

## CEO Report

*Good afternoon NIECI!*

I'm a little late writing my article. I was away from the office at strategic planning with Great River Energy. Right after that I spent a little time in Canada fishing with my family. The good news is, I broke down and put a fence around the garden, so the deer didn't clear it out when we were gone. The bad news is I may have gotten out-fished in my boat. That just means I'm out of practice and need more time fishing, I think. Regardless, it was time well spent on the water; it's never about the fishing with me.

Last month I shared my Annual Meeting speech as my WATTS article. There were a few questions asked at the meeting as well. I do intend on addressing those questions in a future article. I want to ensure my information is accurate and laid out for everyone.

I read my buddy Mark's article in his newsletter. He was writing about the reliability of our systems, and the responsibility is shared. Mark brought up some good points here and I wanted to be a good neighbor and follow cooperative principle #6, cooperation among cooperatives. This is why I'll share some of his well-made points.

Reliability is spread among cooperative partners for you, the Member-Owners. I am directly responsible for our system, ensuring it is safe and reliable for your use. We are constantly talking about the system here at North Itasca Electric. My linemen

CEO to p.2>



Brad Dolinski, CEO

## Member Services Update

*by Drew Francisco*

*Hello again everyone!*

I feel like I just got done writing my last WATTS article. Summer sure is flying by and I hope all of you are getting out and enjoying it as much as possible.

The last month has been busy with a variety of different things going on in the Member Service Department. Besides the normal day-to-day operations, I've been able to focus more time on verifying our load

control equipment is controlled accurately. Making sure when Great River Energy dispatches a control event, the managed equipment is

shutting down and saving both the members participating and the Cooperative during these high demand events.

Along with the load control receivers, we are working on changing out the troublesome meters

around our system. Replacing them with newer technology that gives us access to more and faster information; these will also provide us with remote disconnecting or reconnecting capabilities. Not to say our current system isn't doing these

Member to p.2>



## Spotlight on Business: Golf on the Edge

*by Sally Sedgwick*

Too rainy to get out on the course?

Or maybe it's too hot, cold, windy, or...snowy?

There's still a course for you! At Golf on the Edge in Bigfork, there are over 1,000 courses loaded into the inside golf simulator, over 100 of them in Minnesota. On cold days, though, Clubhouse Manager Tiffany Heikkila might suggest Hawaii – "It's warmer there!" she would say.

This January, golf course owners Scot Hanson and his wife Kati Kanne purchased a new upgraded simulator that Scot believes plays just like being on a course. Players hit the ball off a tee, and many sensors indicate the path

of the ball and the spin, speed, distance and more on a large screen. For those who use the simulator to improve their outside game, there's even a video function that can be stopped right as the club impacts the ball.

Golf to p.3>



*The cooperative spirit is amazing.* North Itasca Electric Cooperative sent five linemen and equipment to help with restoration efforts for Beltrami Electric Cooperative. "It was great to have the North Itasca crew helping us. They were wonderful!" said BEC CEO Jared Echternach. Shown (l to r) are: Cole Serfling, John Rahier, Jake Bowers, Eli Rahier and Cody Eischens.



Owner Scot Hanson tees up at the golf simulator. The screen will show the trajectory of the ball, as well as its speed, spin and distance.

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

Batteries for  
Renewables

page 6

August Freezer Sale

page 8

Koochiching County Fair

page 16

**Office Hours**

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



## CEO Report (continued)

>from p.1

share with Daryl and myself trouble areas, outages, and concerns they have. We work together to address these concerns through right-of-way clearing, fusing, system design, and replacement when necessary. We are constantly looking at outage data to improve the system when necessary.

Great River Energy has a large responsibility in this mix as well. GRE generates or buys the power we need to run our homes and businesses. They also have a system of transmission lines used to carry this electricity to us. Their

system, like ours, requires a great deal of maintenance and sometimes replacement.

Recently GRE was here to meet with us to discuss reliability. The line feeding North Itasca Electric's system from the south was rated an "F". GRE has made a commitment to replace this line due to age and condition; this will improve reliability and accessibility to their system that feeds our substations.

The next piece of the puzzle lays at MISO. They are the air traffic controllers of the big picture. They are responsible for ensuring there is power where and when it is needed

across the center of the US and part of Canada. This relationship also provides financial benefits to our Member-Owners.

MISO has had warnings over the past couple of years there wasn't enough generation for future needs. Recently they backed those warnings down slightly. Good news for all of us but I still will keep a watchful eye in that direction. In future articles I will share with you some of the projects being considered to ensure you have the reliability you expect from North Itasca Electric.

*by your side! Miigwech  
Brad*

## Member Services

>from p.1

things, but making these preventative efforts will ensure our members are being billed accurately and prepare the cooperative for the future.

With how spread out our service territory is, trying to fix and maintain our systems takes up a lot of time. Traveling into some of these remote areas also brings its limitations with cellular coverage. If you have tried to reach me in the last few weeks and haven't heard back, please reach out again! I don't always get messages when I'm out in the field.

Other than that, the office team has been working hard on internal updates and processes. Doing a great job verifying the necessary changes are to the benefit of a better experience for all of you. It has been



Drew Francisco

fun learning and growing together as we navigate through all the new and exciting stuff going on here.

Our in-stock inventory of appliances and various parts and pieces is expanding. So, if you find yourself in downtown Bigfork, stop into your cooperative and visit with us!

I won't keep you reading any longer, but if you have questions about a personal project or economic development effort, please reach out! I would love to hear from you.

*Until next time,  
Drew Francisco*

## 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** – Josh Dehn (612) 772-6659
- **Koochiching County** – Brian Johnson (612) 757-9458
- **Beltrami County** – Wade Koons (218) 580-8589

# FIRST STATE BANK

OF BIGFORK

**BIGFORK  
OFFICE**  
218-743-3145

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

**KELLIHER  
OFFICE**  
218-647-8222

## 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

## JOIN US For A Community Picnic

Saturday, August 2nd

Noon to 4:00pm

1 pm Corn-Hole Tournament

2pm Fire Truck

**1st Presbyterian  
Church Parking Lot  
Bring A Friend!**

"Celebrating 116 Years In The  
Bigfork Community."

**FREE FOOD\* FELLOWSHIP\* CAKE\* MUSIC\*  
FACE PAINT\*YARD GAMES**

All are invited!

