

Lake Country Lure

MAY 2023

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

ANNANDALE
Advocate

The Maple Lake
MESSENGER

MP Nexlevel/MP Technologies: Looking back at 50 years of success



MP was founded 50 years ago with a backhoe and a dump truck. Today it is a multi-million-dollar, full service, utility contracting operation.

By Brenda Erdahl

With offices around the country and 1,500 employees who place more than 22,000 miles of cable, wire, and pipe per year in 35 different states, it's easy to forget MP Nexlevel's humble beginnings.

Founded in 1973 with a backhoe and a dump truck, MP provided excavation services locally in Minnesota. The company has grown and changed a lot since then, but it still resonates with a feeling of family and inclusiveness that appeals to both its customers and employees.

As MP celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, those who have been with the company for decades and those who are relatively new have been looking back at that inauspicious beginning and are recognizing just how the business arrived at where it is today – a multi-million-dollar, full service, utility contracting operation.

"It was the appetite that we had, our work ethic for sure, which really helped us drive the type of people that we wanted to work with and wanted to create," said Company President Rob Pribyl.

"It's that family feel," said Ashley Osterberg, HR Director. "Not even just that it started with two small town community people, then grew into a group of small-town community people but I think it was those characteristics that started it. Everyone, from customers to co-workers are treated like a neighbor, like family."

It was those genuine relationships and a reputation as a company that gets the job done that put MP on the map and kept it there.

The company also had some welcome breaks along the way. Gary

Carlson, brother-in-law to owner Larry Pribyl and Tim Pribyl, an original founder and long-time general manager, opened the door to a contract with Northwestern Bell, supplementing the phone company's in-house crew with dig-ups and the like. That led to cable TV customers for MP and larger contracts across the Twin Cities metro area and its suburbs. By the late 1970s MP needed a larger headquarters so they acquired a shop in Hamel. It was those first projects that led to extended contracts and further expansion.

In 1999, in response to industry pressures for consolidation and an increased national presence, the original partners agreed to sell MP and become part of a national communication contracting company. After five years and many industry changes, Larry and Tim bought the company back. That led to a second headquarters in Houston, Texas which opened the door to contracts with Centerpoint Energy. With a return to the founders and their focus

on work ethic, relationships and financial growth, the brothers, along with Rob who took the position of Vice-President of Operations and partial ownership in 2006, were able to grow the company 10 times from when they repurchased it in 2004 to 2018.

During that period, they took the opportunity to expand into many other states. Many of those early out-state projects were found in Nebraska, Iowa, the Dakotas and Kansas. By 2012 MP added permanent locations in Iowa, California and Arizona. It was also in the early 2000s that the current Maple Lake headquarters was built on County Road 37 north of town.

As MP's customers have grown and evolved, MP has grown and evolved with them, Rob said. The company's most recent advance came in the form of a contract with a social media giant. MP was hired to build a long-haul fiber line from Albuquerque, New Mexico into Texas. That opened the doors to working on

multiple data center sites for that customer.

MP has never been afraid to take on new challenges or adapt to the changing times. Just like the original founders were not content with just a backhoe and dump truck, the company has always been forward-thinking and willing to evolve with its customers to ensure future opportunities are not lost.

MP markets

MP has three main markets, communication, power, and gas. Communication includes internet and cellular type services while power and gas are more about heating and cooling homes/businesses and keeping the lights on, Rob said. The company's job is to build and maintain the infrastructure of those services across all its territories.

Employment opportunities

With such a large scope and vast territory, MP can offer long-term, sustainable employment opportuni-

ties.

"We have employees who have been with us since almost the beginning. For many it started as a summer job and now they are regional managers and regional vice presidents," Rob said. "So many people have been here longer than 10-30+ years and they've been able to support their families doing this."

The work itself is compelling and challenging, the kind of work where you'll feel like you've really accomplished something at the end of the day, he said.

MP currently has something for everyone, whether you enjoy working locally, traveling or want to relocate.

MP today

In March of 2018, the company ownership was sold to APi Group. Rob stayed on and is currently president. Despite all the changes, MP continues to maintain its local connections and small-town priorities.

MP 1973 to 2023



1973	1985	2012	2018	2023
*2 individuals started MP by offering excavating services locally in Minnesota.	*152 Employees *Multiple crews working in Minnesota.	*518 Employees *18 States *Permanent offices in MN, IA, TX, CA & AZ.	*907 Employees *25 States	*1,500 skilled, experienced, diverse employees working safely in 35 states



PAID ADVERTISEMENT

BEER MONTH

Corona & Modelo
\$15.49 REG. 16.99
12PK BTLs or CANS

Dos Equis Lager
\$14.99 REG. 16.99
12PK BTLs

Jose Cuervo Peach Lemonade
\$13.99 REG. 18.99
1.75L

Seaglass
\$10.99 REG. 13.99
Chardonnay, Cabernet, Sau Blanc, Pinot Grigio, Old Vine Zin

Cutwater RTD
ALL VARIETIES 4PK CANS
\$10.99 REG. 12.99

Cayman Jack
12PK CANS
\$15.99 REG. 16.99

Dangerous Man Brewing
BREWED IN MAPLE LAKE
** Now Available **

www.mlwine-spirits.com

320.963.3715
Next to Cenex in Maple Lake
901 State Hwy. 55 East

Mon-Thur: 9 am - 9 pm | Fri-Sat: 9 am - 10 pm | Sun: 11 am - 4 pm

Check out our
High Efficiency Package
Install Special

A&A

HEATING AND AIR

Small Locally Owned Business
with a Lower than Average Price

WOW!

\$29.99

AC Tune-Up
Spring Special

"You owe it to yourself to give us a call!"

763-999-1872

Don't let fishing opener catch you unprepared



Watch the Annandale Advocate and Maple Lake Messenger for your 2023 Fishing Opener resource guide set to come out on May 10th and make the best of this year's fishing season.

