



NORTH ITASCA  
ELECTRIC

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WATTS  
NEWS

VOL. 28 NO. 6

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

JUNE 2025

# 85th Annual Meeting

## Koochiching County Fairgrounds, Northome

### Thursday, June 12, 2025 • 2 p.m.



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## Message from the Board Chair

## CEO Report



Greetings to all members of the North Itasca Electric Cooperative. The co-op exists for the benefit of the members. This message is in-

tended to help the members understand the big picture of the cooperative's business and the long-term challenges and opportunities in front of us.

This year discussing the long-term challenges and opportunities seems very difficult. We think trends are going one way, but then it seems that information will come along to advise a different direction and maybe even the reverse direction. The big challenge today is uncertainty.

A good example of uncertainty is the debate between renewable energy versus the conventional fossil fuel sources. During the past several years we have seen windfarms and solar cell installations sprout up all over the regions with large open areas. The last time I drove through Iowa, it seemed that the windmills were getting as thick as the cornstalks.

But now things are going in a

different direction in Washington, D.C. How will these new directions affect us? President Trump has signed hundreds of executive orders. But most of these orders are being challenged in the courts.

Where will it all land? No one knows for sure. The uncertainty is the big problem because businesses, especially including the electric power industry, must plan investments to be successful over the long term, generally

Chair to p.2 >



Good morning  
NIECI,

It's the middle of May and we're having temps in the 90s. I wasn't ready for that! Now this week-

end I'm heading up to Canada to fish with my family and friends, sounds like we will be welcomed with temps in the 40s. Friends

taught me years ago, we rented a cabin, it's ok to use it. We might not be the hardcore fishermen we used to be, but we are much more comfortable than we used to be.

We are gearing up for the 85th Annual Meeting of North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc. 2024 was a bit of a challenge but we made it through just fine. We met all our lenders' financial requirements. This tells you we are financially healthy and able to pay our commitments to lenders and to you.

We allocate patronage to you based on your contribution to the bottom line. The more you use the higher the patronage allocation. We use these funds to help operate the cooperative. After roughly 20 years we pay that patronage back to you in the form of a capital credit check. We were able to pay those out in 2024 also, keeping our word to you, our Member-Owner.

Daryl wrote an article for the WATTS this month. He talked about our right-of-way clearing in his article and he talked about safety. Over the past several weeks Minnesota has seen several destructive wildfires. I pray for those dealing with loss of property and for those fighting these fires. For all of our safety we are paying special

CEO to p.2 >

### Official Notice of the Annual Membership Meeting of North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the membership of North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held at the Fairgrounds in Northome, MN on Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 2:00 p.m., at which time and place the following business will be transacted:

1. To elect three (3) directors for the Cooperative, each to a three-year term in Director Districts 7, 8 and 9.
2. To hear, examine and approve reports of Officers, Directors and Committees.
3. And for the transaction of such other business as might lawfully be brought up before the members of this Cooperative and as may be deemed to be for the best interest of said Cooperative.

Lloyd Kongsjord, Secretary

## CEO Report (continued)

>from p.1  
attention to our right-of-way. When trees meet powerlines, fires can start. Often, the trees falling are outside what we can cut; we are only allowed to clear 20' on either side of a single-phase line. Imagine that 60' tree only thirty feet from the line. If it falls the wrong way it will contact the line. This is why we look for "danger trees" as we are clearing ROW. When we see these trees, we cut or push them over before they are an issue.

North Itasca Electric applied and was awarded funding from the Department of Commerce. We will use this funding to develop a wildfire mitigation plan. Once the plan is developed, we will execute the plan. This is to protect the life and property of our Member-Owners and to protect the financial well-being of your cooperative. If we were to neglect our right-of-way, I couldn't imagine

being responsible for the loss of a life or a home. I take our responsibility for safety very seriously. I empathize with Member-Owners when they lose their trees; my job is to ensure the system is safe and reliable.

I look forward to visiting with you at our open house at the end of May. Roxanne and Andrew have guests coming to tell you about the ways we can help you save energy. I will be happy slinging burgers and brats around the grill to share a little lunch. We also have the Annual meeting coming up where we will report on the state of YOUR cooperative in Northome this year.

Come out to one or hopefully both events, we always enjoy our time with our Member-Owners. With a little luck from above I might have a new fish story to tell you.

*By your side! Miigwech  
Brad*

## Board Chair's message (continued)

>from p.1  
the 30-year time frame.

The power sources and the systems to get the power across the country to the consumers everywhere require huge investments. The investments depend on reasonably accurate forecasts about how much power will be required and where will it be needed. The planner is asking investors to place huge amounts of money at risk.

Risk is the huge word here because when the risk can be accurately estimated, then the money can be made available to invest in the system.

Uncertainty must be minimized.

As long as we're talking about uncertainty, what's going to happen with the tariff tax? Several weeks ago the president proposed a very large tariff tax, which shocked the stock market into huge losses. But now he's backed down on some of the early proposals, which were withdrawn, and then they were brought back. Metals including steel, copper and aluminum are large components within the wires, transformers, connectors, meters and switchgear that deliver the

electric power to all of us. Some of the metals won't be subject to the tariff tax, but apparently many things that we need for our system's vehicle will be.

Our CEO Brad has advised the board that a new truck needed by the linemen requires a two-to-three-year order time. Which of the trucks will require replacement during that period? Should we place an order now? The manufacturer will not commit to a firm price for something that far out into the future, especially when they can't forecast their costs with certainty either. How will Brad know the exact dollar hit on the budget? How will he know when the budget hit will occur? As of now, he can only guess.

The uncertainty problem is huge for Brad, the Board and for the entire co-op membership. He might recommend keeping older trucks a little longer, but the parts to fix an older truck might also get much more expensive because of the tariff tax.

There is one other topic to discuss here. A few years back, I wrote an article in the WATTS News about the flat growth in electric power

sales. At the time the flat load growth had been noticed by several co-ops across the region. Well, today that situation has changed in many, many places. New and very large electric power growth is happening almost everywhere across the nation-wide grid. The power growth is being driven by very large data processing centers operated by large distributors such as Amazon, Walmart and Target. These data processing centers are a very new type of electric power consumer which were not a part of anyone's plans 20 or more years ago. The huge computers keep track of all the stuff flowing through the distribution chains.

Nowadays the health care system also requires huge amounts of data for patient records and for the payment systems run by the insurance companies. When any of us gets medical treatment at the hospital or the clinic, insurance is almost always involved. The insurance might be Medicare, a policy provided by your employer or private insurance that you carry yourself. The data involved to track the health care provided in growth in electric power

Chair to p.4 >

## WATTS NEWS

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WATTS NEWS Editor: Sally Sedgwick

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## Highlights from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.  
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
April 24, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on April 24, 2025.

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

**Directors Present via Zoom:** T. Kallio

**Also Present:** CEO Brad Dolinski, Daryl Pederson, Drew Francisco, Andy Shaw and Gina Vickerman.

- Pledge of allegiance was recited.
- A motion to adopt the agenda. Seconded; motion carried. A motion was made to consent agenda. Seconded; motion carried. Motion to approve the date change for the May meeting from May 22nd to May 28th. Seconded; motion carried.
- A safety discussion was held. Tick season is upon us so make sure to be checking yourself and use sprays to help repel them.
- Brad presented the Operating Report. Motion to approve. Seconded; motion carried.
- Andy discussed Board Policy 400.50 Smoke-Free Workplace and Policy 400.60 Safety. The motion to support the review of both policies was made and seconded. No changes needed at this time.
- Daryl presented the Line Department report. Rachel will be here from Star for onsite WO inspections. Crews are nearing completion on the Hwy 286 upgrade of conductor from #6 to 1/0 aluminum feeding to the Arcadia area.
- Drew gave his Members Service report. The live inventory is up and running on the website. He presented a graph showing the monthly sales of Solar with the new rates. Member Appreciation Day will be held on May 29th from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. There will be multiple vendors set up and lunch will be provided. Motion to accept the Annual Cogeneration Filing & Report. Seconded; motion carried.
- Brad presented the Office Report. The Nominating Committee meeting will be April 30th at 5:30 p.m.
- Brad presented the CEO report. Dan & Krista are attending the Financial Managers Conference at MREA. Brad asked the Board to consider the Union Contract Agreement. Motioned to support. Seconded; motion carried. Motion to approve Larry & Wes to attend the Lake County Power Annual Meeting. Seconded; motion carried.
- Wes Waller gave the MREA report.
- Lloyd gave the GRE report. Nominated Lloyd to be the representative for the Annual Meeting. Seconded; motion carried. Lloyd asked for support to extend the GRE Transmission Contract 10 years to 2060. Moves. Supports; motion carried.
- Round Table discussion was held. Motion to adjourn. Seconded; motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

## From the Line Department



by Daryl Pederson, Line Superintendent

Over the construction year of 2024 our crews installed 10 miles of new underground cable and retired out nearly 16 miles of old overhead line.