## Offering a wide range of services!

ENT	Emergency Room	Imaging
Chiropractic	Surgical Center	Orthopedics
Cardiac Rehab	Mammography	Pharmacy
Rehab	Long-Term Care	Lab
Specialty Clinic	Assisted Living	Swing Bed
Diabetes Care	Podiatry	Dermatology

Hospital • Clinics • Communities

## 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

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

### 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

Tom Kallio, District 7

Jeff Kilian, District 8



## Golf simulator offers players options

>from p.1

Area golfers seem to like the simulator: there are both mens and womens leagues on the simulator as well as on the course, said Scot. It also allows the clubhouse to be open all year, accessible by both ATV and snowmobile trails.

The simulator room is open for public rental at \$50 per hour, users do not have to be club members. Reservations are recommended at (218) 743-3626.

For summer play, golfers can enjoy the 9-hole par 36 regulation course seven days a week from 9 a.m. to close (usually about 9 p.m.).

Players can walk or take a cart. After a round (or at any time), there is a restaurant and bar with a full menu. Coming this summer is beer on tap.

There are also accessories for sale: apparel, balls, gloves and tees.

Have some free time and want to practice? Golfers have access to a 300 yard driving range, putting green and chipping green.

There is a mens league that plays on Tuesdays, a womens league that plays on Thursdays, and scrambles on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. And golf is not only for

adults. The course is supportive of the golf program at the nearby Bigfork High School – and that program is amazingly successful with over 30 students participating according to Tiffany. Students in the program are offered free walking golf, and there is an annual tournament – in July this year - to help fund the sport.

Before buying the course, Scot worked at a correctional facility. Why did he make the career change? “Well,” he said with a grin, “I just didn’t want to go to prison every day.”

To find out more about Golf on the Edge, visit [www.golfontheedge.com](http://www.golfontheedge.com), email from the website or call (218) 743-3626. The course is located east of Bigfork at 59851 Co. Rd. 261.



Clubhouse Manager Tiffany Heikkala, a brand new golfer, tries a shot on the first tee of The Wilderness at Fortune Bay in Tower. Over 100 Minnesota courses are available.

Hitting the ball flat? A video playback can tell you exactly where the ball impacted, the angle of the club at impact, and more.



Scot Hanson with Clubhouse Manager Tiffany Heikkala in front of the clubhouse. Scot and his wife Kati have owned the course since March 2020 and installed the enhanced simulator this January.

## J.V. Tree & Landscaping

Tree care - Landscaping - Bobcat Work

Cell: 612-987-9992

Free estimates - Fully insured

Tree Trimming & Removal

Stump Grinding

Woods & Lot Clearing



**Celebrating Our 109th Birthday!**  
**Spring Lake Store**  
 Come in over Labor Day weekend for a cupcake or cookie.  
 History of the store on Sat., Aug. 2, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Hours**  
 Mon-Thurs: 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.  
 Fri-Sat: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
 Sun. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Cheeses, deli meats, sandwiches, groceries, gifts, WiFi, post office Fireside Room

**218-832-3626**  
 CR4, 1 mile west of CR29

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

**FARMERS INSURANCE**  
**Heather Chapman**  
 Agency Owner  
 Northern Minnesota District Office

55960 County Road 4  
 Spring Lake, MN 56680  
 Office 218-659-4370  
 Cell 715-817-3990  
 Tel 218-659-2200  
[hchapman@farmersagent.com](mailto:hchapman@farmersagent.com)

**EDGE OF THE WILDERNESS REALTY**  
 Serving ALL of Itasca County  
 Call us for all of your Real Estate Needs!

**MARCELL OFFICE**  
 48921 STATE HWY 38  
 MARCELL, MN 56637  
 218-832-4000

**GRAND RAPIDS OFFICE**  
 501 S. POKEGAMA AVE  
 SUITE 102  
 GRAND RAPIDS, MN 55744  
 218-326-3411

[WWW.EOWREALTY.COM](http://WWW.EOWREALTY.COM)  
 love where you live

**Spring Lake Heating and Air**  
 WE SERVICE ALL MAKES & MODELS  
 "OUR SPECIALTY IS HEATING AIR CONDITIONING VENTILATION"

Charlie Hazzard  
 218-259-8903

**RESIDENTIAL-COMMERCIAL-INDUSTRIAL SERVICE-REPAIR-REPLACEMENT-RETROFIT**  
 Over 27 years of personal experience in HVAC/R  
 LICENSED, BONDED, INSURED & LOCALLY FAMILY OWNED  
[Springlakeheating@gmail.com](mailto:Springlakeheating@gmail.com)

**Storlie Construction**  
 Locally serving the Bigfork, Effie and Marcell areas

- \* New construction
- \* Remodels
- \* Roofing

**Jesse Storlie**  
 Residential Contractor  
 218-689-0627  
[storlieconstruction@outlook.com](mailto:storlieconstruction@outlook.com)  
 License #BC779504

## Three smart home technologies to help you save energy

by Abby Berry

Smart technologies make our homes more comfortable, convenient and energy efficient. By connecting your home Wi-Fi network, smart devices automate everyday tasks like lighting, heating, cooling and home security—they can even communicate with other smart devices in the home.

While not all smart home products are specifically designed with energy savings in mind, there are several smart technologies that can help you lower home energy use. Here are the top three smart home devices to help you save.

### Smart Thermostats



Smart LED bulbs use less electricity than traditional bulbs and can be controlled remotely through a smart phone app. *Photo Source: Moritz Kindler, Unsplash*

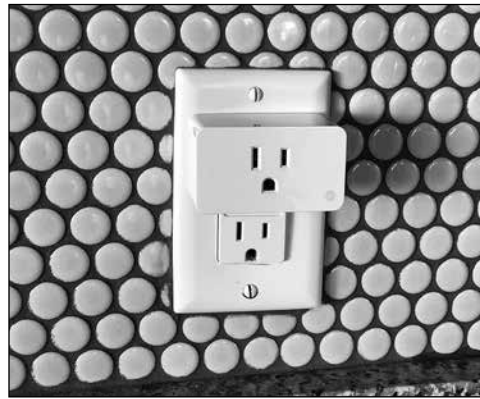
Smart or not, your thermostat is the most effective tool for controlling energy use, as heating and cooling typically account for the largest portion of energy bills. Smart thermostats allow you to adjust the indoor temperature through an app, giving you full control from anywhere on the go. Many smart thermostats include learning capabilities and will adjust the thermostat based on previous behavior and patterns.

According to the Department of Energy, smart thermostats can reduce heating and cooling bills by more than 8% annually, and with models as low as \$65, they typically pay for themselves in one year.

### Smart Lighting

Smart LED bulbs use less electricity than traditional bulbs and can be scheduled or turned off (or on) remotely through a smart phone app. Smart bulbs are available in a range of shapes, brightness levels, colors and more, so shop for the products that work best for your home lighting needs.