By Brenda Erdahl

The fishing opener is as much a holiday as Thanksgiving or The Fourth of July for many Minnesotans. It's been celebrated annually since 1948, when the first Governor's Fishing Opener was conducted at Wahkon on Mille Lacs Lake.

Every May on the Saturday two weeks before Memorial Day, half-a-million Minnesotans take to their lakes, rivers, and streams to kick off the walleye, sauger and northern pike seasons. This year fishing opener falls on Saturday, May 13

Heart of the Lakes Fishing Opener guide

As the big day approaches, anglers can prepare by reading up on

tried-and-true techniques and tips by local anglers and DNR updates in the Heart of the Lakes Fishing Opener guide, a publication by the Annandale Advocate and Maple Lake Messenger.

Learn something new from local angler Jerry Carlson as he shares his experiences fishing the local lakes, see if there are any new DNR regulations, find out more about the lakes you fish on in the Area Lakes Profile page plus maps and much more. It's a handy source of information for the novice and experienced angler aiming for a successful fishing season in the Heart of the Lakes. For additional resources, check out the DNR's fishing page at mndnr.gov/fishing. There you can find answers to questions like:



Local angler, Jerry Carlson shares his experiences on walleye angling.

What species can I fish for? What kind of bait is legal? What kind of

fish can I keep?

The DNR fishing page also includes the 2023 Minnesota Fishing Regulations booklet in English, Hmong, Karen, Somali, and Spanish, plus an online version of the regulations in English that lets users browse the regulations by choosing topics. People can request that a free copy of the regulation booklet in all the available languages be mailed to them by calling the DNR's Information Center at 651-296-6157 or 888-646-6367 or by emailing info.dnr@state.mn.us, and print versions in English are available where DNR licenses are sold. Before you hit the open water, May 13th, make sure you are prepared to make it the best fishing opener yet.

Memorial Day is a time to reflect and remember

By Brenda Erdahl

Each year on the last Monday of May, Americans celebrate Memorial Day. Not to be confused with Veterans Day, Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving their country. Veteran's Day, on the other hand, celebrates the service of all U. S. military veterans.

Communities honor the sacrifices of their fallen soldiers at services, picnics, and events. In Maple Lake, the American Legion Post 131 and VFW Post 7664 hold a 10 a.m. service in the Community Park. The honor guard, Maple Lake High School band and speakers set up near the Veterans Memorial as they have in years past for a service in remembrance of fallen soldiers.

The program includes songs by the Maple Lake High School Band, prayers, a 21-gun salute and words from a featured speaker. A list of servicemen and women killed in



Fallen soldiers are honored at Maple Lake's service with prayers, music and a 21-gun salute.

action is read, along with the names of local veterans who have passed away since the 2022 Memorial Day service.

Memorial Day has a rich history and one that's worth revisiting as the nation prepares to honor the sacrifices made by its military personnel over the centuries. Here are some interesting facts about Memorial Day:

- Freed slaves played a role in the establishment of Memorial Day. The American Civil War is the deadliest military conflict in American history, as the Union and the Confederacy each suffered more than 800,000 casualties by the time the war ended in 1865. According to History.com, as the war drew to a close, hundreds of Union soldiers who were being held as prisoners of war died and were buried in a mass grave in a Confederate prison camp in South Carolina. After the Confederate surrender, more than 1,000 now-freed slaves honored those recently deceased Union soldiers during a ceremony in which they sang hymns and distributed flowers. The ceremony was dedicated to the fallen soldiers and served as

a precursor to what is now celebrated as Memorial Day.

- Confederate soldiers were honored, too. Confederate losses during the Civil War outnumbered Union losses, and those losses were not forgotten



Maple Lake will hold a Memorial Day Service in the morning on Monday, May 29 at the Community Park.

by southerners who survived the war. History.com notes that, in 1866, the Georgia-based Ladies Memorial Association, one of many similar organizations to arise in the aftermath of the war, pushed for a day to honor fallen Confederate soldiers. In fact, these efforts are believed to have influenced General John A. Logan. In 1868, General Logan, a Civil War veteran who was then serving as commander-in-chief of a group of Union veterans, ordered the decoration of Union graves with flowers on May 30. The day would ultimately be known as "Memorial Day."

- It took a long time for Memorial Day to become a federal holiday. Despite tracing its origins to the immediate aftermath of the Civil War, Memorial Day did not become an official federal holiday until 1971, more than a century after the war



ended. This is the same year the holiday was officially designated as taking place on the last Monday in May. The designation has periodically drawn the ire of veterans and military supporters who suggest it is now more widely seen as the unofficial beginning to summer and not a day in which the sacrifices of fallen U.S. soldiers are honored to the extent that they should be.

- Debate exists about which town has the longest history of celebrating Memorial Day. A handful of towns claim to be the first celebrants of Memorial Day. That debate figures to continue in perpetuity, but History.com notes that Waterloo, New York, was officially recognized by U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson as the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1966. Doylestown, Pennsylvania, and Rochester, Wisconsin are some other towns that claim to have celebrated Memorial Day since the mid-1860s.

Memorial Day has a rich history that highlights the importance of honoring the men and women who have given their lives while in service of the United States military.

Hedlund Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
All your plumbing needs!
We also do septic tank pumping.



Darrell Hedlund
320-286-2368

MOVA NAWCA Master Lic 08209PM

CALL THE TOP DOG



DeZiel
HEATING & A/C, INC.

www.DeZielvac.com
763-684-3965

• Residential • Heating • Cooling • Sales • Service

JUNCTION TOWING
RUFFALO, MN



763-682-2033

Junction Towing – 24 Hour Hotline

Light ★ Medium ★ Heavy Duty Towing
24 HOUR SERVICE

MVP
NEXLEVEL, LLC
POWERED BY API GROUP

CAREERS BUILT HERE

Complete solutions for the following markets

► Communications ► Power ► Gas



APPLY TODAY AT
mpnexlevel.com **320-963-2400**

• PLUMBING • HEATING • COOLING • WATER CONDITIONING
ALL-SEASON SOLUTIONS



Follow our projects on facebook and Instagram

EMERGENCY SERVICE

SOLUTIONS
PLUMBING & MECHANICAL LLC

Call today!
320-267-8591

CLEARWATER, MN • AL.Evavold@solutionsplumbingmech.com

YEAR-ROUND SAVINGS

Maple Lake
WINE & SPIRITS
www.mlwine-spirits.com

Join today
Great Discounts with
Wine Club
SAMPLINGS throughout the year!