The main projects last year consisted of converting existing overhead lines to underground. The large projects we did last summer were 3.5 miles along County Road 35 and 2 miles along the east side of Jack the Horse

Lake. We also converted all the overhead crossings along Highway 6 south from Riley's Cannibal Junction underground, to accommodate Great River Energy's new transmission line that will feed our system. Crews also completed overhead conductor upgrades in the following areas, 1.25 miles on County Road 172, 2.25 miles on County Road 152, 4.5 miles on County Road 14, 1.25 miles on State Hwy 286, and 1 mile on County Road 252.

This year's construction included conversion of 1.25 miles of overhead powerline to underground in the Dixon Lake Resort area. Also, crews will be installing 1.5 miles of 3 phase underground along

County Road 43 from Becker Road to Daley Larson Road. We will then continue north on Daley Larson Road.

With the lowest number of outages in the 23 years since I have been at the Cooperative, our push to reestablish our rights-of-way to the original clearing width, and the tree removals and trimming that we have completed, we do believe this has made a huge improvement to these outages. Our crews have spent a lot of time over the last couple of years cutting trees. We have also taken a more proactive approach to installing animal protection devices on our equipment to assist

with lowering our outage numbers. Crews have also completed annual system inspection and taken care of all found issues for general maintenance.

Our crews have voiced some concerns about members attempting to help us with lines or trees that have caused power outages. Please do not go near downed trees or powerlines! Contact North Itasca Electric and we will have a crew go to the scene and take all the necessary safety steps to secure the scene. From this point we will begin the restoration process. Please always remember that safety is an important aspect of everyday life. Stay safe out there.

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# BIGFORK BUSINESS REVITALIZATION GRANT PROGRAM 2025

The Bigfork Business Revitalization Grant Program, announced in January, was started with seed money from the Itasca Economic Development Corporation and supported by Bigfork Valley Hospital, the city of Bigfork, Bigfork School and North Itasca Electric Cooperative. Additional funding was provided by the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board. The goal was to provide matching grants to enable area businesses to make needed improvements and updates to the appearance of their property, both inside and outside.

Nine businesses were awarded grants in the first round of the program, which is administered locally. Grantees included:

Bigfork Valley	\$2,936.31
Golf on the Edge	\$5,000.00
Jack the Horse Resort	\$2,112.50
Pizza Parlor	\$5,000.00
Sam's Place	\$5,000.00

Four additional businesses received awards and elected to use \$500 of the funds to apply for funding from the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency Business Energy Retrofit Program. Those include Antler Lake Lodge, Lakeside Lumber, Kocian's Family Market and Marcell Family Center. The BER is another grant opportunity for local businesses in the IRRRB service area which will provide a third of project funding up to \$20,000 for eligible energy projects.

Deadline for applications is Aug. 2. For more information, search [www.aeo.org](http://www.aeo.org), business & commercial services under the services tab.

The next application period for the Bigfork Business Revitalization Grant Program runs from June 1 to October 31 with funds awarded and distributed in November. For more information, contact Drew Francisco at (218) 256-4142 or [andrewf@nieci.com](mailto:andrewf@nieci.com).

## Message from the Chair (cont.)

>from p.2  
the hospital or clinic all the way through to the insurance company and the money flowing to make all this work requires hundreds of computers humming in many dozens of offices and data centers. They all require electric power.

Most of us have heard about artificial intelligence. Most of the time we just shorten it to AI. Few people understand what exactly AI is or what it does. What does it do? How is it helpful? Should we welcome this new development, or should we be afraid of it? It's clearly the latest technological advancement.

AI is beginning to show what it can do. In fact, we're already using it when we depend on some sort of electronic device to help us get where we're going. It might be an app on our phone or a system in our car. Some gizmo on my phone knows how to find the best way, the fastest route to get to a desired destination. These systems are examples of AI, and they're getting more sophisticated all the time. The AI system owners already need very large buildings filled with computers humming away. And the AI revolution has only just begun.

The AI systems will need larger and larger data processing

capability. There are new proposals for data processing centers within or nearby most all of our nation's population centers including the Twin Cities. These proposals have already caused negative reaction. People complain about the noise from all the fans required to keep the computers cool. Some of the data centers will use large amounts of water for cooling, and people object to that; and they complain to their representatives in the state legislature. Some people complain about the new and very large power consumption for purposes they don't understand.

North Itasca Electric is a member-owner of Great River Energy. GRE is making very large investments in new and cleaner power supply sources for all of the needs I've discussed here today and for countless other needs. Very large investments are also required for the electrical grid which connects the power sources to the destinations where the power is needed for homes and businesses including data processing centers.

These investments must be paid back one way or another. We can only hope that the uncertainties discussed here will be resolved so that the investments will prove to be wise over the long term.


## 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

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# Roxanne's Sales Talk

by Roxanne Prather, Member Services Representative

Hello everyone! After Mother's Day weekend, I must say the weather was so nice that it was hard to come back to work. It was a fun weekend with relatives and family. I hope you all enjoyed the weekend as well.

With this warm weather here, I want to remind you that we have window air conditioners in stock for those of you who need some help cooling down. They are on sale until they are sold out then I think we will just be selling mini splits. If you have been thinking about getting a window air conditioner, stop in

before they are all gone.

I also want to tell you about the LG/WM6998H-VA 5.0 CF Mega Capacity Front Load Washer Dryer Combo. You can experience ultimate convenience and efficiency with this all-in-one ventless washer/dryer combo, featuring a spacious 5.0-cu. ft. mega capacity.

Engineered with innovative Inverter HeatPump Technology and a Direct Drive Motor, this appliance delivers powerful performance while saving energy. In as fast as two hours, your clothes will be clean, fresh and dry. With the all-in-one design

you can get laundry done while you get on with your day, without having to stop what you're doing to move clothes between two machines. Forget about endless sorting or toggling through cycles, built-in sensors use AI technology to detect fabric texture, soil level, and load size. Then automatically select the right wash/dry motions, temperatures and more for advanced fabric care.

From mega capacity to top-of-the-line innovations, the all-in-one combo unit delivers the advanced cleaning performance you need.

TurboWash 360 powers through larger loads in less time, thanks to five jets with variable sprays that deliver complete cleaning in under 30 minutes.

I had one on the floor and I was going to show everyone on Member Appreciation Day on Thursday, May 29th – but it has already been sold, and I'm not sure if I can get another one before then.

Hope to see everyone on the 29th, it should be a fun, informative day! Come hungry! Brad is cooking burgers and brats on the grill!

## During storm season, stay clear of downed power lines

If you see a downed or sagging power line, there are a few things to keep in mind.

- Stay away from it and call 911 to report it immediately. There is no way to tell if a power line is energized just by looking at it. Always assume it can carry currents strong enough to kill.
- Never drive over a downed power line if it is blocking your driveway or road. Call 911 to report it and find another route.
- Never touch anything that is also touching a power line, including trees with limbs caught in a power line.
- If a power line falls on your car or otherwise contacts your vehicle, stay in your vehicle. Use your cell phone to call 911 and wait for help to arrive.
- If you must exit your vehicle (due to fire), jump clear of the vehicle without touching it. Land with your feet together and shuffle away.

without touching it. Land with your feet together and shuffle away.

When severe weather causes widespread damage, sometimes outages can be extended. For more information and videos about how your power is restored, how to prepare an emergency kit, how to keep food fresh and more, visit [greatriverenergy.com/restoringyourpower](http://greatriverenergy.com/restoringyourpower).

### ARE YOU STORM READY?

Follow these safety and preparation tips during spring and summer storm season.

#### Be Prepared.

- Create an emergency kit with power outage essentials: batteries, power banks, flashlights, non-perishable foods, water, medical supplies and prescriptions.
- Develop an emergency family plan with meeting points, communication methods and evacuation routes. Share your plan with all family members.
- Monitor weather for important updates that could impact your emergency plan.

#### Stay Safe.

- Ensure a safe shelter. Stay away from windows and doors. In tornadoes, move to a basement or an interior room without windows.
- Use portable generators safely: operate outdoors in well-ventilated areas, place on a flat, dry surface, do not overload and always read the operating manual before use.
- Severe storms can bring down tree limbs and power lines. If you encounter a downed line, stay back. Always assume a downed line is live and dangerous.



## WWW Website highlight: NorthItascaElectric.com

Did you know you can now browse the appliance showroom at the headquarters building from your home?

Click on the "Shop Appliances" tab at [northitascaelectric.com](http://northitascaelectric.com) and go to the Appliance Department. Inventory is listed by brand and includes pictures and descriptions as well as pricing. Be sure to check with Roxanne at (218) 743-3132 to confirm that the model is still available.

Of course, you are always welcome to stop into the headquarters building. Office hours are 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., the showroom is staffed until 2:30 p.m.

## Five tips to reduce wildfire risks

by Abby Berry



Wildfires are no longer confined to the western United States. Traditionally associated with dry, fire-prone regions like California, wildfires are now affecting areas in the Midwest and even parts of the Southeast.