Many smart bulbs include motion sensors that turn on or off based on room activity, further optimizing home energy use. If you're new to smart lighting, try a home starter kit. Prices for kits range from \$70 to \$300+ depending on how many bulbs you need.



Smart plugs can cut power (or return power) to non-smart devices, like coffee makers, phone chargers and other items that draw phantom load. *Photo source: Kenny Ginapp*

### Smart Plugs

Smart plugs are inexpensive gadgets that can help you save energy. Many electronic devices consume power even when they are turned off (known as "phantom load"), which can take a toll on your energy bills. Smart plugs are simply plugged into an electrical outlet and connected to your Wi-Fi network. When set up, the smart plug can cut power (or return power) to non-smart devices, like coffee makers, phone chargers and other items that draw phantom load.

Many smart plugs can be paired with popular smart hubs, like Alexa or Google Nest, or controlled through the plug's associated app. Smart plugs are simple to use and a set of four can be purchased for as little as \$25.

If you're looking for new ways to save energy, try these budget-friendly, convenient smart home technologies.

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



Smart thermostats allow you to adjust the indoor temperature through an app, giving you full control from anywhere on the go. *Photo source: Abby Berry, NRECA*

## Highlights

### from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.  
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
June 26, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on June 26, 2025.

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

### Directors present via Zoom:

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

**Absent:** M. Rahier.

- Pledge of allegiance was recited.
- Motion to adopt the agenda. Seconded; motion carried. A motion to consent agenda. Seconded; motion carried.
- A safety discussion was held by Brad on severe weather outages and how to prepare for them. Thankful there were no fatalities from the Bemidji storm and thankful we have seen minimal damage in our area.
- Dan presented the Operating Report. Motion to approve was made. Seconded; motion carried.
- Andy presented Policy 400.40 – Alcohol and Controlled Substance for discussion. Motion to request to adopt Policy 400.40 – Alcohol and Controlled Substance was made. Seconded; motion carried.
- Daryl presented the Line Department report. MREA was on site last month for Traffic Safety with our crew. Crews are near completion on the underground project over by Dixon Lake. They also completed nine new services, changed out several poles and completed a couple of revamps. Bello Lake, Daley Larson and Jaynes School roads are the next to complete. The outage graph was reviewed.
- Drew presented the Members Service report. He attended the MREA mtg and was able to discuss Zero Homes and the additional Cooperatives signed up to be part of the opportunity.
- Dan presented the Office Report. PCS was on site the week of June 16th for a software reconnect of our Connect (Billing/Cashiering) software. It resulted in several process improvements. We will be scheduling a similar training for the accounting side later this year.
- Brad presented the CEO report. The MREA District 2 meeting will be on July 11th. Board Leadership starts on August 6th. MREA would like to work with more counties to encourage them to join our nuclear consortium. Itasca County was the first to join.
- Wes Waller gave the MREA report.
- Lloyd gave the GRE report.
- Round Table discussion was held. Motion to adjourn. Seconded; motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

### 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


### To be placed on the board meeting agenda:

*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.*



ELECTRIC CO-OPS  
ARE PROUD TO  
**POWER**

**56%** of the  
American  
landscape.




Meter seals

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


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

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

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



**WATTS** *Wonderful!*



Thank you to Great River Energy for their generous donation to the Round Up program at North Itasca Electric! The Round Up program allows Members to help organizations within the co-op's service area by rounding up their monthly bill to the nearest dollar. Awards are made twice a year.

**Glen Hopkins**  
**Gravel and Dirt Work**

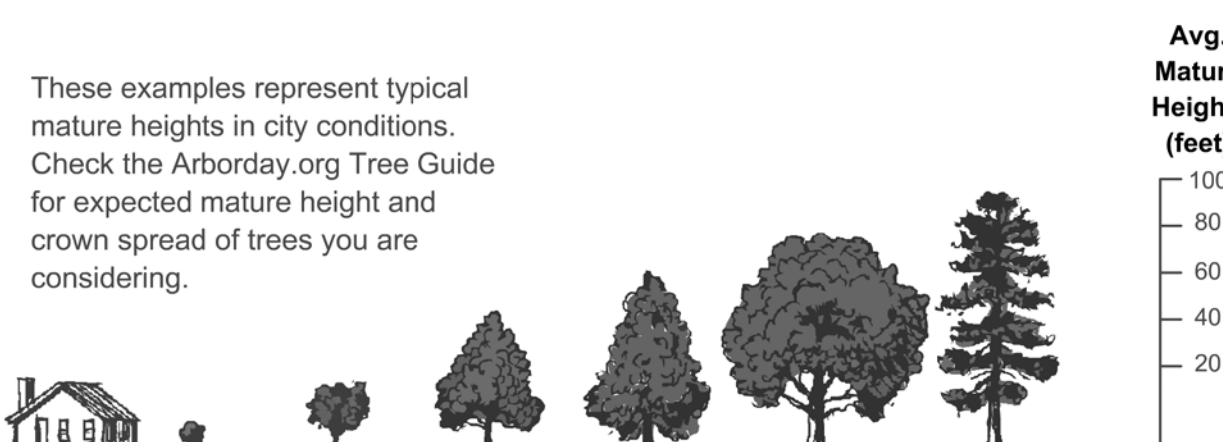


Fill Dirt, Class Five,  
Top Soil, Road Building,  
Ditching, Culverts,  
Clearing, Grubbing

**(218) 743-3716**

Know your tree height before planting near utility lines

These examples represent typical mature heights in city conditions. Check the [Arborday.org](http://Arborday.org) Tree Guide for expected mature height and crown spread of trees you are considering.



**Avg. Mature Height\* (feet)**

Shrubs	Dogwood	Sassafras	Pin Oak	White Oak	Ponderosa Pine
Arbor Day Foundation <sup>®</sup>	Flowering Plums, Hawthorn, Sumac, Hornbeam, Redbud	Post Oak, Quaking Aspen, Eastern Redcedar, Flowering Pear	Arborvitae, Green Ash, Hemlock, Blue Spruce	Linden, Red Oak, Tuliptree, Walnut, Many Pines	Redwood, Planetree

\*Individual specimens may grow larger in natural settings.

