



## CEO Report

Good afternoon North Itasca Electric, going.

It seems like I blinked, and the year is over. I hope everyone has their holiday plans and shopping wrapped up. I'll be heading up to Baudette to see family and friends this weekend. I don't believe we'll be heading to the lake anytime soon. I am cautious when it comes to early ice. I enjoy this stretch of nice weather we have, although many of my friends' businesses depend on the cold weather. Between our loggers, resort owners, cold weather testers, bars and restaurants, I think we need some cold and snow to keep our economy

We have been busy planning for 2024. What will the year shape up to be? What projects are we going to focus on? Where will we be clearing the rights of way? How much will interest expenses be for our loans? What does the cost of power look like, and what will the impacts of all this be to you, the Member-Owner?

We are looking at several projects for 2024. Horseshoe Lake near Marcell will be a focus this year. We have been working on lines that have continued outages on them for the past few years. Can we replace these lines, improve



Brad Dolinski, CEO

safety and reliability, and reduce costs by replacing them? These have been our planning goals when we consider projects. Some of the projects we would like to focus on are limited by regulations and environmental concerns. We continue to look for ways to work within the permitting requirements  
CEO to p.2>

## It's time to pass the torch

by Jerry Loney

After eighteen and a half years working for North Itasca Electric Cooperative and now having reached retirement age, I have passed on my torch to Joe Kangas. By the time you read this, Joe will have already received much of the training he will need to begin his new adventure in filling my shoes, serving you, our member-owners. In the event a little help is needed, I will not be far away to lend a helping hand until Joe is comfortable in his new position.

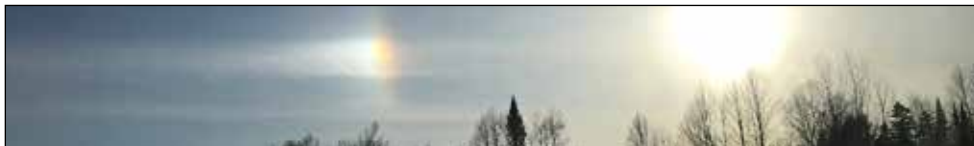


Jerry Loney, Energy Management Specialist

My time at North Itasca will not be forgotten for sure. During my career with North Itasca Electric beginning in July of 2005 I have seen many changes in the energy sector. Some of these changes were moving from the standard inefficient incandescent

100-watt light bulb to the (not so great) CFLs which have moved on to LED bulbs. Some of you may even remember the days when I led trips to the Coal Creek Station in Bismark, North Dakota, owned then by Great River and now owned by Rainbow

Retire to p.3>



## Midwest electric system ready for winter

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) recently released its annual winter outlook in which it outlines expectations for the winter season. MISO is expecting a mild winter for most of its territory. January is forecasted to have the highest winter peak demand in the range of 102 to 107 gigawatts (GW), with generation supply availability expected to be 122 GW.

"Great River Energy team members are ready to meet our responsibilities to our member-owners and MISO by generating and delivering energy regardless of weather conditions," said

Great River Energy Vice President and Chief Power Supply Officer Jon Brekke. "Great River Energy is continuing to invest in its generation and transmission assets to support grid reliability for the future."

Among other projects, Great River Energy and Minnesota Power are jointly developing the Northland Reliability Project, a 180-mile, 345-kilovolt electric transmission line from northern Minnesota to central Minnesota to ensure continued reliability into the future as the region transitions to greater levels of renewable energy.

MISO to p.2>



## Spotlight on services: Senior Life Solutions

by Sally Sedgwick

Are you an older adult, or do you know one who is experiencing changes in appetite, sleeping, fear of leaving home or loss of independence?

You're not alone. Many do, and they can be symptoms of depression. The

good thing is that seniors don't have to live with these or other symptoms, said Andrea Green, program director and registered nurse at Senior Life Solutions, a unique program at Bigfork Valley Hospital for seniors.

Senior to p.6 >



Senior Life Solutions staff at Bigfork Valley. (l to r) Andrea Green, program director and registered nurse; Michelle George, office and patient coordinator; Gary Gibson, therapist.

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

Bigfork generosity provides toys for kids

pages 10

Christmas coloring contest

pages 8-9

Cold Weather Rule

page 4

### Office Hours

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

# CEO Report (continued)

>from p.1  
to improve the system. Some of these projects will take a little longer to finish due to the permitting requirements.

Right of way clearing will continue west of the Hwy 6 corridor. We basically finished along 29 and 14 in 2023. The next section will continue traveling south down to the Bowstring, Sand Lake, Dunbar, Dixon Lake, and Jesse Lake areas. We have been making a concerted effort to clear our right of way, ground to sky, twenty feet on both sides of the overhead single-phase lines.

North Itasca Electric borrows money from the federal government under the USDA Rural Utilities Service primarily. We can get lower interest rates, close to U.S. Treasury posted rates using this program available to us. Over the past 18 months we have seen a climb in interest rates. Our business model is built around borrowing money. When interest rates climb as we have seen, pressure is placed directly on the rates we pay per kilowatt hour. I am expecting to see interest rates on new loans climb to roughly 5% up from 1-2% just a couple years ago.

I wrote two months ago about the expected rate increases we are going to see from our power supplier Great River Energy. I am expecting to see our cost of electricity rise by 2.4% in 2024 from GRE. The power cost is 50% of our total budget at North Itasca. This means we must increase the cost of power on your bill by 1.2% to manage the increase from GRE.

Our Board of Directors carries the heavy weight of approving rate changes. It is my job to ensure they have all the information necessary to make the best financial decisions for North Itasca Electric. I will continue to work with our budget to find the least impactful way to navigate the challenges faced in 2024. We will discuss these opportunities internally and with our auditors to ensure we have the best possible path to move forward.

This isn't the news I wanted to drop on you around Christmas. If you have spent any time around me or reading my articles, I want to ensure you have the information I have early. I don't expect big rate increases in 2024. I will commit to recommending a 1.2% rate increase. I must do this to avoid larger increases in the future. I would prefer small increases when they are needed rather than a big bite all at once.

I want to give a huge thank you to Mr. Jerry Loney. Jerry has spent many years serving the Member-Owners of North Itasca. He has built friendships with many of us in the area. I will miss his sense of humor (when I could hear what he said), and his devotion to all of us. Jer, I wish you the best, I look forward to hearing how great retirement is when you stop by to visit. Thank you for your years of service and your friendship, sir.

Cheers to a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*By your side! Miigwech  
Brad*

# MISO ready for winter

>from p.1  
MISO stresses the importance of reliability in all seasons, particularly when entering winter and summer when demand for electricity peaks. Great River Energy's winter reliability plans received an important boost from a recent decision by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

The PUC unanimously approved the addition of dual fuel capability at Great River Energy's Cambridge Peaking Station, which will enable the plant to operate on fuel oil when its primary fuel — natural gas — is either unavailable or prohibitively expensive.