This shift is driven by rising temperatures, prolonged droughts and changing weather patterns, which are creating conditions ripe for fires in regions that historically saw fewer of them. As a result, more communities are now facing growing threats from wildfires, prompting a need for broader awareness and preparedness nationwide.

North Itasca Electric Co-op is working to reduce the risk of wildfires throughout our service territory. Through regular vegetation management and grid maintenance and hardening practices, we are proactively working to reduce risks and improve the reliability of our local system.

As a member of North Itasca Electric, there are steps you can take to prevent wildfires.

1. Properly extinguish campfires. Always douse your campfire with water, stir the ashes and ensure everything is cool to the touch before leaving the area.
2. Don't burn on windy days. Avoid outdoor burning when it's windy or dry, as embers can easily spread and ignite surrounding areas.
3. Clear vegetation and debris. Maintain a defensible space around your home by removing dry leaves, dead branches and other flammable materials.
4. Use equipment safely. Tools like lawnmowers or chainsaws can spark fires. Use them during cooler times of the day and keep them in good working condition.
5. Follow local fire regulations. Always check for burn bans or restrictions in your area before burning anything or using open flames outdoors.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

North Itasca Electric Co-op  
is on Facebook!

# North Itasca Electric Scholarship Awards

Unclaimed capital credits are donated to the Scholarship Committee at Northome High School to create scholarships for children of Member-Owners of North Itasca Electric. Congratulations to the following students who were awarded scholarships this spring.

\$1,200

Katherine Bock, Blaine  
Madalyn Niemala, Bigfork  
Eleanor Prato, Bigfork  
Ben Storlie, Deer River

\$1,000

Cloey Buntemeier, Northome  
Ryan Brandenburg, Homeschool  
Morgan Humble, Northome  
Memphys Tendrup, Bigfork

\$700

Jailyn Baird, Northome  
Annie Barber, Bigfork  
Jacelyn Carstenser, Deer River  
Mariah Hanson, Northome  
Caden Troy, Northome



Bigfork High School scholarship winners include (l to r) Eleanor Prato, attending St. Olaf College for biology and will be playing basketball; Madalyn Niemala, attending the College of St. Scholastica for nursing and will be playing volleyball; Annie Barber, attending Northwest Technical College, Bemidji for nursing; Memphys Tendrup, attending MN North - Mesabi for nursing and will be playing volleyball and basketball.

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# Member Services Update

by Drew Francisco, Member Services manager

Hello again everyone! Hope you all are doing well and enjoying these beautiful last few weeks.

As I sit and write this article tonight, we are getting some rain which we desperately needed! As a volunteer fire fighter for Bigfork, it's a beautiful sight. Over the last week we have responded to seven calls related to grass fires or downed power lines due to high winds. It has been a perfect scenario for fires; not so perfect for all of us!

This last month I have been gearing up for what is seeming to be another busy summer. New construction projects, renova-

tions and equipment up-grade calls are starting to flood in, and I couldn't be happier!

It's great to hear from all of you and provide some insight into the things North Itasca Electric has to offer its membership and local contractors. Air source heat pumps, water heaters, furnaces and many other options are now available through the co-op. So, as you break out the "honey do lists" please keep me in mind. We may be able to offer some rebates or explore other avenues to assist you.

I've also started to drift into updating our social

media platforms; trying to share some of the great things we are working on and updating a few things. One of the things Roxanne and I worked on was adding an inventory list of appliances that are in stock on the showroom floor. So, if you're looking for a new addition to your kitchen or laundry room, please check it out! If we don't have it, we will try our best to get it for you.

In the weeks to come I expect to be out in the field meeting with membership and assisting with all things related to energy usage: meters, load control receivers, home evals and much more. So,



I'll apologize in advance if I'm away from the office phone if you try to call, but I will call you back and do my best to assist you to accomplish whatever goals you're trying to achieve! I hope all of you have a wonderful month, and maybe I'll see you out there!

Until next time,  
Drew Francisco



## North Itasca Electric's Window Air Conditioner Closeout Sale (Valid while supplies last)

(3 in stock) 8000 BTU Whirlpool, **Regular \$326.73** **Sale \$277.72**  
18.6"W x 17"D x 13.3"H (350 sq ft)

(1 in stock) 10,000 BTU LG, **Regular \$426.40** **Sale \$362.44**  
19.6"W x 19.4"D x 12.3"H (450 Sq ft)

(1 in stock) 12,000 BTU Whirlpool, **Regular \$474.50** **Sale \$403.32**  
22"W x 15"H x 20"D (550 sq ft)

(1 in stock) 12,000 BTU Emmerson, **Regular \$474.50** **Sale \$403.32**  
26"- 36"W x 19.6"W x 15.2D (550 sq ft)

(1 in stock) 15,000 BTU Emerson, **Regular \$578.50** **Sale \$491.72**  
28"- 41"W x 19"min H x 17.9"D (700 sq ft)

If you have questions, please call Roxanne at (218) 743-3132;  
email [roxannep@nieci.com](mailto:roxannep@nieci.com)



Welcome to the 85th Annual Meeting of your cooperative!

Board of Directors: North Itasca Electric Co-op



Jim White  
District 1



Wes Waller  
District 2



Larry Salmela  
District 3



Mary Rahier  
District 4



Lloyd Kongsjord  
District 5



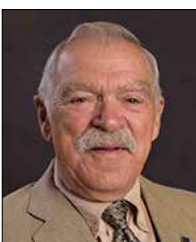
Todd Christenson  
District 6



Tom Kallio  
District 7



Jeff Kilian  
District 8



Roy Bain  
District 9

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.  
BIGFORK, MINNESOTA

NOTICE


POSTING OF THE CANDIDATE LIST

At the meeting of the Nominating Committee, held April 30, 2025 the following names were selected and placed in the nomination for the position of director of North Itasca Electric Co-op., Inc.

- District 7** Tom Kallio (Incumbent)  
**District 8** Jeff Kilian (Incumbent)  
**District 9** Roy Bain (Incumbent)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S CERTIFICATE

I, Andrew Shaw, Nominating Committee Chairperson, have posted this Notice at the office of the North Itasca Electric Co-op., Inc., County of Itasca, Bigfork, Minnesota. In accordance with Article IV Section Four, of the Cooperative's By-Laws this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025 at 5:30 PM.

  
Andrew Shaw, Chairperson

MINUTES

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

5:30 PM - April 30, 2025

North Itasca Electric Co-op., Inc. Headquarters  
Bigfork, MN 56628

1. Attorney Shaw called the meeting to order.
2. NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

District 1 Absent  
District 2 Dale Quandt; Wirt, MN 56688 218-659-2601  
District 3 Marci Lindgren; Effie, MN 56639 218-244-0533  
District 4 Sharlyn Cox; Bigfork, MN 56628 218-245-1804  
District 5 Eric Handyside; Bigfork, MN 56628 218-766-6312  
District 6 Crystal Braunwarth; Squaw Lake, MN 56680 218-779-3249  
District 7 Lisa Peterson; Squaw Lake, MN 56681 218-760-6741  
Alt District 7 Janelle Danny; Squaw Lake, MN 56681 765-432-7363  
District 8 Absent  
District 9 John (Jack) H Schultz; Deer River, MN 56636 218-259-4429

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Andrew Shaw, CEO Brad Dolinski, Office Manager Tina Danielson, Office Manager Dan Heinecke.

3. The minutes of the last Nominating Committee Meeting held May 1, 2024, were reviewed.
4. Attorney called for approval of Minutes. Motion made by Marci Lindgren to approve minutes, Seconded Jack Schultz. Motion Carried.
5. Attorney called for nominations for Chairperson. Motion made by Lisa Peterson to appoint Attorney Andrew Shaw as chairperson, Seconded by Jack Schultz. Motion Carried.
6. Chairperson called for nominations for Secretary. Motion made by Lisa Peterson to appoint Dan Heinecke as Secretary, Seconded Jack Schultz. Motion Carried.
7. Chairperson called for nominations for candidates for Districts 7, 8 & 9. Candidates to be listed in alphabetical order and incumbents be identified on ballots.
8. Nominating Committee Member for District 7 presents their candidate. Motion made by Lisa Peterson, seconded by Jack Schultz to approve Tom Kallio (Incumbent) as candidate for District 7. Motion Carried.
9. Chairperson presents the candidate for District 8. Motion made by Marci Lindgren, seconded by Lisa Peterson to approve Jeff Kilian (Incumbent) as candidate for District 8. Motion Carried.
10. Nominating Committee Member for District 9 presents their candidate. Motion made by Eric Handyside, seconded by Crystal Braunwarth to approve Roy Bain (Incumbent) as candidate for District 9. Motion Carried.
11. The Chairperson stated that the incumbent candidates are consuming members and residing in the districts nominated for.
12. CEO Dolinski gave an update on North Itasca Electric to the committee.
13. There being no further business, motion made by Lisa Peterson to adjourn the meeting.

Dan Heinecke,  
Nominating Committee Secretary

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Homeowners should also know that underground lines are only located up to the meter.