**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**

**Kalvig & Associates**  
DWIGHT L. KALVIG  
Accountant  
EST. 1974

**• Bookkeeping and Tax Service •**


Bus: (218) 835-4546 Toll Free: (888) 888-6735 Fax: (218) 835-6590

359 Main St., Box 309 • Blackduck, Minnesota 56630  
[kalvigandassoc@paulbunyan.net](mailto:kalvigandassoc@paulbunyan.net)

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY**  
TIP OF THE MONTH

Replace your cooling system's filter regularly to maintain strong airflow and boost energy efficiency. A clean filter means your system doesn't have to work as hard, saving energy and lowering your utility bills. Factors like allergies and pets in the home can impact how often filters should be replaced. Check the filter every month and replace it as needed. Changing filters regularly also reduces wear and tear on your cooling system, helping extend the life of the unit.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



**ADDRESS CHANGE**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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



# Unlocking the full potential of renewables with batteries

As the world moves toward cleaner energy solutions and states continue implementing carbon-free policies, renewable resources like wind and solar will play an increasingly significant role in powering our lives.

But these resources inherently come with a challenge: the variability of their production. Wind and solar are not dispatchable resources by themselves — meaning they cannot simply be switched “on” when the grid needs electricity — making it difficult to align energy generation with demand. That’s where batteries represent a possible solution.

Energy storage systems, particularly large-scale batteries, are becoming a key part of an increasingly renewable-

powered grid. They enable utilities to store surplus energy generated during times of high production and release it during periods of low output or peak demand. This capability not only balances supply and demand but also enhances the reliability and stability of the electric grid.

“Batteries will be important in creating a robust, resource-diverse grid that can fully harness renewable resources,” said Zac Ruzycki, director of resource planning at Great River Energy, North Itasca Electric’s wholesale power provider. “Without the characteristics that energy storage brings, there is a level of inefficiency in the system that doesn’t allow us to make the most of

the clean energy generated on our grid, from both an economic and reliability perspective.”

## Exploring battery solutions

Great River Energy has been at the forefront of exploring innovative battery storage solutions to support its member cooperatives. These systems provide dual benefits: They help



maintain a reliable electricity supply while also helping Great River Energy meet Minnesota’s requirement for utilities to provide 100% carbon-free electricity by 2040.

One of Great River Energy’s most ambitious projects to date involves the implementation of a long-duration battery system. Unlike traditional batteries that discharge energy for a few hours, the cooperative’s Cambridge Energy Storage Project can potentially provide power for up to several days. This capability

is crucial for addressing extended periods of low renewable generation, such as a multi-day stretch with minimal wind or cloudy skies.

“Long-duration energy storage doesn’t just support renewables, it holds the potential to transform them into dependable, on-demand resources,” Ruzycki said. “That type of technological potential strengthens our ability to deliver affordable, reliable power to our members.”

In addition to enhancing grid reliability, batteries also offer cost-saving benefits. By lowering energy costs during peak demand, energy storage provides economic advantages to both utilities and cooperative members.

**Buying or Selling?**

**CENTURY 21**  
Land of Lakes

721 S Pokegama Ave  
Grand Rapids MN 55744

**Call the Kutschats for Great Service and Results!**

**Jim 218.256.5773**  
**Michelle 218.256.5774**

Visit Our Website for Hundreds of Available Properties:

**Michelle & Jim Kutschat**

**www.C21Lakes.com**

**T&T Dog Lodge**  
Dog Boarding and Grooming  
Located in Talmoon, MN

Call for Information and Appointments  
**218-256-9575**

**Professional Animal Care**

www.ttdoglodge.com  
ttdoglodge@gmail.com  
Find us on Facebook

A Home Away From Home For Your Pet!

**WILD PINE BUILDERS**  
Tom Urman 218-244-3553  
Dustin Ritter 218-256-8598  
LIC# BC706317

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

**Hill Brothers Electric**

Small local family contractor that offers a variety of electrical services.

**Openings available now.**  
Please call and we can schedule your electrical needs ASAP.

Residential – Commercial  
LICENSED – INSURED – BONDED

**218-966-4455**

hillsbroselectric@gmail.com

218-256-7316  
cozyairhp@gmail.com

**Cozy Air**  
Heating and Plumbing

**M.A.D. GUTTERS**

Office: 218-743-6448  
Cell: 218-929-7134

SEAMLESS GUTTER INSTALLATIONS  
**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**

**Utility Scams Tip**

Delete deceptive emails. If you receive an email that appears to be from your electric utility but you are unsure about it, delete it. Never click on a link, open an attachment or send a reply to an untrusted source. When in doubt, contact your utility directly to report suspected email scams.

*Utilities United Against Scams*



## Roxanne's Sales Talk

by Roxanne Prather, Member Services Representative

Hello everybody, I just came back from a week's vacation in Montana visiting my grandbabies. It was great to get away, I enjoyed every minute with them!

I'm happy to announce that some of our new stuff has arrived and things are finally starting to come together in our showroom. We now offer water softeners, reverse osmosis water systems, pumps, flanges, pressure tanks and much more. We also have all the plumbing fittings you might need.

Don't forget we also have a great selection of water heaters and appliances in stock. So, if you are looking for any plumbing supplies be sure to stop in and check us out. Contractors, ask about your contractor discount!

I also want to give everyone a heads-up. I was just told that there is a price increase coming for Speed Queen. If you are in the market for Speed Queen laundry appliances, don't wait! Come see what's on the floor.



## Stay safe around the big green box

You may have seen big green boxes in residential yards over the years and wondered what purpose they serve. Those green boxes are actually called pad-mounted transformers, and they change voltage from higher levels to a level you can use in your home for electronics, appliances and lighting. This equipment is vital to providing electricity to at least one home, and often several in a neighborhood.

Pad-mounted transformers are surrounded by underground cables that can extend in several directions to distribute



Pad mounted transformer, photo courtesy of Runestone Electric Association

power to homes and businesses, so members should not landscape or dig around these boxes. Hitting a cable could result in electrical shock or disruption of service. Children should never touch, climb or play on pad-mounted transformers and shouldn't put fingers or sticks into cracks in the housing. Only employees from North Itasca Electric should be near this equipment.

Homeowners sometimes try to obscure these green boxes by planting shrubs and flowers around them, but that can make them difficult to access by electric field workers and can make them dangerous. Co-op technicians need at least 10 feet of clearance at the opening side of a pad-mounted transformer, and 4 feet

of open space is preferred at the rear and on the sides of the metal housing. That distance gives technicians enough space to use the specialized tools they need to work with energized equipment. It also ensures that one or two technicians working on a transformer have space to maneuver in case they have to back away if problems occur.

North Itasca Electric employees must access a pad-mounted transformer to test, maintain, repair and replace the equipment. If a technician encounters an obstacle that could create a hazardous situation, the worker will notify the member with a door hanger or phone call to set up an appointment for a different day. This may cause the work to be delayed.

