



**NORTH ITASCA  
ELECTRIC**

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

**WATTS  
NEWS**

VOL 27 NO. 2

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

FEBRUARY 2024

## CEO Report

*Good evening,*

We finally got a shot of winter. The lakes are getting much safer from the sounds of it. Red Lake has lifted most of the restrictions and I suspect Lake of the Woods won't be far behind. I might even make it out on the frozen pond. My buddy Jim was talking about tossing out a few tip-ups when we have our January thaw next weekend. Sounds like a good time to catch up with friends and maybe dust off the fishing gear.

Our directors passed the 2024 budget in December. I hate to bring you bad news, but we are raising rates by 2.2%. I

plan to raise the service fee from \$49 dollars to \$50 per month. Think of this as our shared costs. This covers the maintenance and building costs related to our system. This is where we cover much of the operational and management costs also. The kWh charge on your bill will also increase from \$0.1288 to \$0.13/kWh. This is where we captured the rate increase from GRE.

I receive many questions about the minimum you pay every month. We share this system with our friends and neighbors as a Member-Owner of the



Brad Dolinski, CEO

cooperative. This is much like owning a house together. When the roof leaks, we all pay to fix it. Maintenance costs at the cooperative work the same way.

Currently our crews are working on replacing poles that have been rejected. This is  
CEO to p.2>

## An unexpected name has reappeared

*by Jerry Loney*

I am expecting many of you to be surprised to see my name back in the WATTS News after my article last month. Well, so am I. The torch which I passed on was returned to me during my last week of working for North Itasca Electric. Joe Kangas received another job offer closer to his home that he could not refuse.

Since there are still some outstanding load control program installations yet to be completed, year-end reports needing submission, and other unfinished business needing attention, I told Brad Dolinski that I did

not want to leave him or you, the members, hanging with unfinished work to be done. I also did not want to leave a gap in the services needed by you, our members.

We will again be looking for someone to fill my position. I have agreed to work full-time until the end of April 2024 to get this person trained.

### On with business as before

The cold spell this past January pressed in on the "Midcontinental Independent System Operator" (MISO) accounting for more load control

than normally seen. We have even seen days that load control was not only called upon once a day but twice, causing members to call in wondering if their heating systems were working correctly.

During the past few years North Itasca Electric had not seen Dual Fuel load control much outside the evening hours of approximately 4:30 p.m.

Load to p.7 >

*Safe. Smart. Responsible.*

## Bird flight diverters on transmission lines

Utilities have long taken measures to make electric infrastructure more visible and less obstructive to plants and animals. A Great River Energy (GRE) project in southwest Minnesota demonstrates a new approach to keeping birds safe.

Due to avian strike concerns on the CapX2020 transmission line segment between the Lyon and Hazel substations near Cottonwood, Minn., GRE partnered with Fulcrum Air to install 650 bird flight diverters using new technology.

The process uses a line-fly robot to place highly visible components — called "bird flight diverters" — on the overhead wires. The line-fly robot is placed on an overhead wire by a drone. The robot is then able to drive on the wire, placing the bird flight

Birds to p.2>



A line-fly robot was flown by a drone and placed 650 bird flight diverters for Great River Energy. The Hawk Eye™ diverter above has a highly visible tent shape and reflective stripes.

## Congressman Stauber visits Bigfork

*by Sally Sedgwick*

"Small town America built this country," said Congressman Pete Stauber.

Stauber was speaking to a full audience at the Bigfork City Hall on Wednesday, Jan. 24, where he listened to concerns of the community in logging, tourism, energy, school funding and rural health care.

Arriving from Grand Rapids in a Scheff Logging truck, he pointed out that his young driver wanted to stay in the area and make a living. The job of the government, he said, is to make that possible.

There is a disconnect between Washington D.C. and rural life, he

explained. Federal legislation directed at "rural" communities assumes cities less than 200,000 people, and many think that a 2 x 4 or even toilet paper comes from the store, not from a forest.

Loss of the Huber project dealt a blow to area loggers and the length of time to permit projects is also affecting natural resource jobs. It shows a need to limit the length of time used to review environmental effects or allow lawsuits, he said, and federal grant applications should ideally be limited to 20 pages instead of 200 pages so that communities and small business can fill them out easily.

Brad Dolinski, CEO of North Itasca Electric, spoke on the importance of the  
Community to p.7>

• inside • inside • inside • inside • inside • inside • inside • inside • inside •

**Seal air leaks**

page 3

*Valentine's Day Sale*

pages 8-9

**Repair tips: dishwasher**

page 4

**Office Hours**

Monday - Friday  
7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
(218) 743-3131

### CEO Report (continued)

shared among all members of the cooperative. We will replace one bucket truck in 2024, this is another shared cost because that truck is used everywhere on the system.

We look at the many different accounts yearly and determine if they are a shared cost or individual cost per member. Shared costs are applied to the member minimum. Individual costs or variable costs are directed to the kWh charge.

I must give a huge shout out to Daryl and the line crew. In December the crew was able to place the new transformer in the Jesse Lake Substation. In the summer of 2022 that substation was hit by lightning. This caused significant damage to the equipment in the sub, including the main transformer we rely on.

We worked through emergency management to get assistance replacing this transformer. In the fall of 2022, we had to make a financial decision about firm or

market pricing. Thankfully the dice rolled the right way and we decided to take the firm quote. I have been told that the decision saved us almost \$200,000.

Daryl and our engineer Rachel (from Star Energy Services), worked through the details to get what we needed for a flawless couple of days in the field. Daryl had to line up a crane to remove the old and place the new. Great River Energy was there to help us with a portable substation and their field technicians. Our guys were there making the connections in the sub, changing old equipment out that was either just old or damaged by the storm. Everything flowed extremely well. All of this and many more steps happened without an interruption to our Member-Owners' homes. The work was performed safely and very professionally, I might add.

With the new year under way, I want to recognize our office

professionals as well. There's never any down time for this crew. This is when things really pick up. All the many accounts need to be balanced for the month and the year to prepare for the upcoming audit. The end of year stress is on along with the normal monthly duties. I try to be especially thankful for the hard work during this time, having a bowl of candy in my office can sometimes help also. Thank you for all your hard work, I'm so fortunate to work with the professionals I do. Here's to doing more in 2024!

By your side! Miigwech

Brad

Brad

**Road conditions:**  
Call 511 or visit  
511mn.org for  
maps, cameras,  
weather alerts.

### Protecting birds

>from p.1  
diverters as it goes. The robot was able to place 300-400 diverters per day and completed the job in two days.

Traditional methods to install bird flight diverters include using a bicycle trolley, helicopter or bucket truck. The line-fly robot has several advantages compared to those methods:

- A 20%-30% cost reduction
- Allows technicians to keep a safe distance
- Can be used on overhead wires while conductors below are energized
- Environmentally friendly
- Minimal disruption to power line right of way

"There are significant benefits to this approach, so we'll look to [use this method] more in the future," said Kellen Gullickson, supervising manager of transmission construction and maintenance at Great River Energy.

### Meter seals

If you or an electrician is performing electrical work at your residence which requires opening meter sockets or load control receivers, you need to contact North Itasca Electric first.

By contacting North Itasca Electric, you can help prevent possible problems which could occur when North Itasca Electric finds that seals have been cut. These problems would mostly be on sub meters where load control meters are installed.

This equipment is owned, controlled and maintained by North Itasca Electric. These seals may only be cut if permission is granted by North Itasca Electric in advance or deemed an emergency by an electrician.

North Itasca Electric does realize that there could be instances where work needs to be done, in such cases; North Itasca Electric still needs to be contacted. If it is determined that loads have not been controlled during load control periods, demand charges could be applied to your billing.

**Powell Excavating & Tree Service**



www.robpowellexcavating.com

- Landscaping
- Excavating
- Land Clearing
- Boulder Walls
- Site Prep
- Food Plots
- Road Building
- Driveways
- Culverts
- Tree Planting / Removal
- Paving Stone
- Gravel
- Class 5
- Sand
- Top Soil
- Black Dirt
- Septic Install
- Stump Grinding
- Wood Chips

218-244-7152

**6 & 14 REPAIR**

218.743.4000

- \* FULL AUTO REPAIR
- \* FRONT END ALIGNMENT
- \* BRAKES \* TIRES \* TIRE REPAIR
- \* AC SERVICE \* SUSPENSION
- \* HYDRAULIC HOSES \* BULK OILS

Call-Email-Stop in - for Appointment  
sixand14repair@yahoo.com  
43576 Co Rd 14 Bigfork, MN 56628

## WATTS NEWS

WATTS NEWS is published monthly by: North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc. 301 Main Avenue P.O. Box 227 Bigfork, MN 56628

Subscriptions for Members are included as part of the annual membership dues. \$12.00 per year or partial year for non-members, billed and payable in January for the following year.

Second class postage paid at Bigfork, MN 56628. USPS 016-849 **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to WATTS NEWS, North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 227, Bigfork, MN 56628-0227

Office Hours: 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Telephone: (218) 743-3131

After hours (to report power outages): (800) 762-4048

Website: www.NorthItascaElectric.com

Chief Executive Officer: Brad Dolinski  
WATTS NEWS Editor: Sally Sedgwick

Send all calendar items, recipes, advertisements and other correspondence for WATTS NEWS to the Editor at: P.O. Box 43, Spring Lake, MN 56680

**Keep us up-to-date:** Please keep your contact information current with our office. Please notify North Itasca Electric of any changes in property ownership, mailing addresses, phone numbers and email addresses.