North Itasca Electric Co-op, Inc.

Minutes of the 84th Annual Meeting held June 13, 2024

The Annual Meeting of North Itasca Electric Co-op was held on June 13, 2024, at the coop headquarters in Bigfork, MN.

President Larry Salmela started the Annual Meeting at 2:00 pm by welcoming everyone.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Larry recognized and thanked all the Veterans that were in attendance.

Larry explained how the coop uses an acclaimed winner for open director seats. If a director is running unopposed for an open director’s seat, whether they are the incumbent or a new director, they are declared the winner by acclamation. Thus, eliminating the costs of ballots and mailing of the ballots.

The Board of Directors were introduced along with Andy Shaw, the co-op attorney.

Larry recognized the retired board members: Walt Breeze and Ray Swang; retired lineman: Jerry Pula; retired member services manager: Jerry Loney; guest North Star Electric Cooperative Directors: Lorraine Nygaard, Mike Hanson and Doug King; Northern Star Cooperative CEO: Brad Box; Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative Director: Aileen DeMenge and her husband, who were all in attendance.

Larry asked the secretary if we had a quorum. Lloyd reported that we had 142 members in attendance.

Larry introduced Brad Dolinski, the CEO and Daryl Pederson from the Operations Department who are on our Safety Panel. Brad encouraged everyone to watch the safety demonstration that was presented using Lake Country Power’s safety trailer. Daryl narrated the different scenarios that were demonstrated. Upon completion Brad discussed the use of the generator which powered the trailer. He cautioned all those that had generators to please acquire switches for them to eliminate back feeding power to our lines during an outage. That back fed power endangers the safety of our crew while working to repair an outage.

Larry introduced Andy Shaw, our corporate attorney. Andy went through another explanation of the acclaimed winners. He gave the Nominating Committee report. He referred to the meeting minutes that appeared in the Watts News.

The following directors were acclaimed as winners:

- District 7 – Tom Kallio – filling the open term for one year  
District 1 – Jim White  
District 2 – Wesley Waller  
District 3 – Larry Salmela

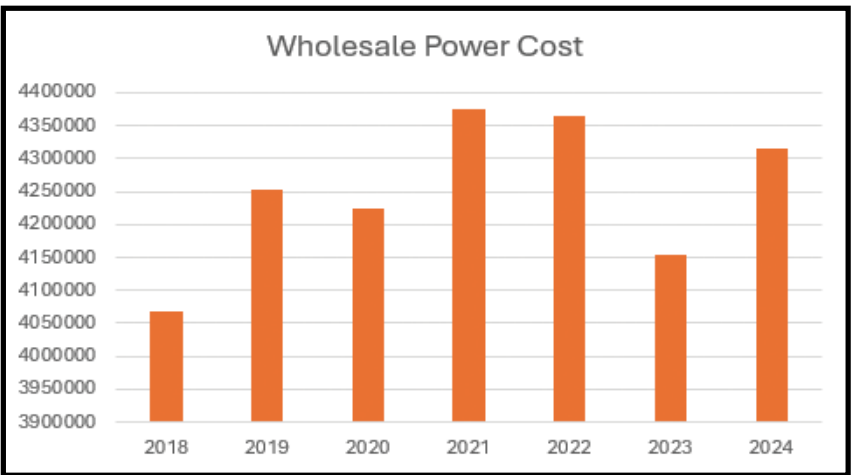
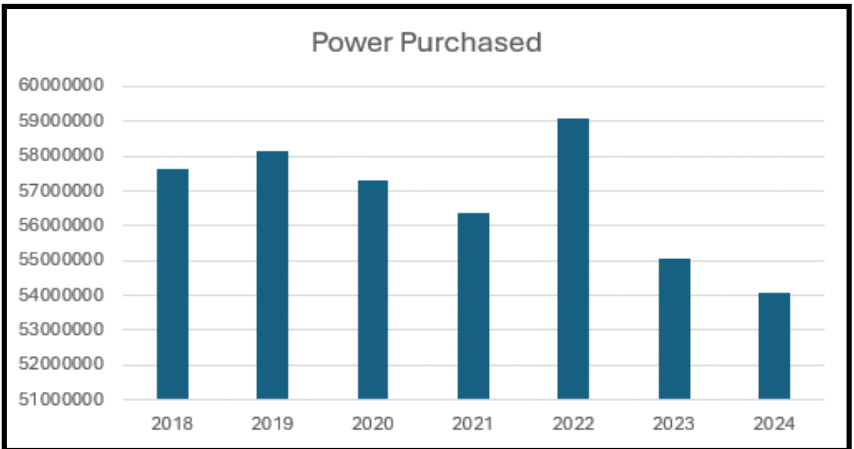
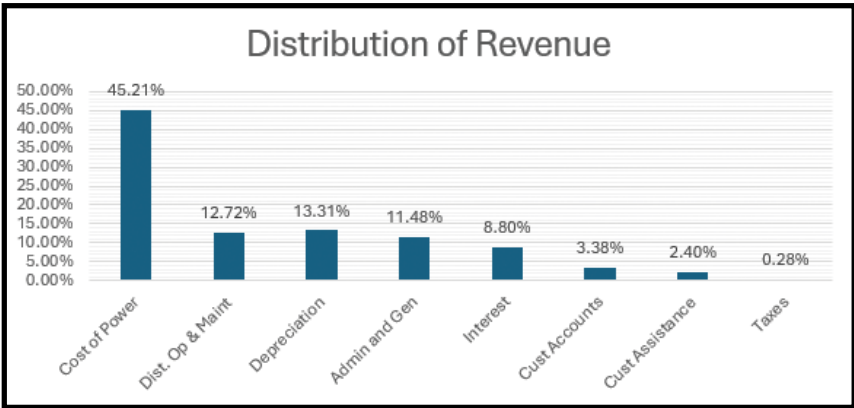
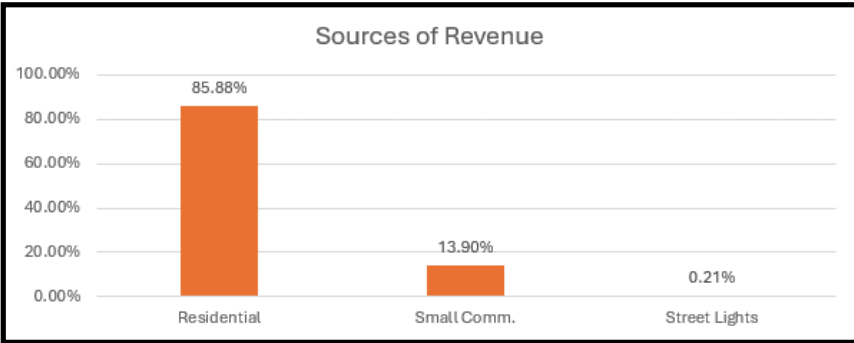
Lloyd Kongsjord read the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting & Notice of the Mailing Certificate List that were posted in the Watts paper. He referred to the Annual Meeting Minutes that appeared in the Watts News. Motion was made to accept the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes, seconded; motion carried.

CEO Brad Dolinski began his speech by thanking his staff and his employees. He thanked the line department for the safety demonstration and for always working safely maintaining our lines. He thanked the office professionals for all they do, they are the front-line workers at the co-op. He thanked the top-notch directors. He mentioned that they are always prepared when coming to the meetings and their willingness to go above and beyond. Lloyd is also a director on the GRE Board of Directors, Wes is the Chairman of the MRE Board of Directors. He mentioned that the Members Services is the core of our business. We will be changing some of the services that we offer. We will be selling air source heat pumps. If you have any questions or needs, give Drew Francisco a call and he can discuss those with you. Thank you to Roxanne who keeps our appliance department well stocked for all your needs. Brad went on to discuss how 2023 was a different type of year than we are used to. We are still on a type of roller coaster that began with Covid. We are still being affected by the price increases for materials and the availability of those same materials. We deferred money this year from the GRE Power Cost Adjustments to help offset the increase in expenses that we will be seeing in 2024. We did see a slight rate increase which was due to the increase in the cost of energy. Brad will continue with smaller yearly increases as opposed to a large increase every 4 or 5 years. Brad is still concerned about the carbon free mandate by 2040. This will be hard to accomplish and very expensive. He urged everyone to make their voice known to their representatives on this issue. Brad answered questions from the audience. One member mentioned he would like to see a town hall meeting with our representatives present.

Brad spoke about the good things that the Operation Round Up program does. He also announced that GRE will be donating \$1636 to the program this year.

Larry gave a brief summary of how things are changing in the energy world and how all those changes may affect us along with the fact that we don’t have all the answers to this change yet. He stated

The year in graphs



that since the very beginning we have burned something to create energy – this affects global climate – now we need to transition from burning something to other means of creating energy. Wind, solar and geothermal all take time and a lot of money.

Larry called for any old business. There was none.

Larry called for any new business. 1) Big challenge in the power rates for the board. 2) Electric vehicle charging stations. Brad commented that we are not planning to place any charging

stations on our system, you should be putting charging units in your own homes.