In an outage situation when time is of essence, North Itasca Electric employees may need to remove items blocking their way so that they can access the equipment and restore power.

One of the top priorities for North Itasca Electric is to keep everyone safe and to keep electricity reliable for our member-owners. We appreciate your help in keeping electrical equipment clear of any obstacles, so our employees can stay safe and accomplish this task more efficiently.

## Grant program for Bigfork area businesses available

Applications are open for the second round of Business Revitalization Grants, a program available to business owners in Bigfork and surrounding communities. The application period closes Oct. 31 with awards distributed in November.

The purpose of the grant funding is to match your business investment in improving either external or internal aesthetics or structures.

Need to replace an awning or signage? Make your investment go further by applying for this grant. Call or email Drew Francisco for more information at (218) 256-4142 or [andrewf@nieci.com](mailto:andrewf@nieci.com)

**WANT TO SELL OR BUY PROPERTY? GO with BOB**

Learn what your property is worth with a complimentary Market Analysis.

**218-259-3403**  
[Bob@GOwithBOB.com](mailto:Bob@GOwithBOB.com)  
 RE/MAX Advantage Plus  
 Grand Rapids MN

**Bob Ellies**

## 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 Worship Service: 9:00 a.m.  
 Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. ⇨ Bible study: Thurs. 6 p.m.

<https://www.oldscenic.com>



## 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



**800-252-1166 or 811**

Call before you dig

Before you dig, call Gopher State at 1 (800) 252-1166. They will contact all area utilities to determine the locations of utility owned underground cables, lines and pipes. Keep in mind that only utility owned lines will be marked, so customers need to be cautious of any customer-owned underground electric or gas lines that may be located between their meter pole and house.



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](http://www.itascareliableinsurance.com)



# August Freezer Sale



**FFU2022AW \$843.05**

**SALE \$759.15**

Frigidaire white, 20 c.f. upright freezer.



Auto defrost, reversible door, LED lighting door alarm, Sabbath mode, temperature alarm, door storage, adjustable racks, EvenTemp cooling system, auto door closing, Height 71.8".

**FFU2022AW \$843.05- \$75 (dent) \$768.05**

**SALE \$691.24 (same as above)**

**MRU21F5BWW- \$896.36 SALE \$ 804.02**

Midea 21 c.f. white, upright convertible freezer, Energy Star, digital display, garage ready, exterior control panel, reversible door, 2-year warranty.



**FFFU13F2VW \$616.85 SALE \$555.16**

Frigidaire 13 c.f. white, upright freezer, even temp frost free, pocket handle, power outage assurance, Power-on floor indicator light, mechanical temperature controls, garage ready.



**MRC05M4CWW \$209.73 SALE \$188.76**

Midea 5.1 c.f. white, convertible chest freezer with removable basket.

22"D x 23.6" W X 33.5" H



**EFRF7003 \$292.50 SALE \$263.25**

Frigidaire 7.0 c.f. white, chest freezer, manual defrost, external temperature control, defrost water drain, removable basket. Garage ready 0°F – 110°F.



**EFRF1003 \$386.75 SALE \$348.07**

Frigidaire 10.0 c.f. white, chest freezer, Manual defrost, external temperature control, power-on indicator light, removable basket, defrost water drain. Garage ready 0°F – 110°F.



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





## Community picnic and legacy Sunday at Bigfork First Presbyterian Church

*Greetings from First Presbyterian Church of Bigfork,*

Last summer we celebrated our 115th year of ministry with a Community Picnic. This year we will continue to celebrate our rich history with two days of events: Saturday, August 2nd and Sunday, August 3rd.

Saturday will be a fun-filled day filled with food and fun games from noon to 4 p.m.

At 1 p.m. we will have a Corn Hole Tournament; the winner gets \$25.

At 2 p.m. we will be getting a visit from the local fire truck.

There will also be giant Jenga, face painting, chalk painting (with a prize), and of course cake for all.

On Sunday we will be celebrating John Sornberger Sunday. John was the founder of our church back in 1909. John was a notorious outlaw who was hiding out in the lumber camps when the Sky Pilot Frank Higgins came to the camp to preach, Frank told the story of the prodigal son and John identified as that man and then and there put his faith in Jesus. He also became a sky



pilot going from camp to camp preaching the gospel. John migrated to Bigfork where he started the Presbyterian church in a saloon, then to a vacated old building and then to a vacated log cabin schoolhouse which became the first official Church in 1909.

Sunday will begin with an outdoor worship service at 10:15 a.m. Some of John's descendants will be attending this worship service and one of them will give her own testimony. The service will be followed by rolls and coffee.

At 1 p.m. we will be showing the movie "Parish of the Pines" which is the true-life story of Frank Higgins and John Sornberger.

We wish to invite you to come out for one or all the events!

*Pastor Ray Cole*

## Bigfork native publishes book on life as a helicopter pilot

Bigfork native Robert Thydean has had an exciting life – a helicopter pilot for five decades, starting in the Vietnam war. He has survived a mid-air collision, escaped cannibals, fought fires, organized medical transport, flew in television commercials, built transmission lines and lost engines during flight.

He wrote a book about his experiences and titled it with his Vietnam call sign, Lucky 1-3.

When asked what his most memorable experience had been, he recalled the medical evacuation of a 10-month old baby who had fallen into a swimming pool. After 45 minutes of medical attention, but no heartbeat, the monitor beeped on liftoff - then another beep and another. The medical team put the baby into a coma, and Robert was able to be there when the baby was woken up 30 days later. Her first cry of "Mama" brought tears to everyone's eyes, he said.

Robert's book is available on Amazon.



Robert Thydean chats with (top) James Dickinson, and (bottom) relative Ron Root (r) and Paul Hanson at a book signing at the Pine Cone Cafe in Marcell.

**SORNBERGER SUNDAY**

**Join us as we celebrate the legacy of John Sornberger the founder of our church**

**Sunday, August 3rd**

**10:15 am. Outdoor Worship Service**  
(including a testimony from one of John's descendant's)

**1pm. "Parish in the Pines"**  
A movie about the life of Frank Higgins and John Sornberger

**1st Presbyterian Church Parking Lot**

**All are invited!**

**Jesse Lake Lutheran**  
**Free Community Meal**  
**Shepherd's Pie**  
**Tuesday, August 19**  
**4-6 p.m.**



Drawing for a \$25  
Spring Lake Store  
Gift Certificate!

Takeout available!