**North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Directors**

Chairman: Larry Salmela, District 3  
Vice-Chair: Wes Waller, District 2  
Secretary: Lloyd Kongsjord, District 5  
Treasurer: Roy Bain, District 9  
Rep. to GRE Board: Lloyd Kongsjord, District 5

James White, District 1      Mary Rahier, District 4  
Todd Christensen, District 6      Bruce Leino, District 7  
Jeff Kilian, District 8

## Highlights from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.  
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
December 28, 2023

**Start time: 10:00 a.m.**

**End time: 1:15 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on December 28, 2023.

**Directors present:** J. White, W. Waller, L. Kongsjord, J. Kilian, R. Bain, B. Leino, T. Christensen and L. Salmela.

**Also Present:** CEO Brad Dolinski, Jerry Loney, Daryl Pederson, and Kim Giesen.

**Absent:** M. Rahier, Tina Danielson, Andy Shaw.

**Start Regular Board Meeting: 10:45 a.m.**

- o Pledge of allegiance was recited.
- o A motion was made to adopt the agenda. Seconded; motion carried. A motion was made to consent agenda. Seconded; motion carried.
- o A safety discussion was held. Brad discussed Slips, Trips and Falls. Be aware of the conditions around you. We are amid very slippery conditions right now. If you do fall, remember to follow concussion protocols if you should hit your head. Concussions are very serious injuries. Slips, trips and falls are the number one claim for insurance companies.
- o Brad reviewed the 2024 budget. The budget is proposed with a 2.2% rate increase. 1.2% of that is passed through from GRE and 1% is due to increases in expenses. A motion was made to approve the budget as proposed with the 2.2% rate increase. Seconded, there was discussion and the motion passed. A motion was made to approve the Board Resolution to Implement Revenue Deferral Plan of \$244,000. Seconded, there was discussion and the motion passed.
- o Brad gave the Operating Reports. A motion was made to accept the Operating Reports as they were presented. Seconded; motion passed.
- o Daryl gave the Line Department report. MREA was on site for Safety Class & Voltage Troubleshooting. Rachel & Kristi from Star were on site for the Jessie Lake transformer change. Our guys did an awesome job during the changeover. Daryl shared photos of the project.
- o Jerry Loney gave the Members Services report.
- o Brad gave the Office Report. General Retirement checks were mailed. Tina wanted to thank the office professionals for a wonderful year. A motion was made to approve the write-off list as it was presented. Seconded; motion carried.
- o Brad gave the CEO report. We have been given clearance on the RUS loan. There are grant possibilities for converting some of our single-phase overhead lines to underground.
- o GRE Regional Meeting will be held in Hinckley February 7th and 8th. A motion was made to approve travel and expenses to attend the meeting. Seconded; motion carried.

## Sealing air leaks in your home saves energy

by Jerry Loney

Your home's exterior walls, roof and floor make up your home's building envelope. The materials used in construction separating its indoors climate from the outdoor elements add much to indoor health, comfort, and efficiencies.

These materials, like paint, drywall, vapor barrier, insulation, exterior sheathing, siding and exterior paint or stain and how they were installed all contribute to the home's comfort. The tighter the home's envelope, the greater its ability to separate interior conditions from that of the outside.

Your home does need a certain amount of fresh air for good health and proper operation of its appliances such as the furnace, but this can be done by an air exchanger which the homeowner manipulates, rather than the outside

### Electrical Inspections

Except for minor repair work, all electrical work you do at your home, cabin, or property is required to be inspected by a State Electrical Inspector.

A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. Please visit [www.electricity.state.mn.us](http://www.electricity.state.mn.us) for more information. The inspectors can be reached weekday mornings between 7:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

- **Itasca County** - Steve Bartlett (218) 591-1616
- **Koochiching County** - Curt Collier (218) 966-5070
- **Beltrami, Clearwater counties** - Davis Smid (507) 227-2772

- o A motion was made to vote in favor of Amendment to Appendix B of the TSC. Seconded; motion passed.
- o MREA Annual Meeting will be held March 19th & 20th. A motion was made to approve travel and expenses to attend. Seconded; motion carried.
- o Wes Waller gave the MREA report.
- o Lloyd gave the GRE report.

o A motion was made to adjourn. Seconded; motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm. *Regular board meetings are generally held the fourth Thursday of every month. If you wish to speak with the board or have an item that you would like to have placed on the agenda, please contact CEO Brad Dolinski at least two weeks in advance to be included on the agenda.*

weather conditions. The homeowner can control air changes known as ventilation and heat loss known as air infiltration.

Stopping air infiltration is the best way to conserve money and energy, which also increases the comfort of your home. Tightening up the home is the first place to start when looking for energy efficiencies.

There are three ways infiltration can take place: wind-driven, stack-effect, and from negative air pressure. During the winter months, (*wind-driven*) cold, dry air finds its way into the home through cracks, forcing the warmer inside air out. During summer months, the (*wind-driven*) air drives warm humid air into the home and cooler indoor air out. *Stack-effect*, or convection, naturally occurs as warm air rises and escapes through cracks along the ceiling and attic space.

As this warm air escapes, colder air is pulled in from lower-level cracks within the home's envelope. The third way, *air infiltration*, is from a negative air pressure. Bathroom fans and kitchen hoods create a negative pressure and the warmer air inside is forced out.

Air infiltration can cause a feeling of drafty and chilly areas typically near windows and doors. Adjusting your thermostat will not help this feeling but sealing up the leaking

areas will. By stopping air leaks, you will stay warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer and at the same time reduce your energy bills. Inexpensive weather-stripping and caulking that seal the inside of the home's envelope is just important as sealing the outside.

*Resources from:  
Minnesota Department  
of Commerce Division of  
Energy Resources.*



**Jesse Lake Lutheran  
Community Meal**  
**FREE**  
**Chicken Pot Pie Soup**

**Tuesday, February 20th • 4-6 p.m.**

Take out available 45834 County Road 4  
All are Welcome! (2 miles from Talmoon)



**-Windows -Siding -Decks**  
**General Contractor**  
**35334 HWY 2 Grand Rapids, MN**  
**218.327.9505**  
**\*Free Estimates\* #BC775961**



**CERTIFIED  
CONTRACTOR**

49407 State Hwy 38  
Marcell Mn 56657



**Up North  
Realty**

**WWW.MNUPNORTHREALTY.COM**



**Call Your Local Real Estate Agents!**

Dave Ritter-Broker 218-360-1200

Cheryl Ritter-Clerk 218-360-4111

Jason Ritter- Agent 218-244-4711

Lisa Ritter- Agent 218-259-4249

**218-832-3121**

### Roxanne's Repair Tips:

#### Water flow in your dishwasher

Have you ever opened your dishwasher and found that the soap hasn't dissolved, that it's sitting in the bottom of the dishwasher? This can be very frustrating but doesn't necessarily mean you need a new dishwasher. This can happen when the dishwasher doesn't get enough water. The most common thing to check is that you are not overloading the dishwasher and that you are loading it properly. You can also try changing soap, some soaps work better than others.

If the problem isn't fixed by doing any of these things, the next thing to look at is the water inlet valve. There are a few ways to test the water inlet valve to make sure it is working properly. You can add a couple cups of water to the bottom of the dishwasher before you start your cycle. If your dishes come out clean and the soap dissolves you know the problem may be with the water inlet valve. Another way to check this is to start your cycle and wait about 6 seconds then slowly open the dishwasher. If there is water in the bottom of the dishwasher you know the water inlet valve is working properly.

If your dishwasher is getting water but still not dissolving the soap, the high limit switch might be bad. You can test it with a continuity meter. The high limit switch heats the water which helps your soap dissolve. You can go to RepairClinic.com to find out where the high limit switch is located.

For all you handy men or women out there, once you determine what the problem is you can order the part online at RepairClinic.com and fix it yourself, or you can call me, and I can order the part for you. Remember to always turn the breaker off before attempting any repair.

If your dishwasher isn't cleaning the dishes well, take the spinning wash arms off and make sure none of the holes are plugged. Using a rinse aid in your machine will help avoid water stains.

Remember to clean any strainer filters and look at the holes in the spray arms to make sure nothing is getting clogged, on a regular basis. Depending how often you use your dishwasher along with the quality of water you have, you may need to do these checks more frequently. By doing this, it will help keep your dishwasher working correctly for a long time.

#### Member Warning: Doxo.com

There is an on-line bill pay website that appears to be affiliated with North Itasca Electric, but it is not. Doxo.com is third-party website that allows people to pay their electric bills via their site. However, doxo.com may charge the member extra fees, and North Itasca Electric cannot control when we will receive the member payments from doxo.com, possibly resulting in a late payment from the member or even disconnection due to non-payment. To make sure you're paying North Itasca Electric directly, visit our website [www.northitascaelectric.com](http://www.northitascaelectric.com), for our direct link to the online bill payment portal, [myportal.com](http://myportal.com).

## Cold weather rule & energy assistance program notice

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, electric service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between Oct. 1 and April 30 if electricity is the primary heat source and ALL of the following statements apply:

- Your household income is at or below 50% of the state median household income. Income may be verified on forms provided by North Itasca Electric Cooperative or by the local energy assistance provider.
- You enter into and make reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- You receive referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce your energy bills from North Itasca Electric Cooperative. Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule does not completely stop winter disconnects before disconnecting electric service to residential members between Oct. 1 and April 30,

#### North Itasca Electric Cooperative must provide:

- A 30-day notice of disconnection;
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities;
- A list of local energy assistance providers;
- Forms on which to request Cold Weather Rule protection; and
- A statement explaining available payment plans and other options to continue service.

#### Energy Assistance Program

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below 60 percent of the state median income (\$67,764 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2024. To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.

- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance, Kootasca Community Action (218) 999-0800. North Itasca Electric Cooperative exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please contact Sheila Hafeman at (218) 743-3131 to set up a payment plan.

### Energy assistance

If you cannot pay your winter heating bills, contact one of these locations for energy assistance help.

**KOOTASCA ENERGY ASS'T.**  
201 NW 4th St., Ste 130  
Grand Rapids MN 55744  
218-999-0800  
877-687-1163

**BI-COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL**  
P.O. Box 579  
Bemidji, MN 56601-0579  
800-332-7161

**ITASCA COUNTY SOCIAL SERV.**  
Itasca County Courthouse  
123 NE 4th St  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
218-327-2941

**KOOCHICHING COUNTY FAMILY SERVICES**  
615 4th St  
International Falls, MN 56649  
218-283-8405

**LEECH LAKE ENERGY ASST.**  
115 6th St, Ste E, Cass Lake, MN 56633  
218-335-8292

## ADDRESS CHANGE

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Box/Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: North Itasca Electric Co-op P.O. Box 227 Bigfork, MN 56628

## How extreme winter weather impacts reliability

by Maura Giles

When outdoor temperatures drop, our electricity use increases. That's because we're doing more activities inside, and our heating systems are running longer and more often to counteract colder outdoor temperatures. Factor in that we all tend to use electricity at the same times—in the morning and early evenings—and that equals a lot of strain on our electric grid.

At North Itasca Electric, we work closely with our local generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative Great River Energy in resource and infrastructure planning to ensure you have the power you need whenever you flip a switch, but the electric grid is much larger than your local co-op and G&T.