Natural gas peaking plants are an important part of overall reliability of the electric grid by providing generation at

times of greatest system need. The addition of dual fuel capability will further enhance overall system reliability and help keep businesses operating and homes safe and warm.

"Electric cooperatives serving Minnesota must be prepared for extreme winter conditions that are normal for our region," said Great River Energy President and Chief Executive Officer David Saggau. "Dual fuel capability in Cambridge is a small but absolutely critical enhancement to meet the needs and expectations of our member-owners on the coldest nights of the year."

Dual fuel capability at Cambridge Peaking Station is expected to be operational in time for the winter of 2025-26.

# 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

218-256-7316  
cozyairhp@gmail.com

**Cozy Air**  
Heating and Plumbing

**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

# 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](http://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  
November 20, 2023

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

**End time: 1:10 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on November 20, 2023.

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

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

**Guest:** Anthony Lenz MREA Director, Safety Services

**Start Regular Board Meeting: 10:40 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 introduced Anthony Lenz, Director, Safety Services at MREA.
- o Brad discussed Ice Safety.
- o Tina gave the Operating Reports. A motion was made to accept the Operating Reports as they were presented. Seconded; motion passed.
- o A motion was made to show that Board Policy 400.10 Equal Employment Opportunity was reviewed with no changes. Seconded; motion passed.
- o A motion was made to extend the line of credit at CoBank to \$2,000,000. Seconded; motion passed.
- o Daryl gave the Line Department report. Jessie Lake transformer scheduled to arrive the second week in December. Daryl will schedule setting it after checking the weather as it would not be prudent to change that out in extreme cold conditions. The existing transformer will be rebuilt. Outages are trending downward. Less outages and less time out. ROW clearing is contributing to this.
- o Jerry Loney gave the Members Services report. Jerry will begin training his replacement December 1.
- o Tina gave the Office Report. General Retirement checks will be printed the first week in December.
- o Brad gave the CEO report.
- o MREA will be holding director classes January 16, 17 & 18. A motion was made to approve attendance and travel for the classes. Seconded; motion carried.
- o Lloyd Kongsjord received the NRECA Certificate of Achievement for the Board Leadership Program.
- o Wes Waller gave the MREA report.
- o A motion was made to appoint T. Christensen as the voting delegate for MREA and J. White as the alternate voting delegate. Seconded; motion carried.
- o A motion was made to appoint M. Rahier as the NRECA Regional voting delegate and L. Salmela as the alternate voting delegate. Seconded; motion carried.
- o A motion was made to appoint B. Dolinski as the voting delegate and L. Salmela alternate voting delegate for CRC for the year 2024. Seconded; motion carried.
- o Lloyd gave the GRE report.

## Jerry Loney to retire

>from p.1  
Energy. No more is coal focused on, but rather renewables such as wind and solar farms.

To give you a little history of my journey to North Itasca Electric, I was working in downtown Minneapolis for an architectural engineering firm when I met a petite little redhead. It turned my life upside down (in a good way of course)! Knowing my current home was too small for soon-to-be family of four and having a degree in architecture, I designed a new 4,000 square foot home in Chisago City for us. I did all the electrical, plumbing, tile and wood flooring, all the while working my full-time job.

The house was very nice but since my wife (Shelly) had family close to Grand Rapids where she was raised, we decided to come up north where we didn't have to fight the traffic or deal with the hassle of a populated environment. Growing up on a hobby farm and farming for the neighbors while in high school, and Shelly also growing up on a farm which is still active today, we preferred the rural life.

Moving north now meant designing another

new home. This time 4,200 square feet on Jessie Lake. Shelly and I did all the electrical and plumbing work plus much more. When it was time to select a heating system for the home, I heard about a program called Off-Peak Heating that North Itasca Electric had available and drove to the office to learn more. While I was there talking to Mike Anderson (the member services representative), I told him "I don't know what I was going to do for work up here." Mike then replied, "You can have my job; I will be leaving." By the time I had all the information I needed on off-peak, I also had an application form completed and two months later found myself walking through the front door at North Itasca Electric ready for work.

At first, it was a struggle and scary! My experience working for architectural firms consisted of designing heating, plumbing, fire protection, underground utilities and refrigeration systems for commercial buildings, but I had no experience in electrical. But over time I learned, and the experience I had in HVAC and refrigeration design helped a lot.

When looking back to who I was eighteen years ago and comparing it to where I am today, I have so much to be thankful for. Back then I struggled with certain skills. Working at North Itasca Electric has boosted my confidence level, and now I am doing things I would have never thought I would ever do. I was never good with English and grammar and here I am writing this article and so many others throughout the years. Besides writing, I never thought I would ever be speaking in public and today, I have no trouble

doing it. Now some may wish I would stop. All kidding aside; the point is, North Itasca Electric has been good for me to help overcome many of my fears.

My greatest hope working for North Itasca Electric is that I was able to serve you as the member-owner in a positive way and to help you with the needs you had at that time. I will not be going far and look forward seeing you in the days to come.

Until we will meet again, may many blessings come your way!



**Jesse Lake Lutheran  
Community Meal  
FREE Chili Dinner**

**Tuesday, January 16th • 4-6 p.m.**

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

Highway 46,  
Squaw Lake



**218-659-2131**

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

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

**Meat raffle**  
every Sat at 6p

**Full menu**  
including Broasted Chicken

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

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



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

- o A motion was made to appoint L. Kongsjord as the delegate for the GRE 2024 Annual Meeting. Seconded; motion carried.
- o A motion was made approving resolution in support of GRE R23-11-7 Amendment to Articles & Bylaws. Seconded; motion carried.
- o A motion was made to adjourn. seconded; motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 1:10 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.*

**STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION  
NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP, INC.**

Bigfork, Minnesota 56628

is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utility Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504, of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission to, access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

That person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Brad Dolinski, chief executive officer. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utility Service, Washington, DC. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

**MEMBER NOTIFICATION TO SMALL  
POWER PRODUCERS, COGENERATORS**

In compliance with Minnesota Adopted Rules relating to Cogeneration and Small Power Production Chapter 7835, North Itasca Electric Co-op, Inc. is required to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers which satisfy the conditions of a Qualifying Facility.

North Itasca Electric Co-op, Inc. will provide free information to all interested members regarding rates and interconnection requirements. An application for interconnection is required for a Qualifying Facility to interconnect and operate in parallel with the cooperative's distribution system and is subject to approval by the Cooperative.

Any disputes over interconnection, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. Members interested in further information should contact North Itasca Electric Co-op, Inc.

**NorthItascaElectric.com**

- *pay a bill, download a form*
- *find out about programs*
- *worksheets to calculate the cost of running your appliances*

**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

## Beginner's Guide to the Electric Grid

by Maura Giles

Electricity plays an essential role in everyday life.

It powers our homes, offices, hospitals and schools. We depend on it to keep us warm in the winter (and cool in the summer), charge our phones and binge our favorite TV shows. If the power goes out, even briefly, our lives can be disrupted.