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

## 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

## How 'sky pilot' missionaries tamed Great North Woods lumberjacks

Christian missionaries, known as lumberjack sky pilots, were just as quick with the Bible as they were with their fists.

### "Lumberjack Evangelist" Exhorts Backsliders to "Hit the Trail"



John Sornberger, once an outlaw wanted by nearly every sheriff in Minnesota, was also a rising boxer, but he turned missionary to the lumberjack camps in the Great North Woods in the early 20th century after his crimes were pardoned, photographed here by the Duluth News Tribune on January 15, 1921.

Contributed / Newspapers.com

**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



SCS-MN.COM  
35334 HWY 2 Grand Rapids  
218-327-9505

### SPECIALTY CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Land Clearing - Site Prep - Road Building  
- Shoreline Restoration - Demolition

Licensed Septic Installation

Concrete Flat Work - Foundations

General Contractors License #BC775961  
SSTS License #L4180

**FREE ESTIMATES!!!**



## ITASCA AUTOMOTIVE FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC REPAIR

- NEW Wheel Alignment Equipment
- Suspension/Steering/Tires
- Engine and Transmission Service
- Brakes/Batteries
- Hybrid Service
- Factory Scanning/Programming

**218-743-4000**

Call for immediate appointment

43576 Co. Rd. 14, Bigfork



# Arts on the Edge:

## John Perkins... with Sandy Perkins:

**Sunday, August 24, 2 p.m.** the Edge Center in Bigfork will present: *The Poetry of Nature & Life Put to Music*.

John and Sandy's summer home is here in the Chippewa National Forest... winters are in the Smoky Mountains. His songs explore the beauty and depth of our world, from the whispers of the wind to the intricate tapestry of human emotions. His music resonates deeply with audiences who appreciate both artistic expression & meaningful connections. John delivers a unique blend of musical styles from acoustic folk to electric slide-guitar blues. John is a master of story songs about homesteading, logging, Native American chiefs and more. This is John's 16th concert to benefit the Edge Center for the Arts! Tickets: \$10 Adults, Children, free.

You can access his Soundcloud & YouTube channels from John's website at [www.jfp123.com](http://www.jfp123.com)

## Third Coast Chamber Collective:

On **Thursday, August 7, at 11 a.m.**, TCCC in partnership with the Bigfork/EOWAGE to age program will present a free musical workshop for all ages at the Edge Center for the Arts: *Interlocking Rhythm with Emotion in Music*.

TCCC Cellist Magdalena Sas and Violinist Irina Mueller will present an engaging workshop for the young and the young at heart exploring the role of rhythm in music. Participants will learn fundamentals of rhythm through use of percussion instruments.

After learning basic patterns, participants will join Magdalena and Irina as they perform a variety of works exploring how these rhythms are incorporated into music. The group will discuss how these different types of rhythms generate contrasting feelings in the music. Finally, participants will have a chance to apply what they learned about rhythm's role in music by creating an emotions collage in response to a longer piece of music.

This event is free for all attendees and includes a light lunch following the workshop. Contact Holly at 218-743-6670 to reserve your spot!

On **Saturday, August 16 at 7 p.m.**, Third Coast Chamber Collective and guest artists will present the opening concert of the 5th edition of TCCC's chamber music festival in Northern Minnesota titled "It Takes Five."

The program features single movements from piano and string quintets in a beautiful journey through the quintet repertoire.

For this concert, the TCCC's core members Evgeny Zvonnikov, Pedro Oviedo, and Magdalena Sas will be joined by violinist Irina Mueller, pianist Satoko Hayami and cellist James Rosamilia. The repertoire features works by women composers Grazyna Bacewicz, Amy Beach and Ethel Smyth and will be concluded with Franz Schubert's famous and beloved string quintet for 2 violins, viola and 2 cellos.

## BVCF golf tourney results

The 15th annual benefit golf tournament supporting the Bigfork Valley Community Foundation community grant program was held on Saturday, June 21. Winning and second place teams are pictured below. The BVCF thanks underwriters CMDI and Tegria, and sponsors Edge of the Wilderness Realty, First State Bank of Bigfork, American Disposal Lakes Gas Co., and North Itasca Electric Cooperative.



Winning team (1 to r): Zach Meyer, Leo Petralia, Brady Thomas and Dakotah Klammm.



Second place team (1 to r): John Tendrup, Montgomery Tendrup, Desirae Tendrup and Kyle Buckingham

Japanese pianist Satoko Hayami concertizes worldwide and currently is on faculty at the Osaka University of Tourism in Japan. A native of Minnesota, James Rosamilia, actively performs as chamber musician alongside his career as a recording engineer and regularly plays with the Itasca Orchestra.

TCCC would like to thank our "It Takes Five" festival sponsors and partners: Arrowhead Regional Art Council, Loggy Dome, Kiesler Center, Edge Center for the Arts, and the Itasca Orchestra.

If you would like to join in the celebration and support "It Takes Five" and TCCC's future music programming in our community, you can do so by dedicating a work on these concerts to the memory of a loved one. Your dedication will be printed in the festival programs to commemorate the impact of someone special in your life and you will receive a recording of the dedicated piece. For information on dedicating a work, please visit [www.thirdcoastchambercollective.com](http://www.thirdcoastchambercollective.com)

## Artists' reception

**Saturday, August 16, 6 p.m.** meet the artists in the Edge gallery, followed by a 7 p.m. performance. Tickets: \$10 Adults, Children, free.

This activity is made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to appropriations from Minnesota State Legislature's General Fund.

The Edge Center is located at 101 2nd Ave, Bigfork. 218-743-6670, [edgecenterarts.org](http://edgecenterarts.org)

Highway 46,  
Squaw Lake

**Leino's RIVERSIDE PUB**

218-659-2131

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

**Meat raffle**  
every Sat at 6p

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

**Full menu**  
including Broasted Chicken

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

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

**RK Construction Services Inc.**  
"Serving the excavation needs of Itasca County and beyond since 1968"

**Ray V. Kongsjord & Sons**  
[www.rkconstructionservices.com](http://www.rkconstructionservices.com)  
email: [rkconstructioninc@gmail.com](mailto:rkconstructioninc@gmail.com)

Office: (218) 832-2842  
Cell: (218) 244-6201  
39335 State Highway 286  
Marcell, MN 56657

- Demolition roll off service
- Site preparation • Landscaping
- Basements • Septics • Shoreland
- Gravel • Road construction

Bonded and licensed - MPCA Lic. 1204

**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](http://creekbankprinting.com)

**LENNOX** **Carrier**

**NORTHERN AIR**  
**PLUMBING & HEATING**  
(218) 327-9361

**Tim Torgerson** Owner License #060672-PM  
33204 Shadywood Road • Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
fax: (218) 327-9283 • [northernairph@yahoo.com](mailto:northernairph@yahoo.com)