North Itasca Electric and GRE take proactive steps to create a resilient portion of the grid and ensure electric reliability in extreme weather, including regular system maintenance, grid modernization efforts and disaster response planning; but it takes

everyone to keep the grid reliable.

To help keep the heat on for you, your family and neighbors, here are a few things you can do to relieve pressure on the grid (and save a little money along the way):

- Select the lowest comfortable thermostat setting and turn it down several degrees whenever possible. Your heating system must run longer to make up the difference between the thermostat temp and the outdoor temp.

**>Pro tip:** Seal air leaks around windows and exterior doors with caulk and weatherstripping. Air leaks and drafts force your heating system to work harder than necessary.

- Stagger your use of major appliances such as dishwashers, ovens and dryers.

**>Pro tip:** Start the dishwasher before you go to bed and use smaller countertop appliances like slow cookers and air fryers to save energy.

- Ensure that your heating system is optimized for

efficiency with regular maintenance and proper insulation.

**>Pro tip:** Make sure your furnace filter isn't clogged and dirty. Replace it as needed.

- When possible, use cold water to reduce water heating costs.

**>Pro tip:** Setting your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees can help you save energy and reduce mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

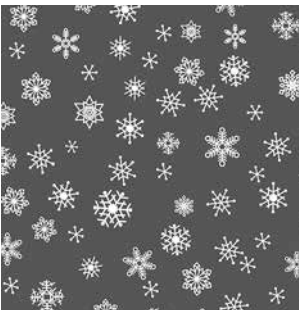
- Unplug devices when not in use to eliminate unnecessary energy use. Even when turned off, electronics in standby mode consume energy.

**>Pro tip:** Plug devices into a power strip so you can turn them all off at once with the push of a button.

As we face the challenges posed by winter weather, understanding its impact on energy demand is crucial for maintaining a reliable power supply. By adopting energy conservation practices during periods of extreme cold, not only can you save money on your

electric bills, but you can also each contribute to the resilience of the power grid, keeping our local community warm and connected.

*Maura Giles writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.*




BEST BETS FOR

### Winter Savings

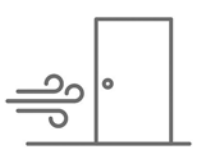
Energy consumption spikes during winter months as we spend more time indoors and heating systems work overtime. You can help reduce demand and strain on the electric grid by conserving during peak energy times. Reducing energy use will also help lower your energy bills.

**UNPLUG WHEN POSSIBLE**




Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics when you aren't using them.

**ELIMINATE DRAFTS AND AIR LEAKS**




Seal air leaks and drafts around windows and exterior doors.

**MAINTAIN HEATING EQUIPMENT**




Maintain your heating system by replacing dirty, clogged filters and scheduling an annual inspection for necessary maintenance.

**USE APPLIANCES WHEN ENERGY DEMAND IS LOWER**



Run large appliances like clothes washers, dryers and dishwashers early in the morning or before you go to bed.

**LOWER THE THERMOSTAT**



Home heating accounts for a large portion of energy consumption. Adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting (68 degrees or lower).

### WWW Website highlight: NorthItascaElectric.com

#### Load Management


Interested in all the load management programs offered at North Itasca Electric?

Load management programs allow the cooperative to reduce demand charges from our electricity source by allowing Great River Energy or Minnkota to control electricity use during peak periods, thus smoothing out demand peaks.

In return, the cooperative offers a lower electricity rate - as low as 5.5 cents per kWh, depending on the appliance - for those services being controlled.

What does it mean to the Member? If storage water heating is controlled, showers and wash loads might need to be scheduled during uncontrolled hours. If space heating is controlled, the backup source might be used.

For more information and an application, click on Member Services>Load Management.



## NORTHERN AIR

### PLUMBING & HEATING

(218) 327-9361

License #060672-PM

33204 Shadywood Road • Grand Rapids, MN 55744

fax: (218) 327-9283 • northernairph@yahoo.com

## GUNSTOCK CHECKERING

All types of gunstock checkering

We can create virtually any design or use your own

We can recreate your worn-out checkering like new

We refinish stocks with the hand rubbed English oil method

Custom stocks built here. Boyds and Richards microfit blanks.

**RC Keith GUNSTOCK CHECKERING 218-897-5152**



## TIMBERWOLF INN

50021 JACK THE HORSE ROAD  
MARCELL, MN 56656  
218-832-3990

LODGING • BAR • RESTAURANT • OFF SALE


QUALITY HOMEMADE FOOD

PULL TABS • ATM • E-TABS

NOW ONLY SERVING BREAKFAST & LUNCH ALL DAY ON  
SUNDAYS FROM 8 AM - 2 PM


CHECK OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR HOURS & DAILY SPECIALS

TALMOON FIREARMS & SUPL'S, LLC



### ED J. SHEAREN

ENDOWMENT MEMBER NRA  
FFL  
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY  
ejshearen@bigfork.net



P.O. BOX 12  
49635 STATE HWY 6  
TALMOON, MN 56637

218-832-4867  
218-832-GUNS

## Glen Hopkins

### Gravel and Dirt Work



Fill Dirt, Class Five,  
Top Soil, Road Building,  
Ditching, Culverts,  
Clearing, Grubbing

(218) 743-3716

## POLAR INSULATING



Fiberglass • Spray Foam • Cellulose  
Waterproofing • Metal Roof Coatings

218-659-4351

CertainTeed

# DIY Projects to insulate your home from energy.gov

## Insulate your hot water tank

Check the insulation of your hot water tank by seeing if it is warm to the touch. You could reduce heat loss by 25 to 45% and save water heating costs by 7 to 16%.

- 1) Turn off the water heater. For electric heaters, turn off the breaker at the electric panel.
- 2) Measure the height of the water heater and cut the blanket to fit if necessary.
- 3) Wrap the blanket around the water heater and temporarily tape it in place.

For ease of installation, position the blanket so that the ends do not come together over the access panels in the side of the tank. Some tanks have only one access panel.

- 4) Using a marker, mark the areas where controls are so that you can cut them out. Electric water heaters have two panels on the side of the tank. Also, mark the area where the pressure relief valve and pipe are. This will be a pipe that sticks out of the side of the water heater.

- 5) Install the blanket. Be careful to line up the cut out areas and then tape it

in permanently in place.

- 6) Turn the water heater back on. Don't set the thermostat above 130°F on electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket – the wiring may overheat.

## Insulate hot water pipes with pipe sleeves.

Your water temperature at the tap can be 2-4 degrees warmer, so that you can lower your water temperature setting. Most pipe sleeves are polyethylene or neoprene foam, but on gas water heaters it is safer to use at least 1" thick fiberglass pipe-wrap without a facing.

- 1) Starting at the water heater, measure lengths of insulation needed to cover all accessible hot water pipes, especially the first 3 feet of pipe from the water heater. It's also a good idea to insulate the cold-water inlet pipes for the first 3 feet.

- 2) Cut the pipe sleeve insulation to the lengths needed.

- 3) Place the pipe sleeve so the seam will be face down on the pipe.

- 4) Secure the pipe sleeve. Tape, wire, or clamp (with a cable tie) it every foot or two to secure it to the pipe.

## Seal air leaks with caulk

Plan to use a half-cartridge per window or door and four cartridges for the foundation sill.

- 1) For good adhesion, clean all areas to be caulked. Remove any old caulk and paint, using a putty knife or a large screwdriver. Make sure the area is dry so you won't seal in moisture.

- 2) Prep the caulking gun (if you're using one). Cut the tip of the cartridge of caulk at a 45-degree angle and insert the tube in the gun. If you've never used a caulking gun, take this time to do a "test caulking" on a newspaper or paper towel so you have a good sense of what to expect before taking your project to a more conspicuous door or window.

- 3) Hold the caulking gun at a 45-degree angle to the now-dried, clean edge that's to be filled. Hold the gun at a consistent angle and while pulling toward you, slide the tube nozzle along the joint while pulling the trigger of the caulk gun to apply the material. You know you've got the right angle when the caulk is immediately forced into the crack as it comes out of the tube. Try to avoid stops and starts by caulking in one straight continuous stream.

- 4) "Tool" the caulk by pushing it into the crack.

Once you've covered 2-3 feet of the surface with a bead of caulk, dampen your finger (or spoon, piece of wood or foam paintbrush if you don't want the material to touch your hand) and glide over the bead, pushing the caulk into the crack and forcing the caulk deeper into the crack.

5) Clean up any mistakes or excess caulk with a damp rag. Make sure to take care of any problem areas right away, since dried caulk is much harder to clean up later.

6) Allow the caulk to dry according to the directions on the package. It usually takes about 24 hours for the caulk to fully cure, but this can depend on air temperature and humidity.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Area rugs are an easy, cost-effective solution to cold floors. Adding area rugs to hard-surface flooring can add warmth to any room and keep your feet cozy on cold winter days.

Choose rugs made from wool or other natural fibers and plush or high-pile textures for the most insulation. Place rugs in areas where you need additional warmth, like the foot of a bed or under a coffee table. Area rugs can enhance the aesthetic of your home and keep you cozier.



**Heating & Cooling**



**Itasca Services, LLC**  
515-868-8303

Maintenance, Service & Replacement

**Fighting Hard Against Sticker Shock**

**LOVDAHL ELECTRIC**

PH. 218.398.2203  
Info@lov-elec.com

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

**THE SHOP**



Four Season Small Engine Sales & Service  
306 Main Ave Bigfork, MN 56628  
218-743-3666 or 800-431-1477  
www.wearetheshop.com  
M-F 8AM - 5PM, Sat 9AM - 2PM


MIKE N' AUSTIN'S LAKE HOME SERVICES



A lifetime of quality painting, repairs & remodeling.

Marcell, MN  
847-344-4890

**EAR NOSE AND THROAT CLINIC NOW OPEN**



Dr. W. Davis Merritt

**Services Include:**

- Ear Pain or Infection
- Throat/Neck Pain
- Hearing Loss
- Chronic Cough
- Allergies
- Snoring/Sleep Apnea
- Sinus Problems
- Difficulty Swallowing
- Dizziness/Vertigo
- Thyroid Masses
- Facial/Ear/Neck Injuries

**Bigfork Valley** MORE INFORMATION CALL (218) 743-4317

**M.A.D. GUTTERS**

Office: 218-743-6448 SEAMLESS GUTTER INSTALLATIONS  
Cell: 218-929-7134 www.madgutters.com

**THE ULTIMATE GUTTER PROTECTION SYSTEM**

- Keeps leaves, pine needles and seed pods out of your gutters
- Fits on your existing gutters
- Gutterglove's patented design eliminates gutter cleaning forever!
- Strongest & most durable gutterguard on the market today!

