • MN Vikings vs. Chicago Bears, 12 p.m.	16 • Annandale SB Meeting, AES Media Center, 7 p.m. • AHS Jazz Tunes & Treats, AHS Commons, 7 p.m. • MN Vikings vs. Atlanta Falcons, 7 p.m.	17 • 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. • MLVFW Post 7664, at The The V, 7 p.m.	18	19 • Wright Saddle Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m. • Maple Lake Legion Auxiliary Meeting, 7pm • Maple Lake Boys Basketball 7 p.m. • Annandale Boys Basketball 7:15 p.m • Annandale Girls Basketball 5:45 p.m.	20 • Wright Saddle Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m. • Maple Lake Legion Auxiliary Meeting, 7pm • Maple Lake Boys Basketball 7 p.m. • Annandale Boys Basketball 7:15 p.m • Annandale Girls Basketball 5:45 p.m.	21 • First day of Winter/Winter Solstice
22 Sunrise: 7:53 a.m. Sunset: 4:37 p.m. • MN Vikings @ Seattle Seahawks, 3:05 p.m.	23 • Maple Lake/Annandale Christmas Break Begins	24 • Christmas Eve	25 • Christmas Day • Hanukkah Begins	26 • Kwanzaa Begins • Knights of Columbus Meeting, St. Timothy Church, 7 p.m.	27	28
29 Sunrise: 7:55 a.m. Sunset: 4:42 p.m. • MN Vikings vs. Green Bay Packers, 12 p.m.	30 • Maple Lake Boy Basketball 2:30 p.m. (Target Center) • Maple Lake Girls Basketball 1 p.m. (Target Center)	31 • New Year's Eve • NYE Ball Drop, Annandale 9 p.m. • **MLWS Holiday wine tasting event*				

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