The system that delivers your electricity is often described as the most complex machine in the world, and it's known as the electric grid.

What makes it so complex? We all use different amounts of electricity throughout the day, so the supply and demand for electricity is constantly changing. For example, we typically use more electricity in the mornings when we're starting our day, and in the evenings when we're cooking dinner and using appliances. Severe weather and other factors also impact how much electricity we need.

The challenge for electric providers is to plan for, produce and purchase enough electricity so it's available exactly when we need it. Too much or too little electricity in one place can cause problems. So, to make sure the whole system stays balanced, the electric grid must adjust in real time to changes and unforeseen events.

At its core, the electric grid is a network of power lines, transformers, substations and other infrastructure that span the entire country. But it's not just a singular system. It's divided into three major interconnected grids: the Eastern Interconnection,

the Western Interconnection and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. These grids operate independently but are linked to allow electricity to be transferred between regions when backup support is required.

Within the three regions, seven balancing authorities known as independent system operators (ISOs) or regional transmission organizations (RTOs) monitor the grid, signaling to power plants when more electricity is needed to maintain a balanced electrical flow. ISOs and RTOs are like traffic controllers for electricity.

The journey of electricity begins at power plants.

Across the U.S., more than 11,000 power plants deliver electricity to the grid.

North Itasca Electric receives power from our generation and transmission (G&T) co-op, Great River Energy. To get the electricity from power plants to you, we need a transportation system.

High-voltage transmission lines act as the highways for electricity, transporting power over long distances. These lines are supported by massive towers and travel through vast landscapes, connecting power plants to electric substations.

Substations are like pit stops along the highway, where the voltage of electricity is adjusted. They play a crucial role in managing power flow and ensuring that electricity is safe for use in homes and businesses.

Once the electricity is reduced to the proper

## Roxanne's Sales Talk

by Roxanne Prather, Member Services Representative

Winter is here and with that comes all kinds of things that a person probably knows, but we don't always think about. So let's go over some things worth remembering.

- You should have a smoke detector on every level of your home that is just outside the sleeping areas.

A good smoke detector can save lives but unless we take the time to change the batteries regularly, they are useless. In most detectors you should change the batteries twice a year. One way to remember is to change them at the same time when you set your clocks for daylight savings. Some of the new detectors come with a ten-year battery and are designed to be replaced as a unit. If you have this kind then you don't have to change batteries, just replace the unit in ten years.

- Keep areas around your heating system clear.

Your furnace needs air to burn the fuel, which is why it is so important to change filters regularly. Also make sure there are never any combustibles stored near a furnace.

- Never leave engines running in an attached garage.

This goes for lawnmowers, snow blowers, cars, or anything else with an internal combustion engine. Even if the door in the garage is open.

- Get a Carbon Monoxide Alarm.

They protect you against the odorless gas produced by defective heaters burning natural gas, oil, propane, wood, or kerosene. Call the fuel company immediately if the alarm goes off!

Symptoms of carbon poisoning include dizziness, fatigue, headache, nausea, irregular breathing, and confusion.

- Check wires on cords.

In high use areas like the kitchen, inspect the coffee pot, toaster, crock pot, any appliance you use with a cord that gets a lot of use. If any look worn or cracked, replace the appliance or the cord. Don't forget to do the same in bedrooms where kids have lots of games and other equipment plugged in. Make sure everyone knows to never pull a plug out of an outlet by the cord, and to never overload the outlet; this will help prevent fires.

voltage, it travels through distribution power lines to homes, schools and businesses. Distribution transformers, which look like metal buckets on the tops of power poles or large green boxes on the ground, further reduce the voltage to levels suitable for household appliances and electronic devices.

We're proud to be your local, trusted energy provider. From the time

it's created to the time it's used, electricity travels great distances to be available at the flip of a switch.

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

- Use plastic safety caps in electrical outlets.

This is mostly if there are small children in the home. Children love to poke things into wherever they can. Even though we try, we can't always watch them.

- Never stick metal objects into appliances.

Like a knife into the toaster when the bread gets stuck! Always unplug the toaster first to prevent getting shocked.

If you must use a space heater, make sure you keep it away from everything where it won't get tipped over or catch something on fire. Keep an eye on it, some of them get hot and overheat which can cause a fire.

- Keep everyone away from downed power lines.

Even though you think the power is off there could be power coming through the line. Never go out and cut a tree off the line yourself. This could be extremely dangerous to yourself and anyone around you. Please call 911 if there is a tree over your line or contact North Itasca Electric at (218) 743-3131.

### 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



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

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

POLAR INSULATING

Fiberglass • Spray Foam • Cellulose  
Waterproofing • Metal Roof Coatings

CertainTeed

218-659-4351

### Senior Life Solutions

>from p.1

Although most older adults believe it is normal for seniors to be depressed as they age according to Mental Health America, it doesn't have to be. Events like retirement, change in home, losing a loved one or developing physical limitations are more likely to happen as people age, and they can serve as triggers for anxiety, depression or other mental health challenges.

Those challenges can lead to physical symptoms like those above including headaches, feeling tired

constantly or even the inability to think clearly. If allowed to persist, depression in elders can lead to more serious conditions including suicide.

So what can be done?

There's no magic wand, said therapist Gary Gibson, everyone is different. But there are a number of tools available, including participating in group or individual sessions and even teletherapy from one's home. Senior Life Solutions has a licensed psychiatrist who meets with program clients through

an opportunity to share experiences with others. Developing resilience is the goal, he said. When a crisis happens, resilience is critical.

Those living within an hour's radius of Bigfork Valley are eligible for the program, and anyone from a doctor to a friend can refer a person. Self-referral is also allowed. Senior Life Solutions will take care of authorizing treatment through the client's insurance and develop a plan with a one-on-one meeting. The program usually lasts 3 to 6 months, but everyone is different, Green cautioned.

To find out more, contact Senior Life Solutions at (218) 743-4284.

Group sessions are very effective for seniors, said Gibson. They involve 7 to 10 people and are

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

**Lakeside Lumber & Hardware**

Office 218-832-3300      Cell 425-233-1835

Eric Elhardt  
Owner

www.lakesidemarcell.com | 49208 State Hwy 38  
eric@lakesidemarcell.com | Marcell, MN 56657

**Happy New Year!**

**Spring Lake Store**  
*An Old Fashioned General Store*

**218-832-3626**

**Hours:**  
Mon-Thurs: 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.  
Fri-Sat: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Sun. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
CR4, 1 mile west of CR29

Deli cheeses & lunch  
meat, sandwiches, WiFi,  
groceries, gifts, post office  
Free WiFi, Fireside Room