Join **Lucky Irish**
OUR MEMBERS **save**

Ask us for details!
FIND US ON FACEBOOK

MILITARY DISCOUNT
Receive **10% Off!**
Thank you for your service!

901 STATE HWY. 55 E.
Maple Lake
320.963.3715

EVERY MONDAY SENIOR CITIZEN DAY 10% OFF! MUST BE Over age 60

Mon-Thur 9am - 9pm Fri-Sat 9am - 10pm Sun 11am - 4pm

SPRING INTO ACTION

Build Confidence
Increase Strength
Boost Self Esteem
Sharpen Focus
Elevate Fitness
Improve Stamina



POWERED BY API GROUP

DOJO KARATE

MIGHTY DRAGONS CLASSES
AVAILABLE FOR KIDS AGES 3+

Four Classes & Uniform
Break a Board Earn your White Belt

Limited Availability
Reserve a Spot Today!

DOJO KARATE \$29
EXPIRES 12.31.23

Visit DojoKarate.com for a FREE Class - 763.684.1000

• Buffalo • Monticello • Maple Grove • Rogers • Elk River • Medina • Waconia

100 Women Who Care gives thousands to Wright County Frontline Outreach

A life changing local non-profit turns your \$100 donation into \$10,000.

By Brenda Erdahl

It was noon Friday, Feb. 24, lunchtime at the V by HH in Maple Lake and one-by-one the women started walking in. The previous day's snowstorm kept some of the regulars at home, but there was still a good crowd. Professional women, retired women, mothers, daughters, friends from neighboring cities were gathering for their quarterly ritual – they would have lunch together, listen to a speaker from a local charitable organization then pool their resources (\$100 each) to make a sizeable donation to that organization. They are known as 100 Women Who Care and over the past seven years, have raised \$146,000 for Wright County non-profits.

Tara Howard of Maple Lake arrived early Friday to chat with women she's gotten to know through the organization before enjoying lunch with them and the keynote speaker. She's been part of the group since 2021 and said it's a great way to give back to the community and make a larger impact. All of her money stays in Wright County, which she appreciates as well.

The simplicity of 100 Women Who Care is at the core of its very brilliance. There are no volunteer hours and no soliciting for money, instead a group of 100 women get together for lunch four times a year where they enjoy a



100 Women Who Care of Wright County is a simple way to give. There are no volunteer hours and no soliciting for money, instead a group of 100 women get together for lunch four times a year where they enjoy a moving presentation from a pre-approved, local charitable organization and write a check for \$100.

moving presentation from a pre-approved, local charitable organization and write a check for \$100. The recipient organization leaves with \$10,000 and the women leave with the feeling of having made a real impact in their community. It's a simple, no-nonsense approach to giving that has attracted women

from cities throughout Wright County, including Maple Lake, Annandale, Monticello and Buffalo since the group's inception in the fall of 2016.

Kara Stonecipher of Buffalo has been a member for three quarters now. She said she likes that a committee searches out reputable non-profits in the community for her donation. Many of the organizations, she never knew existed.

Jenny Carlson of Buffalo remembers the quarter a woman from Wrapped in Love spoke. Wrapped in Love is a Buffalo organization that collects clothing for children going into foster care in Wright County. "I didn't know this, but often these kids go into foster care with just a backpack and the clothes on their back," Carlson said. "Wrapped in Love has this boutique that's set up really cute and the kids get to go there and shop. The stories she told; I don't

The Maple Lake **MESSENGER**

From the pages of the Maple Lake Messenger. MapleLakeMessenger.com/subscribe

think anyone here was without tears in their eyes."

Kelli Staut of Buffalo was on the other side of the coin when she first heard about 100 Women Who Care. She was part of the Herd Winter Drumline, a non-profit struggling to make ends meet after COVID cancelled their main fundraising activities. Carlson told her about 100 Women Who Care, her group applied and was accepted. The next thing she knew, she was presenting Herd Winter Drumline to a group of ladies who had committed to give thousands of dollars. Their generosity made such a difference, she decided she wanted to be a part of that.

"It's pretty cool that your \$100 can turn into thousands of dollars, plus you get to meet all kinds of people from different communities. It's nice to see people from all the communities coming together," Carlson said.

Every quarter, a new charitable organization is chosen based on their application. All Local 501(c)3 non-profits in Wright County are encouraged to apply. To ensure that a variety of types of organization receive funding, the group has created themes. For instance, the theme for Quarter 1 was Senior and Community, Quarter 3's theme is Health and Wellness and Quarter 4's theme is Youth and Education. Quarter two, the next one in 2023 has no theme which means any 501(c)3 non-profit can apply. The deadline is Friday, April 28 and the luncheon is scheduled for Friday, May 19. Applications should be emailed to 100womenwhocaremn@gmail.com. A Recipient Committee reviews the applications, researches the organizations, and picks the one that best meet the group's goals. A large part of the criteria is considering what cause will make the women feel like their membership is worthwhile. Friday's presenter was Tammy Deringer from Wright County Frontline Outreach.