Prizes were drawn (listing of prizes and winners attached).

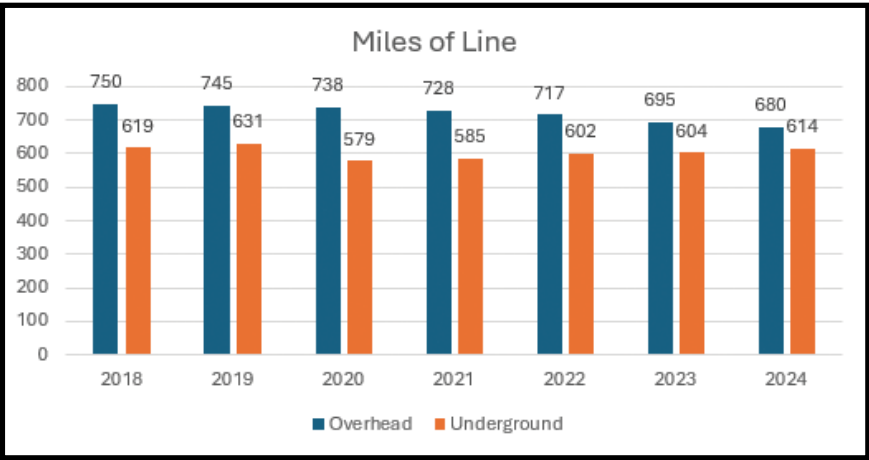
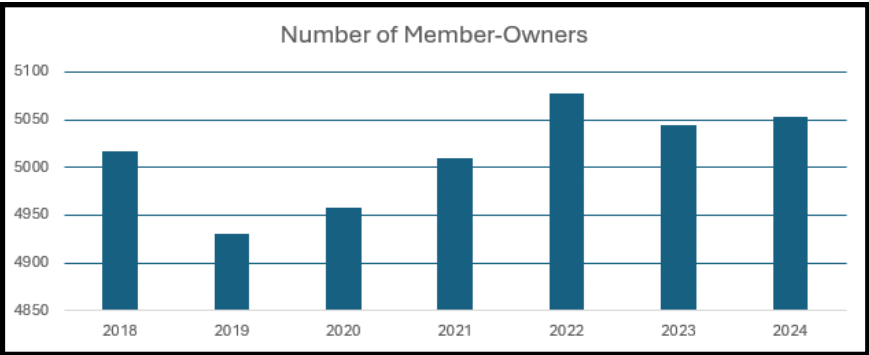
There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded; motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, [Seal]  
Annual Meeting Secretary  
Lloyd Kongsjord



Balance Sheet  
North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Dec. 31, 2024

ASSETS AND OTHER DEBITS			LIABILITIES AND OTHER CREDITS	
1. Total Utility Plant in Service	44,922,061		30. Memberships	0
2. Construction Work in Progress	-4,575		31. Patronage Capital	8,082,954
3. Total Utility Plant (1 + 2)	44,917,486		32. Operating Margins - Prior Years	0
4. Accum. Provision for Depreciation and Amort.	15,316,015		33. Operating Margins - Current Year	0
5. Net Utility Plant (3 - 4)	29,601,471		34. Non-Operating Margins	0
6. Non-Utility Property (Net)	34,564		35. Other Margins and Equities	3,924,590
7. Investments in Subsidiary Companies	198,399		36. Total Margins & Equities (30 thru 35)	12,007,544
8. Invest. in Assoc. Org. - Patronage Capital	3,395,069		37. Long-Term Debt - RUS (Net)	0
9. Invest. in Assoc. Org. - Other - General Funds	6,135		38. Long-Term Debt - FFB - RUS Guaranteed	22,811,435
10. Invest. in Assoc. Org. - Other - Nongeneral Funds	228,813		39. Long-Term Debt - Other - RUS Guaranteed	0
11. Investments in Economic Development Projects	24,610		40. Long-Term Debt Other (Net)	4,620,681
12. Other Investments	29,316		41. Long-Term Debt - RUS - Econ. Devel. (Net)	19,328
13. Special Funds	0		42. Payments – Unapplied	5,023,968
14. Total Other Property & Investments (6 thru 13)	3,916,906		43. Total Long-Term Debt (37 thru 41 - 42)	22,427,476
15. Cash - General Funds	866,297		44. Obligations Under Capital Leases - Noncurrent	0
16. Cash - Construction Funds - Trustee	0		45. Accumulated Operating Provisions	
17. Special Deposits	0		and Asset Retirement Obligations	0
18. Temporary Investments	69,433		46. Total Other Noncurrent Liabilities (44 + 45)	0
19. Notes Receivable (Net)	68,479		47. Notes Payable	0
20. Accounts Receivable - Sales of Energy (Net)	951,622		48. Accounts Payable	545,359
21. Accounts Receivable - Other (Net)	66,285		49. Consumers Deposits	51,800
22. Renewable Energy Credits	0		50. Current Maturities Long-Term Debt	999,342
23. Materials and Supplies - Electric & Other	636,574		51. Current Maturities Long-Term Debt	
24. Prepayments	204,516		- Economic Development	5,282
25. Other Current and Accrued Assets	3,356		52. Current Maturities Capital Leases	0
26. Total Current and Accrued Assets (15 thru 25)	2,866,562		53. Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	276,468
27. Regulatory Assets	0		54. Total Current & Accrued Liabilities (47 thru 53)	1,878,251
28. Other Deferred Debits	71,782		55. Regulatory Liabilities	0
29. Total Assets and Other Debits (5+14+26 thru 28)	36,456,721		56. Other Deferred Credits	143,450
			57. Total Liabilities and Other Credits (36+43+46+54 thru 56)	36,456,721



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.

Statement of Operations

ITEM	YEAR-TO-DATE	
	2023	2024
1. Operating Revenue and Patronage Capital	9,025,485	9,545,075
2. Power Production Expense	2,193	2,405
3. Cost of Purchased Power	4,153,160	4,315,472
4. Transmission Expense		
5. Regional Market Expense		
6. Distribution Expense - Operation	220,022	238,333
7. Distribution Expense - Maintenance	885,610	976,228
8. Customer Accounts Expense	322,852	322,774
9. Customer Service and Informational Expense	185,278	228,626
10. Sales Expense	415	769
11. Administrative and General Expense	992,767	1,095,679
12. Total Operation & Maintenance Expense (2 thru 11)	6,762,297	7,180,286
13. Depreciation and Amortization Expense	1,201,585	1,276,014
14. Tax Expense - Property & Gross Receipts	31,280	26,204
15. Tax Expense - Other	511	510
16. Interest on Long-Term Debt	725,197	781,204
17. Interest Charged to Construction - Credit		
18. Interest Expense - Other	28,437	59,016
19. Other Deductions		284
20. Total Cost of Electric Service (12 thru 19)	8,749,307	9,323,518
21. Patronage Capital & Operating Margins (1 minus 20)	276,178	221,557
22. Non Operating Margins - Interest	39,324	32,169
23. Allowance for Funds Used During Construction		
24. Income (Loss) from Equity Investments		
25. Non Operating Margins - Other	-41,021	-16,150
26. Generation and Transmission Capital Credits	217,326	111,546
27. Other Capital Credits and Patronage Dividends	85,243	72,606
28. Extraordinary Items		
29. Patronage Capital or Margins (21 thru 28)	577,050	421,728



## Edge Center Gallery

**June 5-July 3**

Two-Man Show: Woodcarving and Photography  
Gallery hours Thursday-Saturday 1-4 p.m.

**Artists' Reception June 5, 5-7 p.m.**

by Tina Appleby

The Edge Art Gallery is excited to display the work of two great artists, each of whom focuses on nature, but in very different genres. Don't miss this!

"Feathers, Fins and More" represents a culmination of book-learning, classroom education and, ultimately, working with a master carver who impressed upon artist Jim Lutgen "to remove just enough wood to create." Lutgen's wood might be selected from a basswood, a

walnut, a white pine, a tupelo, a cedar or a butternut tree. And the careful chipping and carving away eventually yields to the image of a bird, a fish, a mammal --- perhaps even a human face. For this artist, it seems that wood has a magnetic property as he was a forestry technician for thirty-five years and has been creating such artwork for the last decade and a half. Lutgen notes that his desire to present each subject in an exceptional manner is almost as challenging as producing the focal carving. In addition to his discrete wood creatures, Lutgen also creates carvings on basswood panels that depict outdoor landscape scenes.

"Ducks, man, that's my life" quips Lee Thomas Kjos, our other featured artist. Indeed. At age five, he had memorized facts about every waterfowl occupant of the prairies, marshland, and pothole lakes of western Minnesota, the Dakotas, and Saskatchewan. At ten years old he enjoyed hunting them with his father. Since then, Kjos has spent approximately fifty years as a professional photographer, shelving his old Winchester Model 12 for a camera and expanding his territory. "[I've] chased birds from



Photographer Lee Thomas Kjos (above) and his image of a bear (below).