**LITTLEHAWK SERVICES LLC**

**Stump Grinding  
Tree Removal**

218-341-8291 (Call or Text)  
JEREMIAH LITTLEHAWK littlehawkservices@gmail.com

**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**

**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

**WILD PINE BUILDERS**

Tom Urman 218-244-3553      Dustin Ritter 218-256-8598

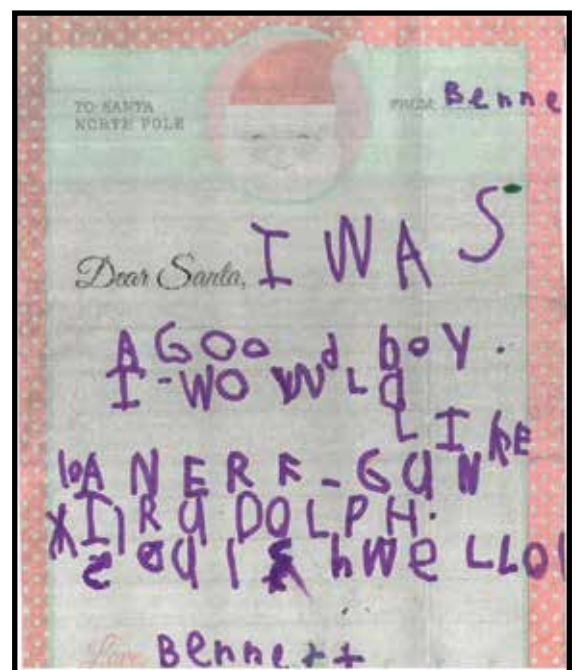
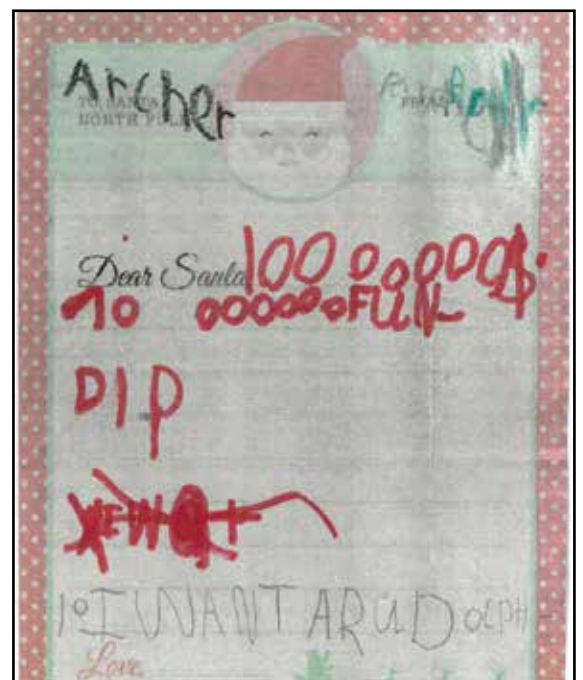
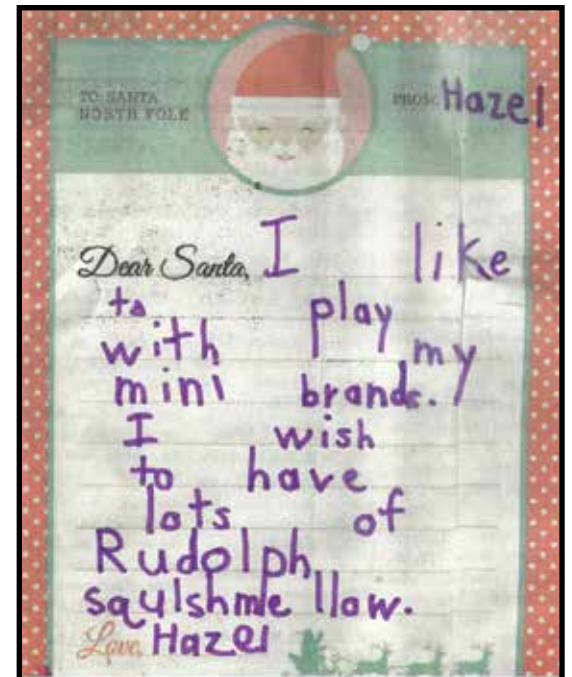
Keep your investments safe by hiring your local hometown licensed contractor.

- New construction
- Garages
- Remodels
- Reroofs

Check us out on Facebook  
License # BC706317 WildPineBuilders@msn.com

### Christmas letters to Santa

Thank you to Hazel, Archer and Bennett, who sent us letters to Santa. We hope these letters reached their North Pole destination safely and you found just what you wanted under the tree!



## Powerful engines of economic development

A new analysis finds that electric cooperatives have a wide-ranging economic impact in the United States, supporting nearly 623,000 jobs with \$51 billion in pay and benefits each year while contributing hundreds of billions of dollars to the economy over a five-year period.

According to this analysis, co-ops' activity contributed \$554 billion to U.S. gross domestic product between 2018 and 2022 for an average of \$111 billion per year. Co-ops also generated \$135 billion in federal, state and local tax revenue over this period.

The report, "Economic Powerhouses: The Economic Impacts of America's Electric Cooperatives," was commissioned by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corp., (CFC) and conducted by Strategen Consulting, an energy strategy consulting firm and NRECA associate member.

It details the economic impacts of distribution and generation and transmission cooperatives' annual capital, operations and maintenance expenditures as they engage in the distribution, transmission and generation of electricity, as well as the disbursement of excess operating revenue returned to consumer-members as capital credits.

"This report quantifies what many American families and businesses know well: Electric cooperatives are powerful engines of economic development in their local communities," NRECA CEO Jim Matheson said. "Affordable and reliable electricity is a key ingredient for a successful economy. Electric co-ops are focused on the long-term success of local communities as they keep the lights on and power economic growth."

### Statewide impact

While co-ops had a major impact nationwide, the report also found that much of this activity happens locally. Within the counties they serve, co-ops supported jobs for nearly 424,000 people earning \$33 billion in pay and benefits annually and contributing \$374 billion toward gross regional product across the five-year period for an average of \$75 billion per year.

As for Minnesota, electric cooperatives injected \$19.6 billion into the state's economy from 2018 to 2022, fortifying its financial landscape and supporting an average of 20,800 jobs each year.

"This study's findings underscore the indispensable role electric cooperatives play in our state's economic vitality," said Darrick Moe, CEO of the Minnesota Rural Electric Association. "We are proud to power our communities, provide meaningful careers and give back to our neighborhoods. As consumer-owned not-for-profits, our focus is on helping bring a brighter, more prosperous future to the places we call home."

Between 2018 and 2022, co-ops invested nearly \$409 billion across the United

### The Economic Impacts of America's Electric Cooperatives



Source: Strategen Consulting Inc.

States. This figure includes \$75 billion on capital expenses and infrastructure, \$304 billion in operational costs and \$24 billion toward maintenance activities. Another \$7 billion was disbursed to members in the form of retired capital credits.



### T&T Dog Lodge

Dog Boarding and Grooming  
Located in Talmoo, MN

Call for Information and  
Appointments

218-256-9575

### 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  
ttdoglodge@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook



NorthItascaElectric.com  
download a form  
find out about programs  
find a contractor  
Learn about Wellspring

**LOVDAHL ELECTRIC**  
PH. 218.398.2203  
Info@lov-elec.com  
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

**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  
love where you live

**ITASCA RELIABLE insurance agency, inc**

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**

Choice You Deserve.  
Service You Trust.