Wright County Frontline Outreach

Wright County Frontline Outreach (WCFO) is a non-profit made up of first responders in Wright County who, because of their jobs, are in a unique position to interact with and identify people in need. The idea for the organization was contrived by Mike McGill, a sergeant with the Wright County Sheriff's Office who had on many occasions seen deputies take money out of their own pockets to pay for a hotel room to get a fire or domestic abuse victim through the night, provide a warm meal to someone living on the streets or find warm clothing for someone who didn't have attire appropriate for the weather, Deringer said. McGill saw that Wright County first responders were filling an important need, and he wanted to create something that would allow them to make an even bigger impact. According to Deringer, in 2022, WCFO helped more than 130 individuals/families in Wright County with food in the form of meals, groceries and gift cards; diapers, medical supplies, clothing and fuel.

Fuel was big in 2022 and into 2023, Deringer said. Deputies helped many people stranded on the side of the road by going and buying fuel for them to get to the next gas station. "There was a woman who was pulled over because her car was not safe to be on the road.



Join 100 Women Who Care
Learn about life changing non-profits in the area and turn your \$100 donation into \$10,000.
How to join
Email 100womenwhocaremn@gmail.com for more information.

She was a single mom just trying to get to her job. She said, 'I don't have anything else, I can't afford anything else. If I don't get to my job, I can't afford food.' Our organization paid to have the repairs done to her car to make it safe and road worthy so now she can get to her job," Deringer said. Deringer shared other stories of good deeds that were made possible or more impactful because of WCFO and contributions like the one being made by 100 Women Who Care. And many other local non-

profits have similar stories to tell. "It's a great feeling to have my \$100 turn into thousands of dollars," said Lori Hegle, yet another satisfied member of Wright County's 100 Women Who Care.
Subscribe
Subscribe to the Maple Lake Messenger to read more informative articles like this one. Call 320-963-3813 for more information or visit us online at maplelakemessenger.com

– Brenda Erdahl

Oakdale Apartments
200 Oakdale Circle, Annandale, MN
Elderly (62 or older) or Disabled
1 Bedroom Unit Available Immediately
Heat, Water, Trash Removal
Laundry, Digital antenna incl.
Rent is \$535-\$670 depending on income.
Security Deposit is \$150
Call Tammy/Lorraine @ (320) 260-0267



"INTEGRITY PROPERTY MANAGEMENT IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND PROVIDER."



Starting Wage
\$25 per hour

Transit Driver Career Fair

Excellent Benefits Package!

Saturday
May 6th, 2023
9:00 am to 2:00 pm

115 COMMERCE CIRCLE, BUFFALO

Full-time & Part-time Openings

Here are the primary driving shifts available (Monday – Friday)

(PT) 6:00 am - 10:00 am	(FT) 11:00 am - 6:00 pm
(FT) 6:00 am - 1:00 pm	(PT) 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Call toll-free 1-888-743-3828

with any questions! More info available online at www.TrailblazerTransit.com

Trailblazer Transit

Seeking

Flexible, hardworking individuals with positive attitude and professional mindset to provide demand response public transit service in Wright County and neighboring areas.

Refreshments

Complimentary brats, hot dogs, and treats, so bring your family to enjoy and learn more!

Tour the Facility

Apply in Person

Same Day Walk-in Interviews

WELCOME HOME!

Pleasant Vista in Annandale provides luxurious, upscale 1 & 2-bedroom apartment living that includes:

- Granite Counter Tops
- Washer & Dryer - in unit
- Stainless Steel Appliances
- Walk-in shower – Tubs in two bedroom
- Patio / Balcony with beautiful scenic views

Annandale Health & Community Services
Care from the heart

www.pleasantvistaseniorliving.org

Rent Credit of \$1800/Mo.

after 6 months if you reserve by February 1!

320-274-5031

Visit us online for a full list of amenities and further details!

CLEAN & DRY CARDBOARD?

WE NOW ACCEPT FREE OF CHARGE
HOURS: M-F 7AM-5PM

VONCO

15301 140th Ave. SE, Becker Township
763-262-8662 VoncoUSA.com

"Serving ALL your car repair needs"

Need an Oil Change?
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

520 DIVISION STREET WEST
MAPLE LAKE
Monday-Friday:
7AM-5PM
320-963-2060

LUBE & CAR CARE CENTER

HOWARD'S

Since 1961
Marv & Buck
Howard, Owners

PLUMBING, HEATING & AC, INC.

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

WIRSBO IN FLOOR HEATING ~ HIGH EFFICIENCY BOILERS
TEMPSTAR HIGH EFFICIENCY HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
WATER HEATING ~ WATER SOFTENERS

www.howardsplumbing.com • 274-8913 or 236-2102

Master Plumber License Marv, 058229-PM; Buck, 063048-PM
Three Generations, Licensed, Bonded, Insured • 715 Norway Dr., Annandale

SALES & SERVICE

Serving all your outdoor power equipment needs!
www.mmexpresssales.com
M-F: 8AM-5PM • Sat: 8AM-12PM

MAPLE LAKE: 320-963-8000	BUFFALO: 763-682-5252
BIG LAKE: 763-263-6000	BRAINERD: 218-829-4699
ST. CLOUD: 320-251-7478	

KICK OFF SUMMER in downtown Maple Lake

By Brenda Erdahl

It's been said that for a small town, Maple Lake has a lot to offer. That reputation is due in part to three large events that annually attract thousands of people to town – The Gearhead Get Together, the St. Patrick's Day festival and the Ice Fishing Contest. The newly formed Small Business Group has added a fourth big event that will have people oohing and awing over the ingenuity of this small town all over again.

Starting on May 21 and continuing one Sunday out of every month through October, downtown Maple Lake will play host to the Makers and Growers Market. Fine artisans and local growers will set up their wares under tents lined back-to-back down Birch Avenue from Pagel Law to Star Street starting at 10:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Already the group has 30 unique vendors lined up for the first event.

"We're going to flood the streets with booths; it's gonna be like Gearhead all over again," said Denise Blizil, one of the event's organizers.

The whole concept of the market is to draw attention to Maple Lake's small yet unique and varied business community and attract more creative businesses to the area, said organizer Scott Chantland.