**Gutterglove PRO** HEAVY DUTY GUTTER PROTECTION FREE ESTIMATES

## Load control

>from p.1  
to 9:00 p.m., but last winter we started seeing MISO calling for Conservation Operations during even the morning hours as well. Last month real time control was scheduled in response to the changing market conditions ensuring reliable energy was available to all. Even though the energy

we receive comes from the MISO market, Great River Energy (GRE) is still our energy provider and they control all our load control devices.

For those on a load control program, control hours can be checked by going online to North Itasca Electric's website [www.northitascaelectric.com](http://www.northitascaelectric.com) or Great River

Energy's website [www.greatriverenergy.com](http://www.greatriverenergy.com) to see if load control is scheduled that day and the times it will be controlled. If you follow North Itasca Electric's Facebook page, you can find this information published there as well.

Last month I had a few conversations with members during the extensive load control periods and learned that some neglected to have an adequate secondary backup heating system available to them, which is required to be on the Dual Fuel program rate. Not only were the members getting cold waiting for the control periods to end, but some ran electric space

heaters which defeats the whole purpose of the Dual Fuel program. Not only were they consuming electrical energy equivalent to paying \$3.45 per gallon of propane but adding to North Itasca Electric billing peaks by an average of \$13.00 for every kW required during that time. Those running three 1,500 watt space heaters during the billing peak cost North Itasca Electric's membership \$58.50 per occurrence in demand charges that the program is designed to avoid. To the left are the specifications for the Dual Fuel program rate.

Until next month, remember I am still here.

## Dual Fuel Space Heating

- Electricity is sold for \$0.073 cents per kWh.
- Electric heat and a thermostatically controlled fossil fuel heat source is required to qualify for this program. The electric heat must be wired as the primary heating source and be able to supply over 50% of the heating for the entire home.



- The non-electric heating source must be able to provide 100% of the home's heating requirements.

- Wood does NOT qualify as a backup heat source! Gas fireplaces may qualify if they are thermostatically controlled and are able to provide 100% of the heating load.

- Load control can occur during any specific time periods and can last for a few hours up to 12 hours max.

There is a good possibility of power being shut off when the temperature drops rapidly or is in negative digits.

- A fully automated thermostatically controlled backup system is essential to maintain comfort.



- Electric baseboard, plenum heaters, electric furnaces, and boilers, are all good choices for the program.

## Community concerns

>from p.1  
Farm Bill which includes the Rural Utilities Fund which provides loans to rural electric cooperatives to fund capital and economic development projects. Federal grants like the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program help to secure the grid and electric lines, some of which were originally installed in the 1940s. The complexity of Environmental Protection Agency rules are of concern to utilities also, he said.

volunteer staffing to cover wide areas, and expense allocation formulas for hospitals with an attached nursing home penalize the facility.

At a later tour of Bigfork Valley hospital, Stauber heard about the increases in expenses with declining reimbursements from government programs like Medicare and commercial insurances. The Congressman's support for bills that address workforce shortages, workplace safety and Medicare funding was urged.

School funding was brought up by Pat Medure, ISD318 school board member. Federal funding of special education programs was originally mandated at 40%, but currently is only being funded at about 8% of the 40%. Last year those programs used \$2.1 million from the ISD318 general fund, taking money from school operations. Stauber said that he was trying to get such legislation on the floor, but when that happens, he still would expect a 10 year ramping up of funding to get to the full amount, or \$800 billion across the country.

Other issues discussed at the meeting included the regulations imposed on small business that make it hard to operate – \$150 billion in additional regulations each year, according to Stauber. Bills of interest to organized labor, current national and international incidents, the solvency of social security and the way appropriation bills are handled in the House were brought up.

Rural health care was another topic of concern; both the critical access hospital and ambulance service. Rural ambulances need both money and

How can constituents help, he was asked. "Be engaged," Stauber said, urging the audience to call his office for help with any federal issues.

Stauber is optimistic about the future. "I firmly believe our best days are yet to come," he said. "We're resilient."

### J.V. Tree & Landscaping

Tree care - Landscaping - Bobcat Work

Cell: 612-987-9992

Toll free: 866-232-5183

Free estimates - Fully insured

Tree Trimming & Removal

Stump Grinding

Woods & Lot Clearing



### LITTLEHAWK SERVICES LLC

Stump Grinding  
Tree Removal

218-341-8291 (Call or Text)

JEREMIAH LITTLEHAWK [littlehawkservices@gmail.com](mailto:littlehawkservices@gmail.com)

218-256-7316  
[cozyairhp@gmail.com](mailto:cozyairhp@gmail.com)



### Lakeside Lumber & Hardware

Office 218-832-3300

Cell 425-233-1835

Eric Elhardt  
Owner

[www.lakesidemarcell.com](http://www.lakesidemarcell.com) | 49208 State Hwy 38  
[eric@lakesidemarcell.com](mailto:eric@lakesidemarcell.com) | Marcell, MN 56657

### CENTURY 21

Land of Lakes

721 S Pokegama Ave  
Grand Rapids MN 55744



Michelle & Jim Kutschat

Buying or Selling?

Call the *Kutschats*  
for Great Service  
and Results!

Jim 218.256.5773

Michelle 218.256.5774

Visit Our Website for  
Hundreds of  
Available Properties:

[www.C21LakesTeam.com](http://www.C21LakesTeam.com)



# Roxanne's Sales Talk

by Roxanne Prather, Member Services Representative

These machines are built tough! Speed Queen puts these machines through unbelievable tests because they want to be sure they will stand up to what you will put them through! They are so confident that they boast about a 25- year life expectancy. After looking at how they are made, I believe it! These machines are built with metal inside and out.

The gears are metal, not cheap plastic like a lot of other brands. I have most of the Speed Queen models in stock so stop in and see for yourself. The TC5000 is the Speed Queen Classic Washer - back by popular demand, just like the machine your grandma had with the old fashion transmission and so much more! Optional deep fill and rinse fills

the entire tub with water to achieve maximum cleanliness. Classic agitator and transmission-driven wash action produces an aggressive 210-degree stroke to remove tough stains fast. Solid Mount Suspension System features a full steel base with heavy-duty springs for best-in-class out-of-balance performance, less vibration and longer machine life.

Durable stainless steel Tub is gentler on your clothes and ensures long-lasting, dependable performance. If you like fast wash cycle times, tried and through classic wash action and a no-lock lid, this machine is for you!



**Rated #1 By Women**

Speed Queen Washer Models	TR7000WN	TR5000WN	TR3000WN	TC5000WN
<b>Temp Selections</b>	4-cold, cool, warm, hot	4-Hot, Warm, cool, cold	3-Hot, Warm, Cold	Hot, warm, cool, cold
<b>Automatic Balancing</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	yes
<b>Preset cycles</b>	8	6	4	6
<b>Variable Water Level Selector</b>	Yes- 1 HP Motor	Yes-1 HP Motor	Yes- 1 HP Motor	2 speed, 1/2 HP Motor
<b>Extra Rinse Option</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	yes
<b>Warm Rinse</b>	Yes	No	No	No
<b>Special Cycle</b>	Yes	No	No	No
<b>Speed Cycle</b>	Yes	No	No	yes
<b>Favorite Cycles</b>	Yes	No	No	No
<b>Time Remaining Display</b>	Yes	No	No	No
<b>End of Cycle Signal</b>	Yes	No	No	yes
<b>Prewash</b>	Yes	No	No	yes
<b>Soak</b>	Yes	No	No	No
<b>Delay Start</b>	Yes	No	No	No
<b>Soil Level Selection</b>	Yes	No	No	No
<b>Deep Fill</b>	No	No	No	yes
<b>Heavy soil</b>	No	No	No	Yes

**WILLIAMS SEPTIC & ELECTRIC, INC.**



Licensed & Bonded

Contact:  
Brian Williams at  
(218) 659-4216

- Septic Installation Inspection Design
- Hauling & Excavating
- Residential & Commercial Wiring

P.O. Box 633 / 52034 Silk Rd. Squaw Lake, MN 56681

**Edward Jones** Member SIPC

**Retiring soon? Let's talk.**



**Brad Johnson, AAMS™**  
Financial Advisor  
72 S.E. 7th Street Suite A  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
218-327-7280

MKT-5894N-A [edwardjones.com](http://edwardjones.com)

Highway 46, Squaw Lake



218-659-2131

**Happy Hour**  
Mon-Fri 4-6p  
All day Sunday

**Meat raffle**  
every Sat at 6p

**Full bar**, on/off sale, pull tabs, e-tabs

**Open daily at 11 a.m.**

**Full menu**  
including Broasted Chicken

**Kitchen is open**  
Sun-Thurs until 9p  
Fri-Sat until 10p





*I Happy Valentine's Day!*



**All Speed Queen Laundry 10% Off Our Already Too Low To Advertise Prices!**

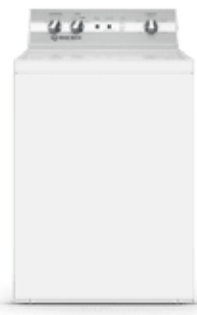
TR3



**TR7003WN**

Ultra-quiet top load washer with Speed Queen Perfect Wash, 8 special cycles, 7-year warranty.

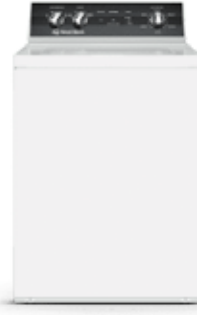
TR7



**TC5003WN**

Top load washer with Speed Queen Classic Clean, no lid lock, 5-year warranty

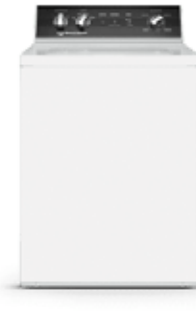
TC5



**TR5005WN**

Ultra quiet top load washer with Speed Queen Perfect Wash 5-year warranty

TR5



**TR300WN**

Ultra quiet top load washer with Speed Queen Perfect Wash 3-year warranty



DR7



**DR7004WE**

Sanitizing electric dryer with Pet Plus Steam, over dry protection Technology Energy Star certified 7-year warranty

DC5



**DC5003WE**

Sanitizing electric dryer with extended tumble, reversible door 5-year warranty

DR5



**DR5004WE**

Sanitizing electric dryer with steam, over dry protection technology, Energy Star certified, 5-year warranty

DR3



**DR3003WE**

Sanitizing electric dryer, with 3-year warranty

**Sale good through February please call Roxanne with any questions.**

218-743-3132 or email [roxannep@nieci.com](mailto:roxannep@nieci.com)

### Christmas comes to Bigfork Valley Villa residents



The Bigfork Valley Improvement Group delivered Christmas gifts to Bigfork Valley Villa residents this holiday season. (l to r) Brooklynn Noble, Josiah Reigel, Dalton Johnson and Aspyynn Reigel.