Visit Our Website for On-line Quotes.  
www.itascareliableinsurance.com

**Bigfork Valley Chiropractic**

Mike Olson, DC, CCSP  
Doctor of Chiropractic

Open Monday-Friday  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm  
218-743-4340

Services Include:

- Adjustments
- Soft Tissue Techniques
- Rock Tape
- Aline Inserts
- Acupuncture
- TMJ Dysfunction Treatment
- Sports Physicals

# Christmas Coloring Contest

Congratulations to our winners of the Christmas coloring contest, and thank you to every child who sent us a page! There were many great entries this year!



Archer, age 6 winner!



Hazel, age 7 winner!



Gayna, age 8 winner!



Addie Rosner, age 5 winner!



Elsie, age 5



Henrik, age 5



**THE PILLARS  
OF GRAND RAPIDS**  
SENIOR LIVING | ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE

**CALL TODAY!**  
Take a tour (218) 999-4999  
PillarsSeniorLiving.com/grandrapids

**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)

**MIKE N' AUSTIN'S  
LAKE HOME  
SERVICES**



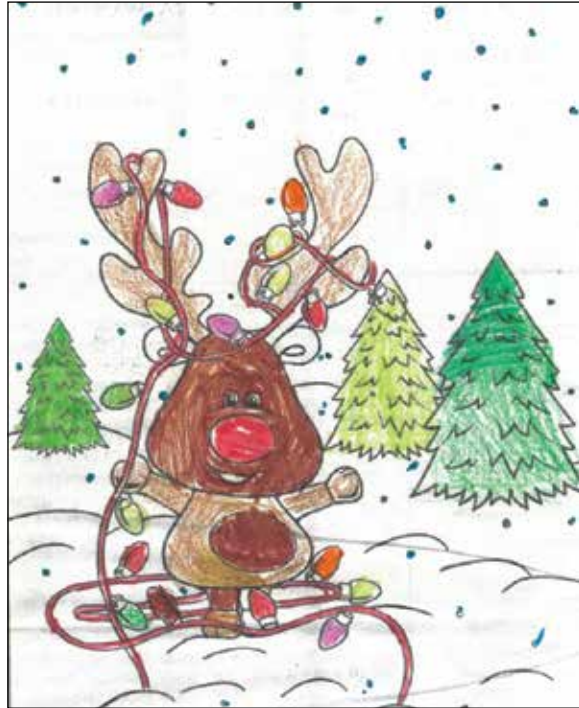
*A lifetime of quality painting, repairs & remodeling.*

**Marcell, MN**  
**847-344-4890**





Bennett, age 6



Emma, age 6



Jordan, age 6



Aurelia, age 8



Chloe, age 8



Isaiah, age 8



William, age 8



William, age 8

**FIRST STATE BANK**  
OF BIGFORK

BIGFORK OFFICE 218-743-3145

www.fsbigfork.com

KELLIHER OFFICE 218-647-8222

FDIC

**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

# Ice safety



The Minnesota DNR cautions that ice thickness may vary widely, with thin areas close to thicker areas.

White ice occurs when snow melts on top of a sheet of ice and refreezes. This type of ice is only about half as strong as new, clear ice because it is full of air bubbles and made up of smaller crystals. As a result, the standard ice thickness guidelines should be doubled when traveling on white ice.

The strongest and safest ice is clear ice—sometimes called blue ice—which typically forms at the start of the ice season on top of calm water. The ice is clear but can

appear blue or black when looking down into the water. This ice is formed with large crystals and few or no oxygen bubbles, creating very solid, strong ice.

The insulating effect of snow slows the freezing process. The extra weight also reduces how much weight the ice sheet can support. When the snow melts, it often creates “white ice” on top of the original, clear ice.

What areas of a lake might have unsafe ice? Areas with flowing water, areas close to

shore in late season, or areas near logs, rocks, bridges, and docks (anything that can absorb heat from the sun). These structures often have thinner ice or open water near them.

More information is available on the DNR website, [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us), including ways to measure thickness.

Source: [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)

# 213 ½ Summit Ave.

by Sally Sedgwick

The Effie City Council had to resort to half numbers in assigning new addresses at its December 11 council meeting. 213 ½ Summit Ave. NE was assigned to the Verizon tower site and 200 ½ NE State Highway 1 to a residential property in town.

A request for access to a timber sale property across city property was agreed to by the council, and the aspen stumpage on that property was sold at the same time for approximately \$12,000.

During Council Updates, Councilor Tom Lamont said that he had been approached by a party interested in the Effie Café building for a retail cannabis dispensary starting next summer. Council opinion was solicited, and the council agreed that if there was no legal reason they could not, it would probably be approved.

Mayor Greta Drewlow reported that a citizen had asked about freezing the skating rink. There would be site preparation including brushing that would be required.

Clerk Carolyn Schmit reported on information from area meetings:

- The county jail construction project is running \$3-\$4 million under budget. Sales tax has raised \$4 million to date toward the first bond payment.
- Local snowmobile clubs were able to get insurance for trails thanks to donations.
- The Marcell Family Center sold a portion of its building to the adjacent church.
- The Discovery Center in Marcell has closed for the season.
- The hospital is searching for a new CEO after a mutually agreed separation and has a number of qualified applicants.

The council voted to hire Hill Brothers Electric of Cook to finish wiring the furnace and fix lights at the intersection of highways 38 and 1. A proposal to survey and do basic repair on any inoperable alarm lights at the grinder stations for \$650 was accepted.

During construction of the sewer system, some locations were stubbed in but not completed. Records of who should receive billings are incomplete, noted Schmit. Drewlow indicated that the January meeting would be used to straighten sewer records out in the city.

In other business, the council:

- Heard that the sewer plant was operating well from Kassie Hall of Sewer Operator AUS.
- Heard that Itasca County Environmental Services supplied dumpsters and disposal, and local contractors including Greg Cook Logging and Jeff Powell Excavating, donated time and labor to clean up the fire damaged tax forfeit property on Highway 1.
- Were updated on the 2024 extension of fiber by Arvig east of the city on Highway 1

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 8, 2024 at 6 p.m. in the Community Center.

Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum

**THE SHOP**

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

**Itasca Services LLC**  
Fighting hard against **stick-er shock**.

Call for Furnace Clean & Tune and Clean or Service

What can be found during routine maintenance?  
Weak capacitors, corroded burners, low gas pressure, CO leak, scorched control board, closed plenum damper, bad gas valve, corroded flame sensor, leaking inducer motor, weak inducer fan, improperly wired blower motor, improperly wired safety switch, leaking exhaust venting, and missing CO detectors.