"It's been phenomenal the reaction we are getting from this," said Blizil. "It's going to be a carnival."

In addition to the 30 plus vendors there will be, live music from the acoustic trio, Shotgun Mafia, yard games, children's crafts and face painting and an assortment of food trucks including Debbie Wurm's T-bomb trailer, the Pork Chop Guys, Sara Liebeckle's Cream Machine plus mini-doughnuts, shaved ice, cheese curds and corn dogs. The Maple Lake Lions will also be on hand with grilled burgers and fries.

To meet their big goals, this first year the group decided to wave admission fee for vendors. Instead, they are asking for a donation of an item \$25 or more in value which the group will auction off at a fundraising event next February. There is also no admission for shoppers.

So far, the group's plan has worked beautifully, attracting a diverse selection of high-quality local vendors. Here are a few samples

Makers and Growers Market

10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

- Sunday, May 21
- Sunday, June 11
- Sunday, July 16
- Sunday, August 13
- Sunday, September 17
- Sunday, October 15

Shop fine artisans and local growers, enjoy food and live music in downtown Maple Lake one Sunday a month through October on the following dates



to whet your appetite:

- Molly Drossel, owner of Cocoa Maas in Big Lake will delight your sweet tooth.
- The Simple Gourmet out of Saint Michael aims to make it easy for everyone to become a great cook with flavorful, convenient, high quality and unique products. Most are also gluten-free.
- The Butchery of Maple Lake is a hometown favorite known for its fresh cuts, award winning smoked meats. With the grilling season upon us, now is the time to shop.
- KTZ Wood Laser-Engraving is a small family and veteran owned company that specializes in laser engraving and wood turning.
- Cashman Forgeworks provides high quality, hand-made knives and unique jewelry.

Other vendors scheduled for the May 21 Makers and Growers Market includes: CBD of Maple Lake, Steph Ellingson canned goods and flowers, Sweet Stop Home Bakery, garden vegetables from Kelly Edmondson, eggs and veggies from Andrea McBrady, breads, bagels and cookies from Heather Willey, Beckah and Matt's mushrooms, herbs and juice, Needs Power, Jon & Ashley Vega's honey and brownies, Kaehler & Adam Canned Goods & Art, Joe Pavlik Painting, HPF Originals, Gaye Butcher's Fiber Arts, Scarves and Rugs, Cindy Cowen's rolled paper art, Laurel O'Neil's homemade candles and bath salts, paintings and pottery from Pamela Kaskinen, Suzanne Kolbinger's stained glass works, Laura and Ken Neeser's

wood board quilts, Massage Therapist Ashley Davis, sculptures and jewelry by Heidi and Randy Schmidt, Jessi Spike's bath products and baked goods, Tie Dye and Concrete, jewelry and bags by Jill Demisse, Kara Steele's wood-working and Travis Swen's tray boards.

Chantland and Jennifer Smail, local business owners, have long talked about hosting some sort of market to draw people to the community and downtown seemed the most logical place to do it. For a while there had been a farmer's market in the empty lot on the corner of Birch and Division Street, but that ended some time ago. There was talk of opening another farmers market, but that's hard because produce is so seasonal here in Minnesota, Smail said. Opening the event to fine artisans and local growers gives them many more options.

Makers and Growers is a subcommittee of the Small Business Group newly formed last fall under the Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce to create new events, and support already

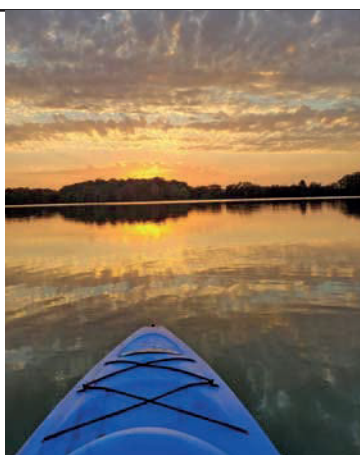
established events with the goal of boosting Maple Lake's economy. For instance, next winter they hope to support and expand The Chamber's Christmas in Maple Lake by adding a vintage snowmobile show.

The Small Business Group meets monthly and currently has about 20 members. Its underlying goal is to encourage conversation between the small businesses in the community and exchange ideas. Its official mission statement is: To promote the growth and the strength of small businesses by creating an inviting business friendly environment while working with all Maple Lake businesses, the Maple Lake Chamber, City Hall and the community as a whole.

See more exciting articles on upcoming events and opportunities this spring and summer in the Lifestyle, a local entertainment guide published May 3 in the Messenger and Advocate.

Calling all area photographers

Challenge a friend or family member and enter before July 1st. The photo at right was taken by Becky Potter of Maple Lake, winner of last year's contest with the picture titled "Summer Solitude."



By Brenda Erdahl

The 2023 Maple Lake Area Community guide is almost here, and the race is on for the best photo in town! 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 by July 1 and your image could be on the front cover of this four-color, high gloss community guide in 2023.

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 choice.

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.

With you every step of the way

LAKE CENTRAL
BANKING • INSURANCE • INVESTMENTS

www.lakecentralbank.com • service@lakecentralbank.com

OFFICE PHONE: Annandale 320-274-8216 Clearwater 320-558-2271 Maple Lake 320-963-3163

Bank On The Go. Get Our App Today!

Do you have an organization or business in the Maple Lake Area?

Shop LOCAL "You" Helping Yourself

JOIN THE **Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce**

www.MapleLakeChamber.com

A Membership for Local Business and Organizations

We'd love to hear from you!