### Bigfork appoints new councilor

by Sally Sedgwick

At its January 9, 2024 meeting, the Bigfork City Council appointed Samantha (Sam) Olson to the city council to fill the position that was held by Kristi Gustafson.

A resolution was passed listing annual appointments. Selected appointments include: Official Publication, Scenic Range NewsForum; Official Depository, First State Bank of Bigfork; Acting Mayor, Jerry Denny; City Attorney, John Dimich; Assistant Weed Inspector, Ben Maxa; Budget Committee vacancy, Sam Olson; Joint Powers Board representative, Bryan Boone with alternate Melissa Grover; Highway 38 Leadership Board, Amy Pifher; Fire Chief, Drew Francisco.



Bigfork City Council (l to r), Jerry Denny, Mayor Bryan Boone, Ben Maxa, Sam Olson, Sarah Scheff.

No applications have been received for a rink attendant, which will continue to be advertised. Training on flooding and maintenance will be offered. During Public Forum, Pastor Bryan Boone spoke on an initiative held on January 11, National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, called Operation Silent Freedom. Participants give up speaking for

a day to support those who cannot speak for themselves. More information and a donation link is at: [www.WildernessChurchMN.org/OSF](http://www.WildernessChurchMN.org/OSF).

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

*Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum*

**SharMar Optical Solutions**  
**"EYEGLASS BARN"**  
 Exceptional Bargains  
 (218) 452-1134  
 Marcell Family Center • Tues., Thurs. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
 or by appointment

**Spring Lake Heating and Air**  
 Charlie Hazzard  
 218-259-8903  
 WE SERVICE ALL MAKES & MODELS  
 "OUR SPECIALTY IS HEATING AIR CONDITIONING VENTILATION"  
**RESIDENTIAL-COMMERCIAL-INDUSTRIAL SERVICE-REPAIR-REPLACEMENT-RETROFIT**  
 Over 27 years of personal experience in HVAC/R  
 LICENSED, BONDED, INSURED & LOCALLY FAMILY OWNED  
[Springlakeheating@gmail.com](mailto:Springlakeheating@gmail.com)

**EDGE OF THE WILDERNESS REALTY**  
 Serving ALL of Itasca County  
 Call us for all of your Real Estate Needs!  
**MARCELL OFFICE**  
 48921 STATE HWY 38  
 MARCELL, MN 56637  
 218-832-4000  
**GRAND RAPIDS OFFICE**  
 501 S. POKEGAMA AVE  
 SUITE 102  
 GRAND RAPIDS, MN 55744  
 218-326-3411  
[WWW.EOWREALTY.COM](http://WWW.EOWREALTY.COM)  
*love where you live*

### DNR seeks private woodland owners to help expand forest inventory data

Participants will receive high-quality data on their woodlands at no cost

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is inviting private woodland owners with two or more acres of forested property to participate in a new effort to help improve and advance forest inventory across Minnesota. The DNR's Resource

Assessment Program is developing a more precise forest inventory – information on the type, number, and size of trees in forests that can provide insight to the health of forests and how they're changing. This is developed by pairing lidar (light detection and ranging) data collected aerially with on-the-ground information gathered by professional foresters via a process known as Plot Based Inventory (PBI). Thousands of PBI plots are needed to verify the lidar data and develop statewide forest inventory models.

Until now, PBI has

been conducted primarily on public lands, but nearly half of Minnesota's forested lands are privately owned. Expanding PBI to private woodlands will provide valuable information to increase the accuracy of forest inventory models statewide.

Private woodland owners who participate in the PBI effort will work with a professional forester and receive high-quality forest inventory data of their woodlands at no cost. Following data collection, landowners will receive an initial report with information about the inventory data collected. A more comprehensive follow-up report will be sent after the project is completed at the end of 2025.

For more information or to sign up, visit [www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/resource-assessment/forest-inventory.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/resource-assessment/forest-inventory.html).

**Bigfork Mini-Storage**  
 37944 Hwy 14  
 Bigfork, MN. 56628  
**Call 612-240-2610**  
 Located off of Hwy 14 and 38 North of Town.  
 • Gated Entry/driveway.  
 • Engineered all Steel Buildings  
 • Insulated ceilings  
 • 24 hour access / 7 days a week.  
 • Many Small and Large sizes available.  
 • Only 1 mile north of town.  
 • Several payment options available.  
**Go to [BigforkMiniStorage.com](http://BigforkMiniStorage.com) 24/7 for sizes and availability**

**ITASCA RELIABLE insurance agency, inc**  
 Choice You Deserve. Service You Trust.  
 Our Experienced Agents are Committed to Our Community and Your Needs!  
 1121 Hwy 169 East • Grand Rapids, MN  
 218-326-8518 1-800-873-1471  
 AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS • HEALTH  
 Visit Our Website for On-line Quotes.  
[www.itascareliableinsurance.com](http://www.itascareliableinsurance.com)

## Jesse Lake-Suomi Lutheran Parish to offer monthly free community meals

by Val Connor

In 2011, Jesse Lake Lutheran replaced its aged building with a new one to meet the needs and codes of the new century. Included in those needs were handicap accessibility, an up-to-code kitchen, and a spacious fellowship hall.



The idea was that beyond being a place of worship, it would be a center for the community at large. Since then, it has hosted family reunions, wedding receptions, funerals, salad luncheons, lutefisk dinners, lake association meetings, political caucuses, polling places, rummage sales and general fellowship.

Thirteen years on, we hope to increase our visibility in the community by reaching out to the greater Talmoon/Bowstring/Spring Lake communities and beyond. In our rural environment, it's hard to bring people together. In this post-COVID time, the need for a central gathering place is more needed than ever.

For that reason, we are starting to host a monthly community meal that is completely free. (We will not solicit, nor will we accept donations or payments of any kind at the dinner.) All are welcome regardless of need.

The idea is for people to gather for a simple, nourishing meal to meet

with and get to know our neighbors. If you really could use a meal, you are more than welcome. But this is not designed to be a traditional soup kitchen.

If you are shut in, contact us at (218) 832-3883 or send someone to get a take-out meal. More importantly, we want this to be an opportunity to share with other area residents and visitors.

All are welcome! The first meal was on January 16 when 41 people braved the weather or ordered take-out to enjoy homemade chili, cornbread, yummy bars, and good conversation.

Future meals will be the third Tuesday of each month from 4 to 6 p.m. The next one will be February 20 from 4-6 p.m. at Jesse Lake Lutheran Church, two miles west of Talmoon on CR 4.

Please join us for a hardy winter repast and good fellowship. Yes, Virginia, there is such a thing as a free lunch.



Jesse Lake Lutheran Church is 2 miles west of Talmoon on County Road 4.

## Arts on the Edge

Alaska's Fiddling Poet Ken Waldman performs at the Edge Center in Bigfork: Thursday, Feb. 29, 7 p.m.

Ken Waldman has drawn on 37 years as an Alaska resident to produce poems, stories, and fiddle tunes that combine into a performance uniquely his. 12 CDs mix Appalachian-style string-band music with original poetry and Alaska-set storytelling. He has also written 20 books.

Since 1995 he's toured full-time, performing at leading festivals, concert series, arts centers, and clubs, including the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, Dodge Poetry Festival, and Woodford Folk Festival (Queensland, Australia).

## New protection for turtles

Two changes that enhance protection for Minnesota's native turtles went into effect on Jan. 1.

Commercial harvest of western painted turtles and snapping turtles is no longer allowed, although they can be raised under an aquaculture license with a turtle endorsement.

No matter the venue, he aims to offer a program that's fun, inspiring, and full of surprises. [www.kenwaldman.com](http://www.kenwaldman.com).

This is a free Community Event presented in partnership with The Reif and The Edge Center. The Edge Center for the Arts is located at 101, 2nd Avenue, Bigfork, MN. For more information, call 218-743-6670, or email [admin@edge-centerarts.org](mailto:admin@edge-centerarts.org)

Both an angling license and a recreational turtle license is needed to harvest turtles using angling gear. Traps will not be allowed for turtle harvest. Youth under 16 do not need a recreational turtle license and may still collect turtles for turtle races.

## Classic Movie Series

by Jack Nachbar

February, as we all know, is the month for lovers. So it is a custom in the Classic Movie Series in Bigfork, to have a famous love story movie. This year, the Series is proud to present a movie great, *Now, Voyager*, starring Bette Davis, who earned her sixth straight Oscar nomination for her role.

Davis plays a woman made shy and unhappy by her dysfunctional family, but who comes beautifully to life when she falls in love with upcoming screen star, Paul Henreid. The title of the film comes from two lines of poetry by Walt Whitman. "The untold life and land ne'er granted/ Now, Voyager, sail thou forth, to seek and find."

Come and enjoy Bette Davis seeking and finding at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, February 8 at the Edge Center Theater in Bigfork. Your own seeking for movie pleasure will be easy too. Admission is FREE!!

MARCH CLASSIC MOVIE: It's the movie that introduced America to rock and roll. There's violence in a tough high school in *Blackboard Jungle* (1955). Thursday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Edge.