Alaska to South America, weathering insane wind, crazy storms, the kind of brutal cold that'd even make a Minnesotan shiver and [I've endured] more leaky waders than [I] can remember --- all for the perfect image." And his efforts have certainly paid off. Kjos's award-winning photos have been widely published in magazines, advertisements, numerous calendars and his own four books. He has more "Ducks Unlimited" covers to his credit than any photographer in history. We get to experience some of it in his collection titled "Capture A Moment Tell A Story Move The People." Kjos emphasizes that the ideas for the subject matter are not his --- that the canvas and the images exist naturally and that he is "simply a conduit for capturing beauty in the raw." After a successful career in the corporate world, Kjos ditched the cubicle for a farm in Webster, Minnesota and founded Kjos Outdoors, a personal and commercial photography, design, video and illustration company.



Woodcarver Jim Lutgen

**Edward Jones**

Member SIPC

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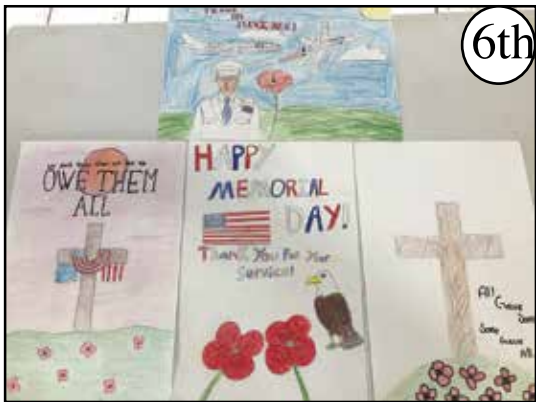
Dave Ritter-Broker 218-360-1200  
Cheryl Ritter-Clerk 218-360-4111  
Jason Ritter-Agent 218-244-4711  
Lisa Ritter-Agent 218-259-4249

**218-832-3121**





5th



6th

## Student Memorial Day Posters

Students at Bigfork Elementary School made posters for Memorial Day honoring Veterans in an annual contest sponsored by the Effie American Legion Auxiliary Waldron-Flaat Post 182. Posters are displayed by area businesses.



4th

### Winners:

6th grade:

First: Avery Porter  
Second: Landin Rahier,  
Elliot Ostendorf  
Third: Hope Calhoun

5th Grade:

First: Caden Felske  
Second: Brooke  
Worcester

Third: Ryder Elhardt,  
Avett Olson

4th Grade:

First: Isabelle Salinas,  
Walter Wolfson  
Second: Phillip Larsen,  
Caden Hansen  
Third: Lucas Heinecke

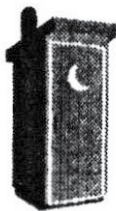
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## Jesse Lake Lutheran Free Community Meal



### Tacos

**Tuesday, June 17 • 4-6 p.m.**

Donations of non-perishable food, personal care items  
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Also: **Bingo 6-7 p.m.**  
*Great prizes!*

All are Welcome!  
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## WATTS Wonderful!



The Bigfork Food Shelf would like to thank all those in the community who stopped in for our fundraiser breakfast on May 4th. We received generous donations and are very appreciative. With the money received we can continue to provide some refrigerated items, fresh produce when possible and our regular shelf stable items.

Watch for next years event date TBD end of April or early May.

- Lynne Schleicher



Tom Urman  
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Dustin Ritter  
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## June 5: Septic Health Check

Northwoods Excavating of Balsam, Minn. will be conducting an inspection of a septic system in Itasca County, highlighting the key aspects assessed as septic inspectors. Individual septic systems often provide superior waste treatment compared to municipal treatment plants, thereby ensuring that the water returned to the environment is safe for both humans and wildlife. Proper installation and maintenance are crucial for ensuring the longevity of a septic system.

## July 10: Biology and Management of Starry Stonewort

Dr. Daniel Larkin, professor and extension specialist in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology at the University of Minnesota and Fellow with the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center will talk about the history of starry stonewort , what we know about factors that influence its spread, its impacts to native aquatic plant communities, and control methods and outcomes.

# Playstations

Playstations are located at McGarry Park in Bigfork and Lion's Park in Deer River with sporting gear and park art supplies to use and return for other visitors to enjoy. More information at [unitedwayof1000lakes.org/Playstations](http://unitedwayof1000lakes.org/Playstations)

## 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).

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

Coffee Club/Cribbage, Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m.  
Bingo every Thursday, 1-3 p.m.  
B.I.G. meetings 1st Wednesday 5:30 p.m.  
Crafting Group 3rd Wednesday, 5-7 p.m.

# **Glen Hopkins**

## **Gravel and Dirt Work**

A black and white line drawing of a backhoe loader. The machine is positioned on a pile of dirt or gravel, with its rear to the viewer and its boom extended forward and slightly to the left. The backhoe has a large cab with a window, and its tracks are visible. The background is plain.

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

**(218) 743-3716**

# Funday in Northome June 14th

Funday in Northome is known for kids' turtle races and the Medallion Hunt!

Starting at 8 a.m. Sidewalk Sales and Rummage Sales line Main Street. At 10 a.m., visit the Shining Light Cafe to pick up instructions for the Medallion Hunt. Individuals or groups are welcome.

At 2 p.m. the Turtle Races are on in the parking lot next to True Value. Kids bring their own turtles - no snapping turtles allowed!- and return them to where they found them after the races.

Visitors can also expect in-store specials that day.

## Scrubs Camp offered for grades 6-8

A one-day Scrubs Camp will be offered at Bigfork Valley Hospital to students entering 6th to 8th grade on June 18.

Be part of a fun day exploring healthcare careers with hands-on activities led by healthcare professionals.

The camp is free, thanks to sponsor support. Register by June 4 by emailing [barbara.jackson@wildernesshealthmn.org](mailto:barbara.jackson@wildernesshealthmn.org).

## 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.

*Online 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.

## area bookmobile stops

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

**Mondays: June 2, 23; July 14**  
1:45 - 2:30 p.m. Northome; Apartments  
3:15 - 4:15 p.m. Alwood; Hoot-n-Holler  
4:30 -5:30 p.m. Squaw Lake; Community Ctr

**Tuesdays: June 3, 24; July 15**  
12:00 - 1 p.m. Bowstring Store  
2:30-3:30 p.m. Effie: Country Store  
4:00-5:15 p.m. Bigfork: City Hall

**Thursdays: June 5, 26; July 17**  
11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Togo: Junction Bar & Grill

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

— Community Education —

**Blackduck** Register online at [blackduck.k12.mn.us/CE](http://blackduck.k12.mn.us/CE). Questions? Call (218) 766-3809 or email [mcleveland@blackduck.k12.mn.us](mailto:mcleveland@blackduck.k12.mn.us)

## SUMMER JUNIOR GOLF

Date: Mondays in June: 2, 9 16 and 23.  
Time: 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Location: Blackduck Golf Course  
Cost: \$60  
Entering grades 2-8.

## SUMMER DANCE CAMP

Date: June 23-27  
Time: 4-5:30 p.m.  
Location: Blackuck High School Gym Door #3  
Cost: \$35  
Entering grades K-6, boy and girls.

**Northome:** Call for more information at (218) 897-5275 (ext. 116) Register online at [www.northome.k12.mn.us](http://www.northome.k12.mn.us), Community Ed page.

## SPEECH & LANGUAGE FAMILY EVENT

Date: Thursday, June 26  
Time: 1 p.m.  
Location: Northome School  
For families with children ages 0-18. Provides techniques to build language and communication skills. More information, email Shauntel, szeman@northome.k12.mn.us. Also offered in July and August.

## Defensive Driving

Retired Minnesota State Patrol Trooper Mike Flatley offers a defensive driving class by Zoom for ages 55 and older. A class is scheduled for **Thurs., June 19**, 5-9 p.m. Cost is \$15. Preregister at (218) 750-3189 or by email at [mnflats@hotmail.com](mailto:mnflats@hotmail.com). Early registration is suggested. See [mndefensivedriving.blogspot.com](http://mndefensivedriving.blogspot.com) for more information.

Visit your co-op at [www.NorthItascaElectric.com](http://www.NorthItascaElectric.com)  
get updates on Facebook!

<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>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>Northern Itasca Emergency Food Shelf</b> 200 Main, Bigfork Thursdays 12:30-3 p.m. 3rd Thursday 12:30-4:30 p.m. (218) 256-4170</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>
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**Resource Centers:**

<p><b>Blackduck:</b> (218) 835-5768</p>	<p><b>Northome:</b> (218) 897-5952</p>
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Community News *Email editor at sedgwick@paulbunyan.net, with subject Community News*

Bigfork

Welcome to Summer! Join the Bigfork Valley Communities on Friday, June 27 for a fun afternoon of games and music under the canopy at Aspen Lodge, 2-4 p.m. To add to the summer fun, food trucks will be there wth BBQ and ice cream!

Inger

The Cut Foot Sioux Visitor Information Center (VIC) will be open this summer from Memorial Day to Labor Day, Tuesdays - Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is located at 44623 State Hwy 46, Deer River.