**Williams Portables, LLC**

**Toilet Rentals & Septic Service**

*Clean portable toilet rentals*  
*Affordable prices*

**218-290-7868**

*Serving Effie-Bigfork and surrounding areas.*





## BVCF makes donations

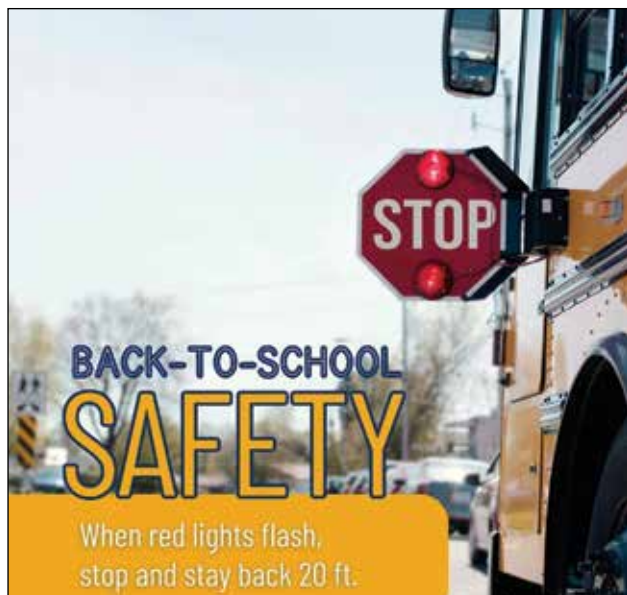


The Bigfork Valley Community Foundation recently contributed \$4,000 to Bigfork Valley's Emergency Room Department. (l to r) Dawn Jourdan, RN, Bigfork Valley Hospital ER infection control; Meredith Morneau, BVCF board member; Jennifer Rissanen, DON, Bigfork Valley Hospital ER.



The Bigfork Valley Community Foundation recently contributed \$5000 to Sam's Place in Bigfork toward facility improvements. (l to r) Wayne Aultman, Sam's Place board member; Jess Hazzard, Sam's Place executive director; Charlie Hazzard, Sam's Place board president; James Parks and Nathan Shiflett and Sam's Place board members; Nanci Zeine, BVCF board member.

The Bigfork Valley Community Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to address current and future needs of the Northern Itasca Hospital District and its communities through charitable contributions.



## Edge Center Gallery

Aug. 7-Aug. 30

### ART ON THE EDGE: Annual Juried Exhibit

**Artists' Reception: Fri. Aug. 8, 5-7 p.m.**

**Awards Ceremony: Fri., Aug. 8, 6:15 p.m.**

*Gallery hours: Thursday-Saturday 1-4 p.m.*

*submitted by Tina Appleby*

There will be no photos accompanying this article because: (1) it is simply too hard to choose from what we have (2) we are hoping that you will come in to see each work in person --- AND --- from Aug. 7th right up until 6 p.m. on the Aug. 8th Reception Night --- vote for your favorites!

Yes, that's right: you can have a say in the People's Choice Award, (which is presented to the artist by the gallery), --- and we need you to do so! On opening night, it's a lot of fun for audience members to see how their preferences compared with each other! Like armchair quarterbacking, it's your chance to second-guess the esteemed juror as well!

The Edge Art Gallery is proud and happy to say that this is the nineteenth year that we have had such an event. (Note: Many thanks to our treasurer and long-time volunteer Lynn Nachbar for spearheading this once again!) Every year we select an individual with appropriate background and peer recognition to serve as a "juror" for submissions. This means that he or she carefully considers each creation and determines if it is impressive/ unique and/or otherwise worthy of selection for our show. Ultimately, the juror will determine which pieces receive the distinction of "Best of Show" (this year, sponsored by Kocian's Grocery) and, also, "Award of Excellence" (two of these will be picked, sponsored by the First State Bank of Bigfork and Arvig Communications). Art on the Edge is open to submissions of all media, and this year we feature one artist that works in 3-D.

About the Juror: Susan Maguire's artwork has been published and exhibited nationally and in Europe. She is known for her black and white photographs documenting temporary collages and sets she

constructs in her studio windows. Susan's studio practice also encompasses digital/interactive and mixed media, as well as installation. Her photographs have been recognized with a number of awards, including a Fellowship from the Silver Eye Center for Photography, Pittsburgh, Penn., and the Carol Crow Memorial Fellowship Award from the Houston Center for Photography. Susan's photographic works are represented in many private and public collections, including the Brooklyn Museum of Art, and The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Prior to joining the Visual Art Department at the University of Wisconsin-Superior, Susan held faculty positions at Baylor University and the University of Missouri-Columbia. She studied at Pratt Institute (MFA, Photography), and at the University of Missouri-Columbia (BFA Drawing/Design and BS Ed. Art K-12).

Our 2025 Selected Artists: Kristen Anderson, Keiller Brevia, Nadezhda Duitsman, Liliana Bengé Briggs, Sandra Grindle, Chuck Hartell, Beth Vander Heiden, Keshia Hunter, Arne Mostad -Jensen, Iryna Khmelovska, Susan Klann, Teresa Lagerlof, Sandy Melander-Schmidt, Becca Mulenburg, Lena Ocain, Cathryn Peters, Heidi Phillips, David Swanson, Sandra Thompson, Eric Zuccola and Jennifer Zuccola.

So come over and vote on Aug. 7th or 8th (see above). Stay for the awards on Aug. 8th and/or be sure to come back again before the show's end to see the results!



## Poenix Contracting LLC

218-246-2740

poecon@paulbunyan.net

42298 Co Rd. 48  
Deer River,  
MN 56636



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

Remodels • roofing • ICF basements...

*Serving Itasca County for over 25 years.*

MN #BC637472



Landscaping

Excavating

Land/Site Clearing

Site Prep

Brushing/Mulching

Septic Design & Installation

Road Building

Driveways

Culverts

Building Demolition

Shoreline Restoration

Boulder Walls/Steps

Retaining Walls

Paving Stone Walkways/Patios

Snowplowing

Road Grading

Gravel

Class 5

Sand

Black Dirt

Rock

Crushed Granite

218-244-9276

WWW.POWELLEXCAVATING.COM



**Edge of the WILDERNESS**  
 DISCOVERY CENTER

PO Box 93  
 49554 State Highway 38  
 Marcell, MN 56657  
 218-832-3161

## 2025 Naturalist Programs

Many of the following programs include hands-on activities & crafts. They are interesting, interactive, and intended for all ages!