Service, Maintenance, or Replacement  
Call or text: (515) 868-8303

49407 State Hwy 38  
Marcell Mn 56657

**MN Up North Realty**

[WWW.MNUPNORTHREALTY.COM](http://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**

**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](mailto:sixand14repair@yahoo.com)  
43576 Co Rd 14 Bigfork, MN 56628



# Arts on the Edge

## YOU Can Be a DIRECTOR!

by Valerie Connor  
On the heels of the spectacular success of Our Town at the Edge Center this spring, artistic director Patricia Feld has decided it's a good time to hand the directorial baton to successors.

In an effort to develop a group of local directors, Patty and producer Valerie Conner are offering an opportunity to experience directing a play for presentation on the Edge stage this spring.

Patty and Val will be working with six to eight aspiring directors throughout the winter/spring to guide each of them to the knowledge, skills, and confidence

needed to present an entertaining one act play. Each "student" will attend classroom settings to gain knowledge as well as select and direct his/her individual one-act play. And Patty and Val will help you!! This is your chance to learn from the pro!

If you are interested in learning the finer points of directing and experiencing hands-on community theatre, contact Patty at (218) 244-3441 (and leave a message) or at pfeld25@yahoo.com by January 10th for more information and to sign up.

This will be FUN!

## Bigfork City Council hires new auditor, will hire rink attendant

by Sally Sedgwick

At its December 19 meeting, the Bigfork City Council agreed to a contract with Miller McDonald of Bemidji for its annual audit, which would save money for both the city and the Fire Department which also uses its service. The previous auditor was unable to continue services because of staffing issues.

Negotiated changes in the IUOE Local No 49 contract covering three employees were reviewed, and the 2024-2026 contract was approved.

The council decided to create and advertise a rink attendant position at \$15/hour paid out of the gambling tax fund. The attendant would be responsible for freezing the rink and keeping the ice in condition during the winter among other responsibilities.

The Bigfork School PTA requested and received permission to hang banners next spring from the streetlights starting in April through graduation.

In other business, the council heard that the new water truck for the Fire Department had arrived earlier than scheduled.

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

## Classic Movie Series

by Jack Nachbar

For the first movie of 2024, the Classic Movie Series is going back to the 1930s and the Depression. *Dead End* (1937) takes place in the slums of NYC where crime was common and poverty was a constant. The film features an open end of great movie actors of the era: Joel McCrae, Sylvia Sidney, Claire Trevor and, as a gangster returning home to meet old friends and family, Humphrey Bogart. It also features the teen-aged *Dead End Kids* in their first movie. Later, as the *Bowery Boys*, they would star in over 60 movies.

*Dead End* was directed by one of Hollywood's greats, William Wyler. It was nominated for four Academy Awards, including Best Picture.

*Dead End* will be shown at the Edge Center Theater in Bigfork at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 11. FREE!! All are invited.

FEBRUARY CLASSIC MOVIE: the great star, Bette Davis, stars in her definitive movie, *Now Voyager* (1942). Thursday, February 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Edge. "Why ask for the moon when we have the star?"

## Shoreland Stewards

The Itasca County Commissioners and Itasca Soil and Water District presented the Shoreland Stewardship Awards during the Nov. 28 county board meeting. Winners Kate and Steve Lavalier controlled runoff from their property to Loon Lake, and John Carney and family completed about 170 feet of shoreland restoration which was eroding from wave action on their island property on Turtle Lake.

Itasca Coalition of Lakes Association also participated in the award.

### 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



## 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



## WATTS Wonderful!



Bigfork Toys!!! And Lots of them!

With the generosity of the community members and local businesses, 86 children received gifts under their tree this holiday season!

A donation was received "In Memory of Tomas Hudson" and loving supporter of Bigfork Toys, Sherry Smith! Parents are very grateful to place them under the tree!

Thank you First State Bank of Bigfork for handling the donations, and North Itasca Electric and Bigfork Valley Hospital for being a drop off zone for Toys!

Bigfork Improvement Group could not do this without the support from you! Happy Holidays.

WATTS Wonderful is a space inspired by Willie Wirehand where members can post short thank yous, kind things noticed or recognitions received by co-op members.

## Hunters can find CWD test results online

Hunters can check the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website ([mndnr.gov/cwdcheck](http://mndnr.gov/cwdcheck)) for chronic wasting disease test results on the deer they've harvested.

The site also shows statewide CWD test results, summary statistics and mapped locations of deer that tested positive. Any additional deer harvested during Minnesota deer seasons that test positive for CWD will be reported on the CWD results page.

The DNR also will directly notify any hunter who harvests a deer that tests positive.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources relies on hunters' participation in providing samples to help with disease surveillance and appreciates all those who submitted samples.

**GENERATORS**

**IN STOCK**

**THE SHOP**

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

## Hospital Q/A: Laundromat

Bigfork Valley Hospital has put together answers to questions it has been hearing from the community about the purchase of the laundromat in Bigfork.

**Q-** How will purchasing the laundromat help Bigfork Valley?

**A-** *It will increase our net income and cash inflows by around \$60,000 per year. In addition, we will have improved service quality.*

**Q-** Why didn't Bigfork Valley put a laundromat on-site?

**A-** *This would have cost us an additional \$200,000 in one year and restricted the amount available for other essential capital improvements.*

**Q-** Did you have the laundromat inspected? By whom?

**A-** *Yes, our realtor coordinated the inspection with Itasca Home Inspections out of Grand Rapids, Minn.*

**Q-** Are the commercial machines at the laundromat in working condition?

**A-** *Yes, the machines are operational, and we did a test run.*

**Q-** Community members have heard that the hospital paid well over the asking price; please explain.

**A-** *We do understand the property was available for sale at a certain price. However, the seller dropped the price to help the hospital financially.*

**Q-** Did the hospital consider the cost of utility bills and inflation?

**A-** *Yes, we received the average monthly utility bill amounts from the seller. For our projections, we increased those amounts substantially, knowing our utilization may be higher, and added an inflation factor to that.*

**Q-** Will the laundromat be open for public use?

**A-** *Not currently. Further research on cross-contamination needs to be conducted.*

...submitted

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

Coffee Club Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m.

Bingo every Thursday 1-3 p.m.

**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**

**NORTHERNAIR**  
 PLUMBING & HEATING  
 (218) 327-9361  
 License #060672-PM  
 33204 Shadywood Road • Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
 fax: (218) 327-9283 • northernairph@yahoo.com

## 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.

## Tax-Aide volunteers still needed

AARP Tax-Aide is a free tax preparation service for the elderly and peop of modest income. Our goal is to serve 750 clients this year and we need a few additional tax preparers to do so.

- > Work as much or as little as you like.
- > Work from home, take that vacation in warmer climates-
- > Just give us some part of your time during the tax season (February 1st - April 15th).

We train counselors to IRS standards and assign each a mentor to help during training and throughout the tax year as need. For more information, call Jim at 218-245-9202

## 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.

<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></p>	
<p>Blackduck:                  (218) 835-5768</p>	<p>Northome:                  (218) 897-5952</p>

## — Community Education —

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

**SNOWMOBILE SAFETY COURSE**

Date: Sat., Jan. 20

Time: Class and field driving portion starts 8 a.m.