Marcell

There will be a Kids Fishing Day at the Marcell Discovery Center on Saturday, June 28, 8:30-noon. Naturalist programs start June 17 on Tuesdays and Saturdays at 11 a.m. (Except June 28).

Squaw Lake

Take a Kid Fishing sponsored by the Squaw Lake Fire Department on Saturday. June 7 on Round Lake, 9 a.m.-noon at the East Public Access.

Watch for July events!

- 5 Music & Art Festival at Spring Lake Store, 1-4 p.m.
- 5 Artist Reception 5-7 p.m. ar the Edge Gallery for woodcarver Jim Lutgen and photographer Lee Thomas Kjos. Show runs from June 5-July 3. The Edge Gallery in Bigfork is open to the public Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 1-4 p.m.



Marcell Family Center

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

Game Nights  
Thursdays, June 12 & 26  
board, yard, puzzles, crafts, open gym  
sponsored by AGE to age

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

<b>Alvwood Community Church</b> Sun 10:00a 58712 Co. Rd. 131 Blackduck 56630 218-659-4681	<b>First Presbyterian Church, BF</b> Sun 10:15a 109 Ash St. Bigfork 56628 218-743-3783	<b>Old Scenic Community Church</b> Sun 9:00a 25747 Co. Rd. 340 Bigfork 56628 218-743-3953
<b>Balsam Bible Chapel</b> Sun 10:00a 41516 Scenic Hwy 7 Bovey 55709 218-245-1960	<b>Gemmel Community Church</b> Sun 10:00a 10609 Town Rd 34 Gemmel 56660 218-897-5966	<b>Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church</b> Sun 9:00a Mass also Tu, W, 9:00a. 320 Golf Course Ln Bigfork 56628 218-743-3255
<b>Bear River Lutheran Church</b> Sun 10:00a 11141 Hwy 22 Cook 55723 218-376-1012	<b>Good Hope Church - Bigfork</b> Sun 10:00a 101 Golf Course Ln. Bigfork, MN 56628 218-556-9856	<b>Sand Lake Alliance</b> Sun 10:00a 55581 Co. Rd 4 Spring Lake 56680 218-659-2872 Church website: www.sandlakealliancechurch.org
<b>Bethesda Lutheran Church</b> Sun 9:00a Mizpah 56660 218-897-5654	<b>Grace Community Church (ELCA)</b> Sun 10:15a 401 State Hwy 38 N Bigfork 56628 218-743-3368	<b>St. Catherine's Catholic Church</b> Sat 4:00p 52265 State Hwy 46 Squaw Lake 56681 218-743-3255
<b>Bowstring Chapel</b> Sun 10:15a 45114 Co Rd 133 Deer River 56636 218-832-3171	<b>Hope Lutheran Church</b> Sun 10:30 a.m. 12234 Third St. Northome 56661 218-897-5654	<b>St. Michael Catholic Church</b> Sat 7:00p 12026 Lake St Northome 56661 218-743-3255
<b>Calvary Covenant</b> Sun 10:30a 54764 Co. Rd. 31 Northome 56661 218-897-5684	<b>Jehovah's Witnesses</b> Tu 7:00p., Sun 10:00a Hwy 38 Bigfork 56628 218-743-3275	<b>Suomi Evangelical Lutheran Church</b> Sun 10:30a 42935 Co. Rd. 48 Deer River 56636 218-832-3883
<b>Centennial Lutheran Church</b> Sun 8:30a Hwy 46 Squaw Lake 56681 218-259-0115	<b>Jesse Lake Lutheran Church</b> Sun 8:30a 45834 Co. Rd. 4 Talmoon 56637 218-832-3883	<b>True Life Church</b> Sun 10:00a 45976 Terry Talmoon 56637 218-244-7089
<b>Deer River Bible Church</b> Sun 10:00a 33276 State Highway 6 Deer River 56636 218-246-9570	<b>Marcell Community Church</b> Sun 10:30a 49103 State Hwy 38 Marcell 56657 218-832-3200	Church directory sponsored by North Itasca Electric Cooperative, send changes to editor, sedgwick@paulbunyan.net
<b>Dora Lake Alliance</b> Sun 10:00a 59329 Co Rd 145 Northome 56661 218-659-4551	<b>Northome Community Church</b> Sun 10:00a 12071 Bartlett St. Northome 56661 218-897-5040	
<b>Effie Fredheim Lutheran Church (ELCA)</b> Sun 8:30a Hwy 1 Effie 56639 218-743-3368	<b>Northwoods Chapel</b> Sun 9:00a 50539 Mushgee Rd. (corner of Co. Rd. 622) Deer River 56636 218-659-2784	

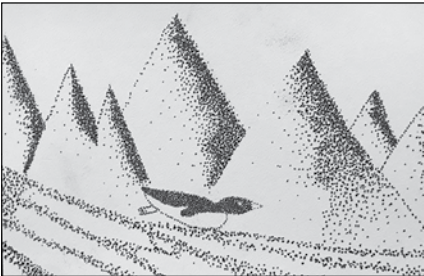
~ June Calendar ~

- 1 Deadline for entry in the Edge Center Gallery's Juried Show: Arts on the Edge.
- 2 ISD 318 School Board meeting at Educational Services Center Board Room, 601 SW 7th St, Grand Rapids 6:30 p.m., open forum 6 p.m. Livestream at watchictv.org. Information: jrasmussen@isd318.org or call (218) 327-5704.
- 4 "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.
- 4 Music Jam at Deer River Community Center, Co. Rd. 19 and 48. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Come to play or listen. Every Wednesday
- 5 Jesse Lake Lutheran hosts a Grief Support Group at 10 a.m. on Thursday mornings. For more information, call Marion at (320) 293-5741.
- 5 First Thursday "Practical Water Wisdom" online programs over the lunch hour with Itasca Waters. Topic: Septic Health Check: A Deep Dive into Inspections & Maintenance.
- 7 Take a Kid Fishing sponsored by the Squaw Lake Fire Department on Round Lake, 9 a.m.-noon at the East Public Access.
- 9 ISD 317 School Board meets at Deer River HS, 6 p.m. Public forum 5:45 p.m.
- 9 Perry Heide VFW Post 9703 meets the second Monday of the month, 7 p.m. at the Marcell Family Center. Everyone is welcome.
- 9 Women of the Woods, 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Comm. Center. Call Lori Dehn, (218) 659-4796.
- 9 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 9 Blackduck ISD 32 School Board meets, 6 p.m. in the Media Center.
- 10 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.
- 10 Bigfork City Council meets at City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 12 **Annual Meeting of North Itasca Electric Cooperative**, 2 p.m. at the Northome Fairgrounds.
- 12 Game Night at Marcell Family Center, 5-8 p.m. Yard and board games, puzzles, crafts, open gym. Sponsored by AGE to age.
- 13-15 Bigfork Wilderness Days. Events, activities, food, vendors. See p.16.
- 14 Flag Day
- 14 Funday in Northome starting at 8 a.m. with sales on Main St. Medallion Hunt 10 a.m., turtle races 2 p.m.
- 14 Swampsiders Annual ATV and Side-by-Side Ride. Meet at 9 a.m. at clubhouse, 29730 Co.Rd.52. Food & membership drive; bring a canned food item. Membership \$35/yr.
- 15 Father's Day
- 16 ISD 318 School Board meeting 6:30 p.m., open forum 6 p.m. Livestream at watchictv.org, 6 p.m. See June 2 entry for more info.
- 17 Free Community Meal at Jesse Lake Lutheran Church, 45834 Co. Rd. 4 in Talmoon 4-6 p.m. Takeout available. Tacos. Donations accepted of non-perishable food, perishable items or cash for Food Shelf. Bingo. 6-7 p.m.
- 18 Stitch-n-Bitch meets at the B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork the 3rd Weds of every month, 5-7 p.m. More info, call Krista at (218) 410-2258.
- 18 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m. at Northome School
- 19 Juneteenth
- 19 Flea market at Little Turtle Lake Store, Talmoon.
- 21 Bigfork Valley Community Foundation Golf Tournament fundraiser 9 hole scramble. Cash prizes. Benefits BVCF Community Grant program.Call (218) 743-4116 or sign up at Golf on the Edge.
- 23 Women of the Woods, 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Comm. Center. Call Lori Dehn, (218) 659-4796.
- 24 Bigfork Valley Hospital board meets, 9 a.m.
- 24 Northwoods Quilters meet 4th Tuesday of the month through October at Marcell Town Hall, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Show 'n Tell and quilting techniques.
- 26 Game Night at Marcell Family Center, 5-8 p.m. Yard and board games, puzzles, crafts, open gym. Sponsored by AGE to age.
- 27 Summer Kick-off Party at Bigfork Valley Aspen parking lot. Food trucks (BBQ and ice cream), lawn games and music. 2-4 p.m.



Student Art at the Edge

Students at Bigfork School displayed their work at the Edge Gallery last month in art, language arts and industrial arts. Some of the pieces are shown here in a variety of techniques.