Email us at treasurer@maplelakechamber.com or call Kathy Hennen at 320-963-3612

LaTour Construction Inc.
Maple Lake MN
Equal Opportunity Employer, Est. 1976

Union Contractor is accepting applications for operators/laborers on sewer & water construction crews. Experience preferred, but not required. Metro scale union wages. Full benefits. Download application at www.LaTourConstruction.com or pick one up at the office. Mail/email/deliver completed application to:

LaTour Construction Inc.
2134 County Road 8 NW
Maple Lake MN 55358
320-963-5993
kristi@latourconstruction.com

CAP Custom Homes

CHECK OUT OUR QUALITY CRAFTSMANSHIP
CAPCUSTOMHOMES.COM

- Design
- Build
- Renovate

We work hard to make your dreams a reality!

Follow our projects on facebook and Instagram

Alex Evavold Owner/Licensed General Contractor
al.evavold@capcustomhomes.com 320-267-8591

LIGHT BULBS & MORE, INC

FOR HOME, FARM, OFFICE & WAREHOUSE

We carry a wide variety of Light Bulbs
LED • FLUORESCENT • SODIUM • QUARTZ • AND MORE

Large Selection of Lights and Electrical Supplies
- If we don't have it - we will find it!

We can fix almost any lamp or light fixture
- If we can't fix it you don't pay!

Downtown Maple Lake • Monday-Friday 8am to 5pm • 320-316-2500

MONUMENTS & MORE!

WELCOME TO THE FARM
The Cunninghams EST. 1982

VERGIN

Personalize Pottery, Rocks, Mirrors, Gifts, & Much More!

Engraving available for everything from gravestones to piggy banks! We offer many products to beautify homes and cherish memories.

Darwin Monument 320-693-5902
116 Highway 12, Darwin, MN 55324
www.darwinmonument.com

LAKE Country Lure COLUREING CONTEST

COLOR ME FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A SWEET PRIZE!

Color the drawing below and bring it to the CoLUREing sponsor of the month **ANNANDALE ADVOCATE** for a chance to win a \$25 gift card to Sweet Escape 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, May 17, 2023**.

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

THE COLUREING CONTEST SPONSOR THIS MONTH IS

ANNANDALE ADVOCATE

Drop Entries off at:
73 Oak Ave. S, Annandale
320-274-3052

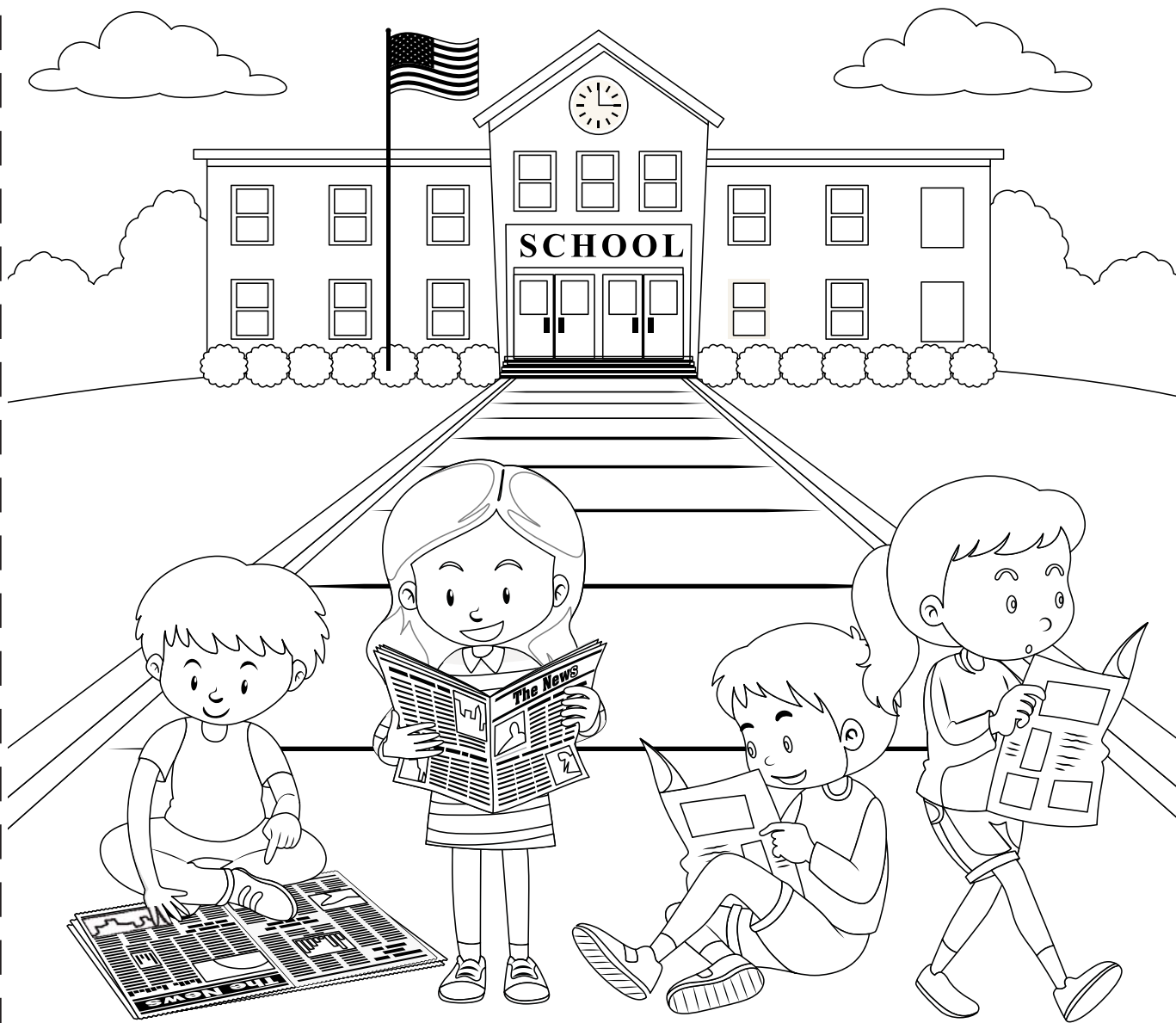
Hours: Mon., Wed. & Thurs. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Fri. 9 a.m.- Noon; Drop box available 24/7



ENTRY INFORMATION

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

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



CONGRATULATIONS COLURERS, YOU'VE WON!