Location: Stumpjumper's , Hwy 71 south of town

Cost:\$10

Can take course starting age 11, permit valid at age 12. Must have completed online portion at MN DNR website under education tab, bring confirmation to class. Questions contact Mel Cleveland (218) 766-3809 or [mcleveland@blackduck.k12.mn.us](mailto:mcleveland@blackduck.k12.mn.us).

**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

## 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 its site. However, doxo.com may charge the member extra fees, and North Itasca Electric cannot control when we will receive the member payments. 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, [mypcsportal.com](http://mypcsportal.com).

## area bookmobile stops

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

Tuesdays: Jan. 16, Feb. 6

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: Jan 18; Feb. 8

11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Togo: Junction Bar & Grill

Mondays: Jan. 15; Feb. 5

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

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

*~ January Calendar ~*

**General Interest**

The Forest History Center in Grand Rapids is closed for the season – except for Saturdays when visitors can take a horse drawn sleigh ride around the campus and also take in a lecture on an interesting topic at 1 p.m. Topics for January include: “Whose land is it anyway?” (Jan. 6), “The world that grew from stumps and slash” (Jan. 20) and “Logging area folksong in Northern Minnesota” (Jan. 27). Note no lecture on Jan. 13. February lectures start off on Feb. 3 with the photonaturalist Sparky Stensaas and “From owls to orchids.” Regular admission applies.

**Ski with EOWSKI!**

Enjoy family outdoors fun this winter. Learn how to cross country ski or sharpen up your skills on meet-ups in January and February. EOWSKI! is a local organization that has a library of skis to rent for the whole family, groomed trails to ski and a goal of making this life sport accessible to all.

The equipment closet is at the back of the B.I.G. Community building in

the former location for the Bigfork food shelf. Call (218) 387-5012 with any questions or to make an appointment to meet at the closet for sizing and seasonal rental. If you still have skis out from last season, bring them in for exchanging. Suggested rentals are \$30 per person or \$50 per family for the winter, but any amount is welcome.

- 3 “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\_etl@msn.com
- 8 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 8 ISD 317 School Board meets at Deer River HS, 6 p.m. Public forum 5:45
- 8 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 8 Blackduck ISD 32 School Board meets, 6 p.m. in the Media Center.
- 8 ISD 318 School Board meeting at Educational Services Center Board Room, 601 SW 7th St, Grand Rapids or at watchictv.org, 5 p.m. organizational workshop, 6:30 p.m. organizational meeting. Information: jrasmussen@isd318.org or call (218) 327-5704. Livestream from link at isd318.org.
- 9 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.
- 9 Bigfork City Council at City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 10 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
- 10 Want to learn how to direct a play? Call Patricia Feld at (218) 244-3441 or email pfeld25@yahoo.com by Jan. 10 to become a student of the Edgewild Players directors.
- 9 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.
- 9 Bigfork City Council at City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 11 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.
- 11 Classic Movies at the Edge Center in Bigfork presents *Dead End* (1937), starring Joel McCrae, Sylvia Sidney, Claire Trevor and Humphrey Bogart as well as the band Dead End Kids, 6:30 p.m. Free.
- 13-15 Minnesota DNR Take a Kid Ice Fishing weekend. Residents fish free when accompanied by a child 15 years old or younger.
- 22 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 22 No School, all schools, teacher workshop.
- 22 ISD 318 School Board meeting at Educational Services Center Board Room, 601 SW 7th St, Grand Rapids or at watchictv.org, 6:30 p.m. Open forum 6 p.m. Information: jrasmussen@isd318.org or call (218) 327-5704. Livestream from link at isd318.org.



**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.

**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*

**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*

30 Bigfork Valley Hospital board meets in public meeting, 9 a.m. For information on joining the meeting online, call (218) 743-1772. FEB

3 Marcell Family Center Winter Frolic: Crafts, games, food, and beverages, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 218-832-3444 for more information.

**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.

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.

*Church directory sponsored by North Itasca Electric Cooperative, send changes to editor, sedgwick@paulbunyan.net*

## The right clothing keeps anglers warm and dry

**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

**Construction Services Inc.**  
 "Serving the excavation needs of Itasca County and beyond since 1968"  
 Ray V. Kongsjord & Sons  
 www.rkconstructionservices.com  
 email: 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

• **Stocking Cap:** May be the most important piece of winter clothing. Wear a knitted or fleece hat or cap that covers ears. In addition, a hood helps block the wind.

• **Scarf or Neck Gaiter:** A scarf, muffler, or neck gaiter can be pulled over the face if it gets windy.

• **Mittens:** Mittens trap more heat than gloves. Mittens

should be thick and warm. Thin gloves worn under mittens are good when mittens need to be taken off for tying knots or taking fish off of hooks. Connecting mittens to jacket cuffs may be a good idea for some.

• **Warming Layers:** Layers of clothing trap body heat between them.

Most long underwear (layer next to the skin)

made of polypropylene (or silk) wicks moisture away from the skin. The next layers are for insulation. Ideal insulation layer materials retain some insulating qualities, even when wet (such as a wool sweater or fleece jacket). If it's really cold, wear more than one insulating layer. The top layer blocks the wind and may also be waterproof.

• **Socks:** Wear thick wool socks. Some people like to wear two pairs of socks. Be sure to avoid cotton socks.

• **Boots:** Boots should be insulated and rubber-soled. Make sure boots aren't too tight -- toes should have room to wiggle.

### Basic Safety Gear for Your Ice Fishing Trip

• **Hot chocolate & snacks:** Keep anglers happy.

• **Band-aids:** Patch hook pricks or minor cuts.

• **Hand warmers:** Warm hands and feet.

• **Personal flotation device on rope (seat cushion-type):** To rescue someone if they fall in the water.

• **Sled with attached rope:** Carry gear and/or a person, if necessary.

• **Wool blanket or sleeping bag:** Warm anyone who gets wet or cold.

• **Cell phone:** Make calls for help.

• **Sunscreen & Sunglasses:** Sunburn is caused from sunlight not heat, glare from the ice and snow intensifies the sunlight and the potential for sunburn.

## 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

• recipe • recipe • recipe • recipe • 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.

### Dirty Snowballs

*Congratulations to Janet Kogler for this 1st place recipe!*

- 1 cup butter, softened
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups flour
- Bag of Hershey's Kisses
- Cocoa powder
- food coloring

Cream butter and sugar for 3 minutes. Add vanilla and flour. Mix. Chill dough for 20 minutes.

Roll one rounded teaspoonful of dough into ball, then insert Kiss and roll and shape until you have a ball. Bake at 350° F for 10-12 minutes.

When slightly cooled, roll in powdered sugar. Then dip top into a little bit of cocoa powder or red sugar.