**Join us and the Joyful Singers Choir for a Gospel songfest at Jesse Lake Lutheran Church 9:00 am, Sunday, February 11, 2024 (2 miles west of Talmoon on CR 4)**

I ♥ Gospel Music

**RK Construction Services Inc.**  
 "Serving the excavation needs of Itasca County and beyond since 1968"  
**Ray V. Kongsjord & Sons**  
[www.rkconstructionservices.com](http://www.rkconstructionservices.com)  
 email: [rkconstructioninc@gmail.com](mailto:rkconstructioninc@gmail.com)

Office: (218) 832-2842 • Demolition roll off service  
 Cell: (218) 244-6201 • Site preparation • Landscaping  
 39335 State Highway 286 • Basements • Septics • Shoreland  
 Marcell, MN 56657 • Gravel • Road construction  
 Bonded and licensed - MPCA Lic. 1204

**LITTLEHAWK SERVICES LLC**  
 Stump Grinding  
 Tree Removal  
 218-341-8291 (Call or Text)  
 JEREMIAH LITTLEHAWK [littlehawkservices@gmail.com](mailto:littlehawkservices@gmail.com)

**WILD PINE BUILDERS**  
 Tom Urman 218-244-3553  
 Dustin Ritter 218-256-8598

**Keep your investments safe by hiring your local hometown licensed contractor.**

- New construction
- Garages
- Remodels
- Reroofs

Check us out on Facebook  
 License # BC706317 [WildPineBuilders@msn.com](mailto:WildPineBuilders@msn.com)

**GENERATORS**

**IN STOCK**

**THE SHOP**

306 Main Ave Bigfork, MN 56628  
 218-743-3666 or 800-431-1477

## Tax-Aide available

Tax-Aide is an AARP Foundation program that provides free tax preparation services to Itasca County families and individuals of all ages and backgrounds, with a focus on older adults and those with low-to-moderate incomes. AARP membership is not required.

It is available by appointment only from Feb 2 through April 12. For appointments and more information, call (218) 245-9202. There is some limited duration face-to-face contact service.

Volunteers are trained and certified every year by the IRS.

ElderCircle is the sponsoring agency. This program is funded through a grant provided by the State of Minnesota.

## SAIL classes

For more information or to register (required), contact ElderCircle at (218) 999-9233. New attendees may start anytime. Weights are provided but please bring your own water.

Following is the local schedule:

- Virtual via Zoom video conference  
Mondays & Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- Virtual via Zoom video conference  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

### In person at:

- Bigfork Old Scenic Church  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00-10:30 a.m.
- Bowstring Town Hall  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
- Deer River, Bethany Lutheran  
Mondays & Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

## Effie will streamline city ordinances

by Sally Sedgwick

At the first meeting of 2024 the Effie City Council made annual appointments and voted to start reviewing the city ordinances to eliminate unnecessary ones.

Annual appointments included: legal newspaper Scenic Range NewsForum; depository, First State Bank of Bigfork; Acting Mayor, Councilor Brandon Francisco; City Attorney, John Licke.

Meetings are the second Monday at 6 p.m. in the Community Center.

During public forum a resident suggested that a community meeting be held before a cannabis retail store was approved for the café building, which is expected to be about a year away.

Clerk Carolyn Schmit reported that AUS (sewer operator) had raised its monthly fee, and that

she was exploring an alternative. Hill Brothers Electric has completed the check of grinder station alarms and found three that needed repairs. The kiosk wiring also needs work. Community Center fan wiring was completed and a light replaced. The council voted to repair the garage lights.

The city received a notice of grant opportunities to improve health and vibrancy of small communities from Community and Economic Development Associates (CEDA). Such things as replacement of business facades could be included.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. in the Community Center.

*Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum*

## Community Cafe in Deer River

The Community Cafe is available to anyone who is in need of a meal. Each Monday - Thursday, 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. (or until gone), a nutritious three-course meal is served. Location: King Elementary School door #9. For more information, visit [communitycafemn.org](http://communitycafemn.org).

## Community Education

**Blackduck** Register online at [blackduck.k12.mn.us/CE](http://blackduck.k12.mn.us/CE). Questions? Call (218) 835-5206 or email [mcleland@blackduck.k12.mn.us](mailto:mcleland@blackduck.k12.mn.us)

### ADULT VOLLEYBALL

Date: Wednesday nights  
Time: 7-8:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. start time  
Location: High School enter at gym door #3  
Cost:\$3/night

**Bigfork:** Register for classes at 743-3444, or online at [www.getlearning.org](http://www.getlearning.org),

### OPEN BASKETBALL

Date: Wednesday nights through March  
Time: 7 - 9 p.m.  
Location: Bigfork School small gym  
Cost:\$10

### COFFEE CHAT

Date: Sat., March 2  
Time: 10 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Location: Marcell Family Center  
Cost: Free

Must register by Feb.26. A friendly fun gathering where artists are invited to bring a piece of work and share their method of working and share their goals as an artist. Art lovers can bring a favorite art piece to share.

**Deer River:** Register for classes online at

### OPEN PICKLEBALL

Date: Sundays 1-3 p.m.; Wednesdays 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Location: King School gym  
Cost:\$30, 2/11 through 3/13  
Courts for 3 skill levels, bring own paddle and balls.

## B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork

Coffee Club Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m.  
Bingo every Thursday 1-3 p.m.

## area bookmobile stops

New to the area? Get your Arrowhead Library Card on the Bookmobile.

Tuesdays: Feb. 6, 27; March 19  
12:00 - 1 p.m. Bowstring Store  
2:30-3:30 p.m. Effie: Effie Cafe  
4:00-5:30 p.m. Bigfork: City Hall

Thursdays: Feb. 8, 29; March 21  
11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Togo: Junction Bar & Grill

Mondays: Feb. 5, 26; March 18  
12:30 -1:00 p.m. Gemmel; Community Church  
1:45 - 2:30 p.m. Northome; Apartments  
3:15 - 4:15 p.m. Alwood; Hoot-n-Holler  
4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Squaw Lake; Community Ctr

Bookmobile or Mail-a-Book information: call Arrowhead Library System at (218) 741-3840

**Kalvig & Associates**  
DWIGHT L. KALVIG  
Accountant  
EST. 1974  
• Bookkeeping and Tax Service •  
Bus: (218) 835-4546 Toll Free: (888) 888-6735 Fax: (218) 835-6590  
359 Main St., Box 309 • Blackduck, Minnesota 56630  
[kalvigandassoc@paulbunyan.net](mailto:kalvigandassoc@paulbunyan.net)

**Talmoon Boat & Mini Storage**  
Archie and Sandy Wass  
Phone: 218-743-3635  
Cell: 218-341-8522  
• Three storage sizes available!  
• Boat, RV and Snowmobile  
• Pontoon Trailer Rental  
• Launch to Dock Service

**NORTHERNAIR**  
PLUMBING & HEATING  
(218) 327-9861  
License #060672-PM  
33204 Shadywood Road • Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
fax: (218) 327-9283 • [northernairph@yahoo.com](mailto:northernairph@yahoo.com)

<p><b>Northome Food Shelf</b> 12059 Main St Bring your own bags. 1st Mon.: 9 a.m.-noon 2nd Mon.: 2-5 p.m. 3rd Mon.: 9 a.m.-noon 4th Mon.: 2-5 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Northern Itasca Emergency Food Shelf</b> 200 Main, Bigfork Thursdays 12:30-3 p.m. 3rd Thursday 4-5:30 p.m. (218) 256-4170</p>
<p><b>Blackduck Community Library:</b> (218) 835-6600 Tues: 1-6 p.m.. Wed: 9 a.m.-noon. Thurs:12-5 p.m. Fri: 12-5 p.m. Sat.: 9 a.m.-noon.</p>	<p><b>Northome Library</b> (218) 897-5952 Mon: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues: 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Wed: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Thurs: noon - 6 p.m. Fri: 9 a.m.- noon</p>
<p><b>Resource Centers:</b> Blackduck: (218) 835-5768 Northome: (218) 897-5952</p>	

**Community News** *Email editor at sedgwick@paulbunyan.net, put Community News in the subject line*

*~ February Calendar ~*

**Balsam**

MUMS (Moms Uplifting Moms Spiritually): Come grab a cup of coffee and relax with other Moms in our community as we seek to encourage one another and grow in our relationship with Christ. MUMS meets the second and fourth Tuesday through May 14, 9-11 a.m. at the Balsam Bible Chapel. Childcare provided for children up to twelve years of age. Call Rachael with any questions: (218) 910-4767

**Bowstring - Spring Lake - Dora Lake**

Volunteers that organize Treasures Are Fine, a 60-mile long garage sale in north-west Itasca County along highways 6, 4 and 29, have announced a Saturday, May 4 sale date this year. To be on the map, register online by April 12 on Facebook @ Treasures6429. There is no charge to be on the map.

**General Interest**

Curious about the Cross Range Expressway? That's the initiative to upgrade the two lane section of Highway 169 that runs between Taconite and Pengilly, with the local goal of making it also a four lane highway. The study to date is available on the Minnesota Department of Transportation website at:

[www.dot.state.mn.us/d1/projects/hwy169-crossrange/index.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d1/projects/hwy169-crossrange/index.html)



**Marcell Family Center**

218-832-3444  
49023 State Highway 38 Marcell, MN 56657

**Winter Frolic**

**Saturday, Feb. 4 • 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

Crafts, games, food, beverages. All are welcome!  
No registration required.

**MFC hours:**

*Fitness Center, gymnasium, multi-purpose room, public computer room and WiFi hotspot.*

Mon: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 4-7 p.m.

Tues, Thurs: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 4-7 p.m.

Fri: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

- 1 First Thursday "Practical Water Wisdom" online programs over the lunch hour with Itasca Waters. Topic: "The value of wetlands and the regulations that can protect them" with Jennie Sancke of the DNR and David Demmer of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. Register at [itascawaters.org](http://itascawaters.org).
- 4 Winter Frolic at the Marcell Family Center, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Crafts, games food. Call 218-832-3444 for more information. A family event.
- 8 Classic Movies at the Edge Center in Bigfork presents a classic love story, *Now, Voyager*, starring Bette Davis, 6:30 p.m. Free.
- 9 "The Club I Never Wanted to Join" breast cancer support group meets 3:30 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in the chapel, south entrance, Grand Rapids. More info with Lynn (218) 832-3612, [lynn\\_ettl@msn.com](mailto:lynn_ettl@msn.com). Note change of date for this month.
- 12 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 12 ISD 317 School Board meets at Deer River HS, 6 p.m. Public forum 5:45 p.m.
- 12 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 12 Blackduck ISD 32 School Board meets, 6 p.m. in the Media Center.
- 12 ISD 318 School Board meeting at Educational Services Center Board Room, 601 SW 7th St, Grand Rapids or at [watchictv.org](http://watchictv.org), 6 p.m. Information: [jasmussen@isd318.org](mailto:jasmussen@isd318.org) or call (218) 327-5704. Livestream from board meeting link at [isd318.org](http://isd318.org).
- 13 Stop & Stitch meets at the Marcell Family Center the 2nd Tuesday of every month, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. More info, call Debbie at (218) 360-1503.
- 13 Bigfork City Council at City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 14 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
- 16 No school, Deer River
- 19 No School, all Schools, President's Day. North Itasca Electric offices CLOSED.
- 20 Free community meal at Jesse Lake Lutheran Church, 4-6 p.m. Open to everyone on the third Tuesday of the month. This month enjoy Chicken Pot Pie Soup.
- 21 Stitch-n-Bitch meets at the B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork the 3rd Wednesday of every month, 5-7 p.m. Finish your crafts projects! For more information, call Krista at (218) 410-2258
- 22 Candlelight Ski at King School in Deer River, 5-7 p.m. on a half mile groomed track. Hot cocoa and a snack in the school, s'mores around a bonfire outside. Sponsored by the Chippewa National Forest.