HARVEY FRANK
(\$25 Gift Card)

CHASE CHEW
(1-Year Subscription to the Advocate)

MORE FUN!

UNSCRAMBLURE

Unscramble the letters to determine the words.

E S I S U

L H D E I E N A

T R E L I A C

NUMBER CRUNCHER

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

			(+)
1			10
			11
9			24
(+)	12	15	18

ANSWERS

Unscramble-Lure answer:
Issue
Headline
Article

7	8	6
9	3	2
5	4	1

MCDONALD'S OF ANNANDALE

• Paynesville
• Buffalo
• Monticello

i'm lovin' it

274-5958 211 Elm Street W., Annandale

**Like a good neighbor,
State Farm is there.®**

David C. Burd, Agent
10 Oak Ave. S
Annandale MN 55302-0306
Bus: 320-274-3185
www.davidcburd.com

Great home & auto rates for any budget.

State Farm Fire and Casualty Company
State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL

Laketown Dental

• NEW PATIENTS ALWAYS WELCOME!
• CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Family • Implant • Cosmetic • Orthodontics • Invisalign

Dr. Eric & Dr. Meghan Rambow
www.laketowndental.com
300 Park St E, Annandale, MN 55302
320-274-8555

With rewards for safe behavior that protects what matters most, rather than penalties for what doesn't go quite right. And with the support you need, every step of the way. For your car. Your home. For your unique life.

Dream fearlessly with American Family Insurance. Contact me today.

A "TAKE SOME OF THE WORRY OUT OF LIFE" POLICY

Alyssa Radisewitz Domagala, Agent
99 Oak Ave. N, Annandale
aradisew@amfam.com
Bus: (320) 274-5900
alyssadomagalaagency.com

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. & Its Operating Companies.
American Family Life Insurance Company, 6000 American Parkway,
Madison, WI 53783 ©2020 017720 - 1120 - 12163928

IN HOT WATER Coffee Shop
ANNANDALE, MN

Stop by for your breakfast brew and a treat or two.

- Espresso
- Sodas
- Tea
- Scones
- Slushies
- Cookies

See us on Facebook for updates & Events

320-274-6828
20 Cedar St. E, Annandale
InHotWaterCoffee.com

Breakfast • Lunch • Broasted Chicken-Our Specialty

Homestyle Country Cafe

- Dine In Or Take Out
- Homemade Soups Daily
- Featuring Casual Dining
- Home Cooking
- Homemade Pie

Hours: Mon-Sat 7 am-3 pm,
Sun 7 am-1 pm
-OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK-
95 Elm St. East • Hwy 55 • Annandale, 274-1404

LAKE CENTRAL

BANKING • INSURANCE • INVESTMENTS

www.lakecentralbank.com
service@lakecentralbank.com

SUBWAY eat fresh.

We cater for ALL Occasions!!!

Open 7 Days a Week:
8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Hwy. 55 • Annandale
320.274.7100

- Birthdays
- Anniversaries
- Reunions
- Graduation Parties
- And More...

TRUCK MATE TOPPERS

- Tonneau Covers
- Rock Tamer Mud Flaps
- Compustar Remote Starts
- Brush Guards
- WeatherTech Floor Liners
- Running Boards

540 Elm St. E, Annandale, MN 320.274.3008
Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sat. By Appointment only

www.truckmatetoppers.com

A-1 MARINE, INC.

320-274-8227
WWW.A1MARINEINC.COM

HIGHWAY 55 WEST,
ANNANDALE, MN 55302

BRIDAL FASHION DIAMONDS
CUSTOM DESIGN ON-SITE REPAIR

Miller's
JEWELRY

Open Tues-Sat
Downtown Annandale
www.millers-jewelry.com

YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR NEWSPAPER,
YOUR LIFE!

ANNANDALE Advocate

320-274-3052
Downtown, Main St., Annandale
www.annandaleadvocate.com

2023 May



May 29th
is Memorial Day



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	• May Day National Mental Health Awareness Month	• Annandale Conservation Club- 7:30 p.m. • South Haven City Council 6:30 p.m. • Silver Creek Township Meeting, 7 p.m. • Corinna Township Meeting, 7 p.m.	• Maple Lake Chamber Meets, 11:30 a.m.	• Legion Riders Club Meets 7 pm	○ Full Moon • Cinco De Mayo • Bear Hunt Lottery Deadline	• Kentucky Derby • Annandale Prom • Career Fair 9am-2pm See ad on page 3 • Smelt Fry 4:30-7pm So.Haven Fire Hall • Annandale All City Garage Sale
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Sunrise- 5:58 a.m. Sunset- 8:30 p.m.	• Annandale City Council, City Hall, 7 p.m. • Maple Lake School Board Meeting 7 p.m.	• 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	• Hasty-Silver Creek Sportsmen's Club Meeting, 7 p.m. • Annandale Chamber Meeting, 11:30 a.m.	• Lion's Club Meeting, 7 pm, the V by HH • Sons of the American Legion, 8 p.m. • Monticello City Wide Garage Sales, 5/11-5/14	• Maple Lake Lakers vs. Monticello/Waverly, 7 p.m. • American Red Cross Blood Drive, Annandale United Methodist church, 10-4 p.m.	• Fishing Opener • Maple Lake City Clean Up Day
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Mother's Day Sunrise- 5:49 a.m. Sunset- 8:38 p.m.	• Annandale School Board Meeting, AES Media Center, 7 p.m.	• 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. • Friends of the Library Meeting	• Maple Lake VFW Post 7664, at the Maple Lake Legion, 7 p.m.	• Maple Lake Grad Salute Deadline • Wright Saddle Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m. • M.L. Legion Auxiliary Meeting, 7 p.m.	• Annandale High School Graduation, 7 p.m.	• Armed Forces Day • Goat Yoga at Otsego Co.Park, 9-10 a.m. • Delano Community Expo, 9-1 p.m. Riverside Commons Building • Fountain Hill Wine Run 5k, Delano, 6 pm
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
• Makers and Growers Market, Downtown Maple Lake, 10:30-3:30 p.m. • Minnesota Pioneer Park, Pancake Breakfast, 8 a.m. Sunrise- 5:41 a.m. Sunset- 8:46 p.m.		• Wright County Snowmobile Association Meeting - American Legion, 7:30 p.m.	• Maple Lake Lakers vs. Maple Plain, 7 p.m.	• Knights of Columbus Meeting, St. Timothy Church, 7 p.m. • Monticello Farmer's Market, Library Parking Lot, 3:30-7 p.m.	• American Red Cross Blood Drive, Buffalo Covenant Church, 9-3p.m.	JUNE Calendar Published
28	29	30	31			
Sunrise- 5:36 a.m. Sunset- 8:53 p.m.	Memorial Day- No School Maple Lake		• Maple Lake Lakers vs. Dassel-Cokato, 7 p.m.			