• recipe • recipe • recipe • recipe •

Coffee Cookies

- 1 1/2 cup sifted flour  
1/2 cup sugar  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
2 teaspoons instant powdered coffee  
3/4 cup butter  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
3/4 cup finely chopped walnuts (or almonds or pecans)

Combine flour, sugar, salt and coffee. Cut in butter. Add vanilla and mix lightly until dough can be pressed together into ball. Shape into balls the size of a walnut and roll in chopped nuts. (Nuts can also just be mixed into dough.) Flatten with bottom of glass that is dipped in sugar.

Bake at 325° for 20 minutes or until cookies are firm and spring back very lightly when touched.

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.

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(from top left, clockwise)  
Hannah Holloway, grade 10, watercolor; Chase Burke, grade 9, woodworking; Ana Haataja, grade 12, cardboard relief; Ella Root, grade 10, stippling; Madalyn Nelson, grade 7, Zentangle tree; Estelle Waldron, grade 9, torn paper.



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**DEADLINE**for the JULY issue: **Wednesday, June 18****CLASSIFIEDS****-SERVICES-****Dahlke Forestry Services, LLC****218-929-7228**DahlkeForestry  
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Free: "A lot" of metal scrap. Yours for the taking. In Effie, MN. Call (218) 969-6266 7/25

Free: Top quality adult wheelchair with tie downs for van for sale under Vehicles. Manual Hoyer lift. Shower chair with extra padding. Hospital bed with extra padding. 3 nebulizer machines. Call (218) 897-5923 6/25

**-FOR SALE-**

For sale: Side by side French door GE refrigerator/freezer - 20 cu. ft. Good condition. \$100. Call Glenn at (763) 226-6404 7/25

Estate Sale: Sat., June 21, 9a-6p: Furniture, generators, trailers, boat, snowmobile, clothing, household items, more. 41520 Turtle Lake Rd, Bigfork, MN 6/25

**-FOR SALE-**

For sale: Oak ice box; rare 4 door, 50"H x 36"W x 20"D, \$1,250. 1918 Emerson electric fan, 16" brass blade, 3 speed, \$450. Adlake RR switching lantern complete, \$275. LG 29 cu.ft. French-door refrigerator model LFXS29626 in white, \$1050. Coleman 5 kW generator, \$475 NOS. Frigidaire 25 pt. dehumidifier, \$35. Howard Miller tall clock w/Westminster chimes, \$300. Call (218) 308-1335 7/25

For sale: Brand new, still in the box 25 gal. portable gas tank with 10" diam. air-filled rubber wheels plus 10 feet rubber 5/8" hose and nozzle, gravity fed line. Cost \$300, sell for \$225. Call Georgene's Haven (218) 832-3076, please leave name and number. 6/25

For sale: Cut, split, seasoned ash, maple, birch, elm firewood Call (218) 910-6610 6/25

For sale: Home generator, PowerMate 208cc OHV model PM0123250. Very low hours. Call 218-246-8664 or (218) 256-6756 6/25

**-WATER SPORTS-**

For sale: 16 ft. Alumacraft fishing boat 15 hp 4-stroke Mercury outboard motor and trailer. \$3,500. Alumacraft whitewater canoe - aluminum. \$300. Johnson 15 hp flat top outboard motor, \$750 obo. Call 218-246-8664 or (218) 256-6756 6/25

**-WATER SPORTS-**  
**-boats, fishing-**

For sale: Sun Dolphin 2 seat paddle boat. \$150. Call (218) 743-3921 7/25

For sale: 1992 Johnson 15 hp outboard motor; tiller with electric start, short shaft. Very good condition. Recently serviced with new water pump, new tank and fuel line included. \$950, Call Glenn at (763) 226-6404 7/25

For sale: 2014 Grand Island 20 ft. pontoon, 50 hp 4 stroke motor, trailer. \$13,900 obo. Call (218) 246-8531

For sale: 18' Lund fishing boat, trailer, 30 hp Honda Tilt &amp; Trim. \$4,900. Call (218) 246-8531 6/25

For sale: Fiberglass 14 ft open fishing boat. Needs transom and gunwale work. \$50 obo. Call (763) 331-1220 6/25

For sale: Floe V3000 lb. vertical boat lift. 12 volt electric winch. Motor stop. Pivot bunks. \$1900. Call (218) 256-0381 6/25

For sale: Floe dock sections. 4 ft. by 16 ft. cedar decking, adjustable wheel sections. 5 pieces avail. \$1000 per section. Good condition. Call (218) 256-0381 6/25

For sale: Strike Master Ice Auger. XL 3000. 3 hp 8 inch auger. Good condition. \$50. Call (218) 256-0381 6/25

**Check your ad!** Email editor to correct errors before the next due date.**-VEHICLES-**

For sale: 2011 Ford Transit Connect van. 163,000 mi. Handicapped lift in back. \$10,000 (quote from dealer). Top quality adult wheelchair with tie downs for this van, free. Battery powered Hoyer lift, new, \$2,200. Call (218) 897-5923 6/25

**-VEHICLES-**

For sale: '08 Chev Impala High mileage Exc, cond, \$2,800. Call (218) 256-6668 6/25

**-FARM-**

For sale: Square bales mixed grass. Baled dry, stored dry. \$5 per bale. Call (218) 244-0957 6/25

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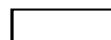
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Send to:

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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.



BIGFORK WILDERNESS DAYS

--Food and craft vendors all days -

Friday, June 13

5:30 p.m. Baseball games: city field  
6-9 p.m. PTA Youth Dance at City Hall

Saturday, June 14

9 a.m. Wilderness Days open  
9-11 a.m. Bloody Mary contest: Golf on the Edge  
10 a.m. Golf tourney: Golf on the Edge  
10 a.m.-3 p.m. Kids games by Fire Dept.  
12-3 p.m. Roving magician  
11 a.m.-4 p.m. Bingo: B.I.G. Center  
During day: Live Music at Wilderness Bar  
1 p.m. Ragamala Dance performance at City Hall  
12-2 p.m. Pony rides: Northwoods Saddle Club  
2 p.m. Corn Hole/Bags tourney: Wilderness Bar  
2:30 p.m. Ragamala Dance workshop for all ages and abilities at City Hall  
3:30 p.m. Shriners demonstration pre-parade  
4 p.m. Main parade  
after parade Ducky Derby Race  
8 p.m.-12 a.m. Street Dance with GARAGE 19

Sunday, June 15

9 a.m. Wilderness Days open  
10 a.m.-1 p.m. Car Show by City Hall  
11 a.m.-2 p.m. Petting Zoo  
12-3 p.m. Open Mic: Wilderness Bar  
2 p.m. Corn Hole tourney: Wilderness Bar

Wilderness Days - June 13-15

All roads lead to Bigfork on Wilderness Days. This year the annual celebration will be Friday - Sunday, June 13 - 15.

There is something for everyone during Wilderness Days: competitions, vendors of all kinds of food and crafts, music and dancing, raffle drawings and, of course, a Parade.

Starting Friday night, look for a Youth Dance sponsored by the Bigfork PTA. Also on Friday look for a dart tournament at Wilderness Bar and two baseball games: the Laurentian Divide Battle and Bigfork Baseball hosting Grand Rapids. The baseball diamond is located on County Rd. 14 just north of town.

Some of the Saturday events planned include Pony Rides by the Northwoods Saddle Club; a Ducky Derby Race hosted by B.I.G. after the parade; and a Kids Zone with a sawdust pile, bouncy house, games and prizes at the Fire Department; and a cornhole/bags tournament at the Wilderness Bar. Both regular and chicken bingo will be ongoing at the B.I.G. Community Center.

There will be live music and a Street Dance on Saturday with Garage 19. On Sunday, continue the music with Open Mic.

Sign up early for the Bloody Mary contest, the parade and the car show. The Bloody Mary contest will be held on Saturday from 9 to 11 am. at Golf on the Edge. Contact Tiffany at (218) 245-5955. While you are there, enjoy the day on the links with the Saturday golf tournament.

Watch the incredible performance by the Shriners on their motorcycles on Main Ave. before the parade.

The start time for the parade will be 4 p.m. and there will be cash prizes: First place \$100, second place \$75 and third place, \$50. The parade is free to enter, just contact Allison at (402) 8873-0165 or Sam at (218) 910-6297.

Sunday also will showcase events: There's a large community of vintage car enthusiasts in the area - show off your special ride on Sunday at the car show on Main Street from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Entry fee is \$10, but there are the same cash prizes as the parade. Contact Allison at (402) 8873-0165 or Sam at (218) 910-6297.

On Sunday, enjoy a petting zoo with food and craft vendors and the Open Mic at Wilderness Bar.

Come hungry! Food and craft vendors will be set up all weekend. Text a message to Allyssa Pitzen at (513) 283-2730 with questions or to sign up.

Sponsors and donations for this annual event are needed and appreciated! Contact Allyssa, Allison or Sam to support Bigfork Wilderness Days.

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