*Please share your recipe with us! If your recipe is chosen, you will receive a \$10 credit on your electric bill from North Itasca Electric Cooperative. Send your recipe to the editor, WATTS NEWS, P.O. Box 43, Spring Lake, MN 56680.*

### English Toffee

*Congratulations to Diane Parkhill for this 2nd place recipe!*

- 1 cup coarsely chopped pecans
- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ tsp. Kosher salt
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 cup milk chocolate chips

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

Add butter, sugar & 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 FEBRUARY issue: Weds., Jan. 17

# CLASSIFIEDS

## New litter on ice law

Every winter, hundreds of thousands of anglers head for the frozen water to fish. Most ice anglers clean up after themselves, but some don't — and it's their behavior that was the impetus for a new litter-on-ice law the Minnesota Legislature passed earlier this year.

Ice conditions so far this season have been highly variable and safety has to be anglers' top priority. As anglers venture out, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds them that the new law requires people to secure their trash in a container such as a bucket, garbage bag or trash bin, and makes clear that depositing sewage — whether from animals or humans — on the ice is prohibited. The latter, particularly as it relates to human waste, has been an increasing problem in recent years, with some owners of deluxe fish houses (also known as wheelhouses) dumping their holding tanks on the ice before heading for shore.

The new law makes it easier for conservation officers and other law enforcement personnel to take enforcement action against people who leave trash and waste on the ice.

The new statute reads: "A person using a shelter, a motor vehicle, or any other conveyance on the ice of state waters may not deposit garbage, rubbish, cigarette filters, debris from fireworks, offal, the body of a dead animal, litter, sewage, or any other waste outside the shelter, motor vehicle, or conveyance, unless the material is: Placed in a container that is secured to the shelter, motor vehicle, or conveyance, and not placed directly on the ice or in state waters. For the purposes of this section, 'sewage' means excrementitious or other discharge from the bodies of human beings or animals, together with such other water as may be present."

**THE TIMBERWOLF INN**

---

**IS HIRING!**

We are looking for servers, bartenders, cooks, & dishwashers for end of summer, fall, and winter! We have many employees heading back to school and a variety of different spots to fill.

CALL US AT 218-832-3990, EMAIL AT TIMBERWOLFINN@GMAIL.COM, OR STOP IN FOR AN APPLICATION!

### 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.

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

### -SERVICES-

**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!

### 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

Emails will be answered  
If no reply, please resend.

### -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

### -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

### -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

*For sale:* Charmaster Chalet Furnace. Wood burning/+ or - gas plus accessories. \$1,900 OBO. Call (218) 832-3599 Cell (218) 259-3065 1/24

*For sale:* Vintage Coast to Coast Stores model 40 Marlin Firearms Co. .22 long rifle only, semi-automatic tube feed rifle, includes Glenfield 4x15 scope Exc. cond., 100 rounds of ammunition. \$200. Call (612) 839-1695 1/24

*For sale:* Vintage Winchester Model 320 .22 S.L. or Long Rifle R.H. Bolt Action rifle, includes Browning 2 3/4 scope Bluing-excellent, stock-good, 100 rounds of ammunition. \$400. Call (612) 839-1695 1/24

### -FOR SALE-

*For sale:* John Deere 38 inch snowthrower for John Deere LX and GT tractors - Used - Good Condition- \$275. Call or text (763) 226-6404 1/24

*For sale:* Toro 521 (5 hp) (21" cut) snowblower. Electric start. \$275. Call (218) 897-9535 1/24

*For sale:* Printer. H.P. Envy Pro 6452. Works good. \$50. Call (218) 832-3329 1/24

### -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

*For sale:* Strike Master Auger. XL 3000. 3 H.P. 8" auger. good condition. \$50. Call (218) 832-3329 1/24

### -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 Bush Hog for a 3-pt. tractor hitch. \$600 obo. 10 ft. disc 3 pt. hitch. \$300. Call (218) 259-4631 2/24

### 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.

# 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.

## January 10 Ice fishing live from the lake

Interested in ice fishing? Join us ahead of the Take a Kid Ice Fishing weekend on January 13-15. Come see what's new in the sport and how simple it can be to get out there and

have some fun! From using a simple hand auger and a bucket or a fancy ice-house and electric auger, we'll talk about what you may need, and a few things you might want.

## January 17 What's new in boats and boating

Join us live from the Minneapolis Boat Show, where we will talk to the event organizers and boating experts about what to expect at this year's show and what is new and interesting on the water for 2024.

## January 24 Fish art contest

Do you have a K-12 student in your life who loves to draw? Check out this webinar on the

Minnesota Fish Art Contest, an annual competition that seeks to educate kids about our finned friends. Joining us to chat about the contest are Chris Clayton, editor of Minnesota Conservation Volunteer magazine, and staff from Wildlife Forever, the non-profit that founded the competition.

## January 31 Wolves in Minnesota

DNR large carnivore specialist Dan Stark will share information on Minnesota's wolf population, ecology and management along with an overview of the DNR's updated plan to guide wolf conservation and the challenges of a recovered wolf population.

# EIA expects solar and wind to overtake coal this year

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) expects, for the first year on record, combined electricity generation from wind and solar to surpass generation from coal in 2024.

EIA expects solar generation in 2024 to increase 39% (228 kilowatthours) from 2023, driven by continued increases in solar capacity. "Renewables, particularly solar photovoltaics,

are growing rapidly and making large contributions to electricity generation," EIA Administrator Joseph DeCarolis said.

EIA expects natural gas prices to be \$2.77 per million British thermal units this winter, about 23% lower than previously forecast. The winter season is off to a warmer-than-expected start, so U.S. households are consuming less natural gas for heat than expected. The lower

natural gas consumption is also contributing to rising U.S. natural gas inventories, which typically results in lower prices. "We're seeing record domestic natural gas production paired with lower-than-expected natural gas demand, and we expect that is going to push prices lower this winter season," DeCarolis said.

## Downed and Dangerous

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.

35 ft.

Downed power lines can energize the ground up to 35 ft. away - so keep your distance.

Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.

If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.

Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a non-conductive item - this will not prevent injury or death!

*Source: ESFI.org*

### 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>

**Bob Ellies**  
Broker/Realtor®

[www.GOWITHBOB.com](http://www.GOWITHBOB.com)  
(218) 259-3403  
Bob@GowithBob.com

*Homes, Lakes & Acreage*

**RE/MAX THOUSAND LAKES**  
Grand Rapids, MN (218) 326-8200

## Glen Hopkins

### Gravel and Dirt Work

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

**(218) 743-3716**

## CENTURY 21

Land of Lakes

721 S Pokegama Ave  
Grand Rapids MN 55744

**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)

## Scenic Rivers

HEALTH SERVICES

MEDICAL • DENTAL • BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

### Medical Clinics

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

### Dental Clinic

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

[WWW.SCENICRIVERSHEALTH.ORG](http://WWW.SCENICRIVERSHEALTH.ORG)

## Poenix Contracting LLC

**218-246-2740**  
[poecon@paulbunyan.net](mailto: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

NORTHERN MINNESOTA BUILDERS ASSOCIATION