**Area Church Directory**

**Alvwood Community Church Sun 10:00a**  
58712 Co. Rd. 131  
Blackduck 56630 218-659-4681

**Balsam Bible Chapel Sun 10:00a**  
41516 Scenic Hwy 7  
Bovey 55709 218-245-1960

**Bear River Lutheran Church Sun 10:00a**  
11141 Hwy 22  
Cook 55723 218-376-1012

**Bethesda Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a**  
Mizpah 56660 218-897-5654

**Bowstring Chapel Sun 10:15a**  
45114 Co Rd 133  
Deer River 56636 218-832-3171

**Calvary Covenant Sun 10:30a**  
54764 Co. Rd. 31  
Northome 56661 218-897-5684

**Centennial Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a**  
Hwy 46  
Squaw Lake 56681 218-259-0115

**Deer River Bible Church Sun 10:00a**  
33276 State Highway 6  
Deer River 56636 218-246-9570

**Dora Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a**  
59329 Co Rd 145  
Northome 56661 218-659-4551

**Effie Fredheim Lutheran Church (ELCA) Sun 8:30a**  
Hwy 1  
Effie 56639 218-743-3368

**First Presbyterian Church, BF Sun 10:15a**  
109 Ash St.  
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3783

**Gemmel Community Church Sun 10:00a**  
10609 Town Rd 34  
Gemmel 56660 218-897-5966

**Grace Community Church (ELCA) Sun 10:15a**  
401 State Hwy 38 N  
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3368

**Hope Lutheran Church Sun 10:30 a.m.**  
12234 Third St.  
Northome 56661 218-897-5654

**Jehovah's Witnesses Tu 7:00p., Sun 10:00a**  
Hwy 38  
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3275

**Jesse Lake Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a**  
45834 Co. Rd. 4  
Talmoon 56637 218-832-3883

**Marcell Community Church Sun 10:30a**  
49103 State Hwy 38  
Marcell 56657 218-832-3200

**Northome Community Church Sun 10:00a**  
12071 Bartlett St.  
Northome 56661 218-897-5040

**Northwoods Chapel Sun 9:00a**  
50539 Mushgee Rd. (corner of Co. Rd. 622)  
Deer River 56636 218-659-2784

**Old Scenic Community Church Sun 9:00a**  
25747 Co. Rd. 340  
Bigfork 56628 218-659-2727

**Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church Sun 9:00a** Mass also Tu, W, 9:00a.  
320 Golf Course Ln  
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3255

**Sand Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a**  
55581 Co. Rd 4  
Spring Lake 56680 218-659-2872  
*Church website: [www.sandlakealliancechurch.org](http://www.sandlakealliancechurch.org)*

**St. Catherine's Catholic Church Sat 4:00p**  
52265 State Hwy 46  
Squaw Lake 56681 218-743-3255

**St. Michael Catholic Church Sat 7:00p**  
12026 Lake St  
Northome 56661 218-743-3255

**Seventh Day Adventist Sun 11:30a**  
12352 Hwy 46  
Northome 56661 218-897-5723

**Suomi Evangelical Lutheran Church Sun 10:30a**  
42935 Co. Rd. 48  
Deer River 56636 218-832-3883

**True Life Church Sun 10:00a**  
45976 Terry  
Talmoon 56637 218-244-7089

**Wilderness Church Sun 9:30a**  
City Hall  
200 Main Ave.  
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3500  
*wildernesschurchMN@gmail.com*

*Church directory sponsored by North Itasca Electric Cooperative, send changes to editor, [sedgwick@paulbunyan.net](mailto:sedgwick@paulbunyan.net)*

- 25 11th annual Blackduck Stumpjumpers Drag Races on Blackduck Lake. 8 a.m. registration, 10 am. start. Many race classes, including kids, vintage and antique; more info on Facebook.
- 26 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 27 Bigfork Valley Hospital board meets in public meeting, 9 a.m. For information on joining the meeting online, call (218) 743-1772.
- 27 Precinct Caucuses, 6 p.m. Find your location at [sos.state.mn.us](http://sos.state.mn.us) after Feb. 7.
- 29 Leap Year!
- MARCH**
- 7 First Thursday "Practical Water Wisdom" online programs over the lunch hour with Itasca Waters. Topic: "Living with zebra mussels in your lake - A Cautionary Tale." Join a discussion with four lakeshore owners who have been living with zebra mussels in Minnesota and Iowa.
- 9 Polar Revue at the Edge Center, Bigfork, 2 p.m. Annual community talent show: music, skits, dancing, comedy...bring your talent and perform on the big stage!

# Minnesota Outdoor Skills and Stewardship Series

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources invites people interested in wildlife and outdoor skills to check out the winter program schedule for the Minnesota Outdoor Skills and Stewardship Series. Each webinar begins at

noon on Wednesdays and last less than an hour. Contact Benji Kohn for additional information at benjamin.kohn@state.mn.us or call (651) 259-5178.

discuss recent winters and their impacts on deer. They will also cover some adaptations deer have developed that help them to survive winter, and what you could do to help them out. Lastly, some of the negative effects of supplementally feeding deer in winter will be discussed.

psychologists Dr. Christie Manning and Dr. Elise Amel, will share with us how time spent in nature improves our mental health and provides many other benefits. We will also highlight several opportunities and programs available to “make a date” with nature this winter.

some of the best edible mushrooms the state has to offer.

**FIRST STATE BANK**  
OF BIGFORK

BIGFORK OFFICE 218-743-3145  
www.fsbbigfork.com  
KELLIHER OFFICE 218-647-8222

### February 7 Winter deer behavior and feeding

Winter can be tough on white-tailed deer. DNR big game specialists will outline the Winter Severity Index (WSI) and

### February 14 A date with nature

### February 21 Edible mushrooms of Minnesota

### February 28 Critical habitat license plates

The Critical Habitat Plate was created in 1995 to provide an opportunity for citizens to contribute a nominal amount to conservation of Minnesota’s critical habitat and show their commitment and individuality with a special vehicle license plate. Lori Naumann, DNR Nongame Wildlife information officer, will discuss why and how you can get one of these beautiful plates for your vehicle and how the funding enhances Minnesota’s natural resources

Mushroom foraging is a fun and healthy way to connect with the outdoors. Join us for a webinar on the edible mushrooms of Minnesota presented by the Minnesota Mycological Society. Learn about the world of mushrooms, their ecology and foraging

**Scenic Rivers HEALTH SERVICES**  
MEDICAL • DENTAL • BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

**Medical Clinics**

<b>Bigfork</b> 135 Pine Tree Dr. (218) 743-3232	<b>Northome</b> 12052 Main St. (218) 897-5222	<b>Big Falls</b> 410 Second St. NW (218) 276-2403
---	---	---

**Dental Clinic**

**Bigfork**  
303 Main Ave.  
(218) 743-3600

WWW.SCENICRIVERSHEALTH.ORG

**Poenix Contracting LLC**

218-246-2740  
poecon@paulbunyan.net

42298 Co Rd. 48  
Deer River,  
MN 56636

You PLAN it,  
we'll NAIL it!

**We specialize in building homes, not just houses.**

Remodels • roofing • ICF basements...

Serving Itasca County for over 25 years.

MN #BC637472

**NorthItascaElectric.com**  
download a form  
find a contractor  
learn about the Wellspring program

• recipe • recipe • recipe • recipe • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes •

Stop by the headquarters building in Bigfork to pick up your own 2023 Christmas Cookie and Candy Contest recipe book! You can also email Roxanne at roxanne@nieci.com or call her at (218) 743-3132 for an emailed copy.

## Cocoa Drop Cookies

*Congratulations to Linda Penn for this 3rd place recipe!*

- 1 cup margarine
- 1 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 cup cottage cheese
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup cocoa
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Cream margarine and sugar until fluffy. Add cottage cheese and vanilla and beat thoroughly. Add eggs and beat well.

Sift together flour, cocoa, baking soda, baking powder and salt, and gradually add to creamed mixture. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto greased cookie sheet.

Bake at 350° F for about 12 minutes.

## Maple Pecan Refrigerator Candy

*Thank you to Janet Kogler for this holiday candy recipe!*

- 1 cup softened butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3 Tablespoons real maple syrup
- 1 large egg yolk
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon maple extract
- 2 cups flour
- 1 1/2 cup chopped pecans

Spray 9” baking dish with cooking spray and line with parchment paper. Spread pecans in single layer on parchment paper.

Add butter, sugar and salt to a heavy bottomed 3-quart pot. Bring to a boil over medium low heat, stirring frequently to dissolve the sugar. Once the sugar is dissolved and boiling, stir occasionally, steadily and evenly until the candy has reached 290° to 300°F. Then remove from heat and gently stir in vanilla.

Carefully pour mixture over the pecans. Let the candy sit for a few minutes undisturbed before sprinkling the chocolate chips over the top. Cover baking dish with foil and let set for 5 minutes to melt the chocolate chips. Then remove foil and spread the melted chocolate over the top.

Place it in the refrigerator and let cool for at least 2 hours, or until it is hard. Lift the parchment paper and place it on a cutting board or solid surface. Use a knife to gently break into smaller pieces. Store in airtight container in refrigerator.

**AD DEADLINE**  
for the MARCH issue: Weds., Feb. 14

# CLASSIFIEDS



**Little Turtle Lake STORE**  
TALMOON, MN • 218-832-3804

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR GASOLINE, ON ROAD DIESEL, OFF ROAD DIESEL, LIVE BAIT AND TACKLE, GIFT SHOP, PROPANE, GROCERY, AUTO PARTS, AND YOUR LOCAL FEED STORE.

