

# Cherry drink book offers creative beverages

BY GINA GOODMAN  
Record-Eagle staff writer

Last year, for the first time in Cherry Festival history, a competition was held to see who could make the best drink using cherries. The Very Cherry Drink contest yielded many creative alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, and was a huge success.

Writer Lori Hall Steele helped with the idea for last year's drink contest. This year, she is using that idea to create a new drink book.

"I always wondered why more cherry drinks weren't behind a bar or in restaurants," Steele said. "For

years I had reported on the cherry industry. When M.S.U. found antioxidants in cherries, we came up with the cherry drink contest. It [the book] evolved from that."

"Sweet & Snappy Cherry Drinks" is being published by Eighth Sea Books, the publishing company Steele started last year.

There are 204 all new drink recipes. Some are adaptations of classic drinks, and some are original creations.

Michelle White at Leland Cherry Company contributed three drink recipes to the book, all using her special cherry concentrate,

called Michelle's Miracle. One of her recipes is a Cherry Margarita.

"I came up with it because there are other kinds of margaritas out there, why not use cherries?" White said.

Local animator Rob Hughes entered a family recipe called Cherry Bounce.

"It came from my cousin's grandmother," Hughes said. "It's basically a cherry liqueur."

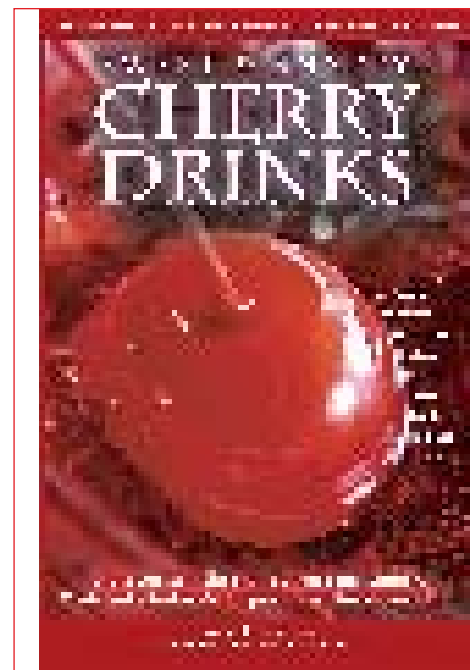
He said he didn't know why it has "bounce" in the title, but he thought it "makes you bouncer!"

Karen Paradis and her family at Cairn Side Juice in Elk Rapids submitted a

number of recipes.

"We all got together one night and had a sort-of happy hour," Paradis said. "We each submitted our own creations."

"Sweet and Snappy Drinks" by Lori Hall Steele will be sold at the souvenir tent during the National Cherry Festival.



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