Community Calendar Sponsors

NOW OPEN

Paws & Claws Grooming

—Make an Appointment—
763-228-0614
M-F: 9am - 5pm
Sat: 9am - 12pm
Sun: Closed

Cathy Marquette & Katie Payne
Pet Groomers

HELP HAS ARRIVED!

—Located in Downtown Maple Lake @ 28 Birch Ave. South

Friends of the
MAPLE LAKE
Library

Visit your
Maple Lake Library

Monday & Friday: 12-6 • Wednesday: 12-8
Saturday: 10-1
Downtown Maple Lake
320.963.2009

Love your Community Find your Home

Ada Dittberner
REALTOR®
952.999.0949

fishMLS®
realty

Surprise someone special with
A Gift Subscription
E-Sub or Newspaper-Sub Available

Advocate
The Maple Lake
MESSENGER

www.AnnandaleAdvocate.com 320-274-3052
www.MapleLakeMessenger.com 320-963-3813

Maple Lake Public Schools
Independent School District 0881

ML IRISH

Lifelong learning

- Early Ed - 0-5 AGE DATA CENSUS
- Kidville - SCHOOL AGE CARE
- Wee Irish Preschool
- Community Use of Facility
- Community Education
- Early Childhood Family Ed - ECFE

Community Ed 320.963.5991
Early Childhood Ed 320.963.7453
Kidville 320.963.6415

\$50 ADVERTISE ALL YEAR PER MONTH

Call 320-963-3813

Advertise in your Community Calendar
Update your space Monthly! Less Than \$1.65 per day

RAFFLE TICKETS

If your organization needs raffle tickets, please give us a call!

Tickets can be numbered, perforated, put in books, specially designed, variety of colors.
REASONABLY PRICED • FINISHED QUICKLY

Annandale 320-274-2052 Maple Lake 320-963-3813

M&M EXPRESS
LUBE & CAR CARE CENTER

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY!

ASE Certified Auto Repair
520 Division St. W, Maple Lake MN
Hours: Mon. - Fri. 6 a.m. - 5 p.m.
320-963-2060
www.mmexpresssales.com

LAKE CENTRAL
INSURANCE SERVICES

Annandale • Maple Lake • Clearwater

Paul Manuel, Agency Manager • 320.963.3163
www.lakecentralbank.com • agency@lakecentralbank.com

PROVIDING INSURANCE FOR:
HOME • AUTO • HEALTH • LIFE • FARM • BUSINESS • LONG TERM CARE

ALLINA MEDICAL CLINIC

- Family Medicine
- OB/GYN
- Occupational Medicine
- Mental Health Services

Annandale • 440 Elm St. E 320-274-3744
Cokato • 110 Olsen Blvd. 320-286-2123
allinamedicalclinic.com

Schedule your appointments 24/7/365

RELIABLE AUTO CARE
TIRES • BRAKES • DIAGNOSTICS • SUSPENSION • & MORE!

Oil Change Specials

Bring in this COUPON

\$2995 CONVENTIONAL \$4995 SEMI-SYNTHETIC \$6995 FULL-SYNTHETIC

1018 Hwy 55 East • Buffalo
763-682-3222 • reliable-autocare.com

NEIL'S FLOOR COVERING

CARPET • CERAMIC • VINYL • HARDWOOD
COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL

email@neilsfloorcovering.com • www.neilsfloorcovering.com
763-684-0600 270 State Hwy. 55 NE
FAX: 763-684-0599 Buffalo, MN 55313
Find us on Facebook too!

SJ ROOFING LLC

Shane Jurgens • Maple Lake
320-274-ROOF

PACE INDUSTRIES
Casting Innovation

Manufacturing in Maple Lake since 1995

NOW HIRING FOR IMMEDIATE OPENINGS
New, Competitive Wage Progression
Full & Part Time Positions
apply online at: paceind.com/careers

Maple Lake WINE & SPIRITS

320.963.3715 Ask about our Wine Club!
www.mlwine-spirits.com

Next to Cenex
901 State Hwy. 55 East • Maple Lake

Bernatello's Foods

Proud to be part of the
Maple Lake Community!

www.bernattelos.com

Deziel HEATING & A/C, INC.

(763) 684-3965
www.dezielHVAC.com

• Residential • Heating • Cooling • Sales • Service

REACH OUT TO
16,000
LOCAL RESIDENTS
For less than .003¢ per resident – Call 320-963-3813

ADVERTISE
YOUR EVENT IN THE
LAKE COUNTRY CALENDAR!

MV
NEXLEVEL, LLC
POWERED BY API GROUP

For employment opportunities, visit us at mpnlevel.com, or stop in at 500 county Road 37 East, Maple Lake.
500 County Road 37 East • Maple Lake
320.963.2400 • www.mpnlevel.com