U.S. POST OFFICE BOXES AND STAMPS AVAILABLE HERE

WE ARE LOCATED AT: 49926 STATE HWY 6 / P.O. BOX 26 TALMOON, MN 56628 (218)-832-3804

**Creek Bank Printing**

*\*Banners\* Mugs*  
*\*Plaques\* Magnetic Signs*  
*\*Photo Panels\* Tumblers*  
*\*Apparel\* Signs & More*  
*\*ATV License Plates \*Boat License \*Signs*  
*\*Stainless Steel Mugs & Tumblers*  
**Personalized with logos photos etc.**  
**218-259-9041**  
**Bigfork, MN**  
**creekbankprinting.com**

**HOW TO PLACE AN AD**

**DISPLAY ADS**

Email your ad in pdf format or ask us to create one for you.

Ads run from \$12 per month for the business card size (3.25 inches wide x 1.75 inches high) to \$24 per month for a square 3.25 inch ad, which is our largest commercial ad size.

**CLASSIFIEDS**

Contact the editor by one of the ways in the coupon at the bottom of the page or bring your ad into the office.

Classified ads are free to members, \$5 per insertion to non-members or businesses. Size is limited.

**SERVICE CLASSIFIEDS**

Service classifieds are \$5 per insertion and are all text. Ads are boxed and may be limited in size.

To place a service classified, contact the editor or email content.

**-SERVICES-**

**Monuments and Markers**  
Available in granite and bronze.  
Also do final dating, foundation work and cleaning.  
**FREE estimates.**  
Serving your area.  
Jerry Pula, sales rep.  
Call (218) 743-3711

**Lepinski Painting interior/exterior**  
Call for free estimate  
20 yrs experience  
**218-248-0717**  
or **218-743-3613**

**Dahlke Forestry Services, LLC**  
**218-929-7228**  
DahlkeForestry@hotmail.com  
DahlkeForestry.com

- √ Storm Cleanup
- √ Tree Removal
- √ Trail Development
- √ Habitat Improvement
- √ Private Forest Mgmt.
- √ Firewood processing

**Dahlke Dumpsters**  
**218-929-7228**  
DahlkeForestry@hotmail.com  
DahlkeDumpsters.com

Flat rates on dumpster rentals!  
Flexible rental times!  
Great Customer Service!

**-SERVICES-**

**Gus's Auto and Recycling of Bigfork**  
Used auto parts, steel, tires and bridge beams.  
A buyer of metals.  
**Snowplowing**  
Over 20 years experience  
**(218) 929-7117**  
Hm: **(218) 743-3598**  
Gus David

**Bigfork Mini-Storage**  
Many sizes  
24 hour access.  
Located off Hwy 14 just west of Hwy 38  
For immediate service, call Keith at **612-240-2610**

**-HELP WANTED-**

Help wanted: Rapids Welding Supply. Full time. Need CDL Class B. Benefits. Truck driving and store sales. Stop in for application: 309 NE 9th Ave., Grand Rapids. 2/24

**-FREE-**

Free: Giveaway new pkgs, 16 ct womens size X-large Prevail daily underwear (pullups) 48-64" lilac color. Many boxes. Call (218) 256-0016 3/24

Emails will be answered  
If no reply, please resend.

**-FOR SALE-**

For sale: Stihl M170 chainsaw, little use. \$175 obo. Call (218) 832-3363 2/24

For sale: 2002 Toyota Corolla, 248,000 miles. \$2,300. Call (218) 743-3450 2/24

**-WINTER SPORTS- SNOWMOBILES**

For sale: Ice fishing package – Vexlar FL8SE, Strikemaster ice auger, Big Buddy heater, Otter sled. \$350 obo. Call (218) 832-3363 2/24

For sale: Snowmobile: 1998 Polaris XLT, runs great, low miles, great shape, traction products installed. \$1,000 Call (612) 300-7705 2/24 4

**-FARM-**

For sale: Hay. Square bales, mixed grass. Baled dry, stored dry. \$5 per bale. Call (218) 244-0957 2/24

For sale: 60 inch Brush Hog for a 3-pt. tractor hitch. \$600 obo. 10 ft. disc 3 pt. hitch. \$300. Call (218) 259-4631 2/24

Ads are a service to our members. North Itasca Electric and the WATTS NEWS do not endorse advertisements. Please use your good judgment.

\_\_\_\_\_ **WATTS deadlines** \_\_\_\_\_

Listed below are upcoming deadlines for the WATTS News for ads and content. The deadline can also be found on this classified page each month. Dates are subject to change.

March	Weds., Feb. 14
April	Fri., March 15
May	Weds., April 17
June	Fri., May 17
July	Fri., June 14

**Place a Classified Ad Today!**

If you are an individual member of the cooperative, classified ads are free as a service from your cooperative. If you are advertising for a business or are a non-member, please remit \$5 per ad per month.

---

Run my ad for one month only.

Your ad will run for two months unless you check this box. (Business classifieds are \$5 per insertion.)

Please note: We are as careful as possible, but are not responsible for errors.

Send to: Editor, WATTS NEWS, P.O. Box 43  
Spring Lake, MN 56680 or  
call: (218) 659-2779  
or email: sedgwick@paulbunyan.net

Put WATTS AD in subject line.  
If no response, please resend.

## 2024 Rebates

### Appliances

- Dehumidifier - \$25.00  
*Must be ENERGY STAR listed*
- Dryer - \$25.00  
*Must be ENERGY STAR listed*

- Refrigerator or freezer harvest - \$75.00

When removing an older unwanted working refrigerator or freezer from the distribution grid.

- Refrigerator (New construction)

No rebates for new construction. *There are no energy savings when installing an additional appliance to the distribution grid.*

- Refrigerator or freezer w/recycling - \$75.00

When replacing an older less efficient working refrigerator or freezer and recycling it.

### Heat Pump Water Heaters

- 50 gallon or 80 gallon - \$500.00
- ECM motors for a furnace or air exchanger - \$50.00
- ECM recirculating pump - \$50.00

### HVAC

- AC tune up - \$25.00

When tuning up your existing Air Conditioning equipment.

- WIFI thermostat - \$25.00
- ECM motors - \$50.00

When replacing a standard motor with an energy efficient ECM motor.

- Ground Source Heat Pumps (per ton) - \$400.00

### Central Air Source Heat Pumps

When installing new or replacing older equipment up to 5 Tons.

*Note: Air Sources Heat Pump rebates require a Quality Installation (QI) contractor. QI Contractors will submit rebate form to North Itasca Electric Cooperative when installations are complete.*

- Central Air Source Heat Pumps with a SEER rating of 14.5 - \$450.00
- Central Air Source Heat Pumps with a SEER rating of 15 - \$550.00
- Central Air Source Heat Pumps with a SEER rating of 16 - \$650.00
- Central Air Source Heat Pumps with a SEER rating of 17 - \$1,000.00
- Central Air Source Heat Pumps with a SEER rating of 18+ - \$1,200.00

### Ductless Air Source Heat Pumps

- Ductless Air Source Heat Pumps with primary heat being delivered fuels - \$300.00
- Ductless Air Source Heat Pumps with primary heat being electric - \$500.00

### Lighting

- LED home lighting and holiday bulbs - \$2.00 each with proof of purchase (not to exceed 50% of cost)
- LED holiday light strings - \$1.00 per string with proof of purchase (not to exceed 50% of cost)
- LED or DLC rated yard lights - \$30.00 with proof of purchase

*Note: Rebates available until funds run out.*



### Blandin Foundation scholarships available

Blandin Foundation income (AGI) is less than \$125,000, and you plan to pursue certificate programs, community technical or tribal college, and colleges or universities anywhere in the United States. Blandin Foundation scholarships fund up to a bachelor's degree. It is not available for masters/graduate degrees or doctorates/post-doctorates. Blandin Foundation is accepting scholarship applications until **March 1, 2024.**

You can apply if you are under age 25, your household adjusted gross

 **Happy Valentine's Day!**  
**Spring Lake Store**  
*An Old Fashioned General Store*  
**218-832-3626**  
Cheeses, lunch meat, sandwiches, groceries, gifts, WiFi, post office  
Mon-Thurs: 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.  
Fri-Sat: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Sun. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**OLD SCENIC COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
25747 County Rd 340, Bigfork  
Pastor Sam Ketchum  
**218-743-3953**  
  
*A Bible Based, Christ Centered Fellowship.*  
Come and join us in worship, and a study of the Word.  
Sunday School: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Sunday Worship Service: *Winter start time 10 a.m.*  
<https://www.oldscenic.com>

 **SCS-MN.COM**  
35334 HWY 2 Grand Rapids  
218-327-9505  
**SPECIALTY CONSTRUCTION SERVICES**  
Land Clearing - Site Prep - Road Building  
- Shoreline Restoration - Demolition  
Licensed Septic Installation  
Concrete Flat Work - Foundations  
General Contractors License #BC775961  
SSTS License #L4130  
  
**FREE ESTIMATES!!!**

**PEDERSON HOVILA AGENCY**  
**INSURANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES**  
*friendly, personal service for over 40 years*  
• AUTO, HOME, FARM  
• ANNUITIES, LIFE INSURANCE for all stages of life  
• MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS, LONG TERM CARE  
EXPENSE PLANS AND ALTERNATIVES  
**218-743-3545**  
Call Kevin for a no-obligation quote or policy review  
401 Main Ave., Bigfork 56628 next to the post office

 **T&T Dog Lodge**  
*Dog Boarding and Grooming*  
Located in Talmoon, MN  
Call for Information and Appointments  
**218-256-9575**

  
**THE PILLARS OF GRAND RAPIDS**  
SENIOR LIVING | ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE  
**CALL TODAY!**  
Take a tour (218) 999-4999  
[PillarsSeniorLiving.com/grandrapids](http://PillarsSeniorLiving.com/grandrapids)

 **Bob Elies**  
Broker/Realtor®  
[www.GOWITHBOB.com](http://www.GOWITHBOB.com)  
(218) 259-3403  
[Bob@GowithBob.com](mailto:Bob@GowithBob.com)  
**Homes, Lakes & Acreage**  
 **THOUSAND LAKES**  
Grand Rapids, MN (218) 326-8200

**Professional Animal Care**  
\*Short & Long Term Stays  
\*Indoor Kennels with Outdoor Runs  
\*Large Outdoor Fenced Play Area  
\*Dog Walks  
\*Nail Trims  
\*Dog Baths  
*A Home Away From Home For Your Pet!*  
[www.ttdoglodge.com](http://www.ttdoglodge.com)  
[ttdoglodge@gmail.com](mailto:ttdoglodge@gmail.com)  
  
f Find us on Facebook