Program	FREE to the Public	Day/Date	Time	Speaker
Backyard Birds		Saturday, August 2	11 am	E. Prato
Outstanding Owls		Tuesday, August 5	11 am	E. Prato
Smokey Bear's Birthday		Saturday, August 9	11 am	EOWDC
Minnesota's Forests (Trees)		Tuesday, August 12	11 am	E. Prato
Undercover Critters (Camouflage and Mimicry)		Saturday, August 16	11 am	E. Prato
Naming the Night Sky		Tuesday, August 19	11 am	E. Prato
Have a Berry Good Day (Wild Edibles)		Saturday, August 23	11 am	S. Horak
Water Bug Detective		Saturday, August 30	11 am	S. Horak
Scatology 101		Saturday, September 6	11 am	S. Horak

\*For the birding program, if you have them, please bring binoculars.

Discovery Center summer hours

The Edge of Wilderness Discovery Center just north of Marcell on Highway 38 is open Thursday-Monday during the summer, 10 a.m to 6 p.m. Visit the center for interpretive displays and a gift shop. There are indoor and outdoor educational facilities, trail, pier and naturalist programs. You can also rent a kayak for a day on the water! Located at 49554 State Highway 38. Call for more information: (218) 832-3161.

**Edge of the WILDERNESS**  
 DISCOVERY CENTER

PO Box 93  
 49554 State Highway 38  
 Marcell, MN 56657  
 218-832-3161

## 2025 Drop In Naturalist Programs

Hands-on activities & crafts. They are interesting, interactive, and intended for all ages!

Program	Programs and materials are FREE	Days	Time
<b>Paint a Hiking Stick</b> Join in the fun at the Edge of the Wilderness Discovery Center in Marcell, MN and paint your own hiking stick! Unleash your creative side and add string, beads, feathers and more.  Afterwards, hike the short interpretive trail to the fishing dock and more. Stop inside the visitor center to discover more about the fish and wildlife inhabitants. Bring a favorite stick to decorate or choose one from our assortment.		Friday, July 4 Friday, August 8	Stop in between 10 am to 2 pm
<b>Tree Cookie Crafts</b> Head to the Edge of the Wilderness Discovery Center in Marcell, MN to craft a tree cookie! Make a spider web. Paint a design or scene. Create a cup coaster.		Friday July, 11 Friday, August 15	Stop in between 10 am to 2 pm
<b>Nature's Sun Catchers</b> Come explore the Edge of the Wilderness Discover Center in Marcell, MN and make a souvenir nature's sun catcher to take home. Hike the trail and discover more about the surrounding wilderness.		Friday, July, 18 Friday, August 22	Stop in between 10 am to 2 pm
<b>Nature Journaling</b> Visit the Edge of the Wilderness Discovery Center and make your own Nature Journal to take home! Collect, record and delve into the nature around you. Wander the interpretive trails at the Discovery center to start your journaling adventure.		Friday, August 1 Friday, August 29	Stop in between 10 am to 2 pm

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.

- 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.

Outdoor skills & stewardship webinars

Want to sharpen your outdoor skills over the lunch hour? Try these Department of Natural Resources “Outdoor skills and Stewardship webinars. Each webinar begins at noon on Wednesdays and lasts less than an hour. More information and to register, visit [dnr.state.mn.us/fishwildlife/outreach](https://dnr.state.mn.us/fishwildlife/outreach) .

**Spruce budworm and Minnesota’s spruce-fir forest: Aug. 6**  
 Identification, biology, history, impacts, and the work currently being undertaken to manage for spruce budworm.

**Managing living fossils in today's world: Aug. 13**  
 Biology, conservation, and management of paddlefish and gar in Minnesota.

**Early teal season: Aug. 20**  
 Scouting locations, effective strategies, and mastering teal identification to improve your success in the field.

**Why we manage for CWD: Aug. 27**  
 Tune in for a status update with Michelle Carstensen, the DNR's wildlife health program supervisor: why the DNR uses aggressive tactics, the DNR’s CWD response plan, recent disease shifts in southeast Minnesota and ongoing research.

Bigfork to refresh Lumberjack

*by Sally Sedgwick*

Bigfork plans to refresh the Lumberjack statue in front of City Hall with landscaping and replacement of the timbers with paver retaining walls. Gene and Nin Madsen have maintained that area for many years as well as donating paintings, flower plantings and providing maintenance at the kiosk and were thanked at the July 8 council meeting.

A public forum to consider an ordinance change allowing water to be shut off at a certain point for non-payment will be posted for the Aug. 5 Planning Commission meeting. Last year the city had \$18,000 in delinquent water bills.

Next meeting: Aug. 12 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

*Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum.*

## area bookmobile stops

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

Mondays: Aug. 4, 25; Sept. 15  
 1:45 - 2:30 p.m. Northome; Apartments  
 3:15 - 4:15 p.m. Alvwood; Hoot-n-Holler  
 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Squaw Lake; Community Ctr

Tuesdays: Aug. 5, 26; Sept. 16  
 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: Aug. 7, 28; Sept. 18  
 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](https://blackduck.k12.mn.us/CE). Questions? Call (218) 766-3809 or email [mcleveland@blackduck.k12.mn.us](mailto:mcleveland@blackduck.k12.mn.us)

**YOUTH FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUE**  
 Date: Mondays, Sept. 8-Oct. 6  
 Time: 5-7 p.m.  
 Location: Blackduck School Drakes practice field  
 Cost: \$60, includes T-shirt

**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](https://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.

**Effie sets public hearing**  
*by Sally Sedgwick*

At its July 14 meeting, the Effie City Council scheduled a special meeting on Tuesday, Aug 6 at 6 p.m. in the community center for a public hearing on a potential new business in Effie that was presented at its June meeting.

The council set a target date of Oct 1 for demolition of the Old School. TNT Construction will do the demo contingent on funding.

Vinyl plank flooring will be installed in the community center through a Community Development grant received from the Blandin Foundation

The council heard that there was interest in hiring a dedicated sheriff’s deputy for the Edge of the Wilderness area.

Next meeting: Aug. 12 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

*Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum.*

<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.	<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
<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	<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
<b>Resource Centers:</b>	
Blackduck: (218) 835-5768	Northome: (218) 897-5952



Community News

Ardenhurst

The first Ardenhurst Township picnic was held in August of 2007. That’s 18 years ago and it is still going strong. Amazing! And this potluck picnic is on schedule to be held again this summer. The date for this year’s picnic is Thursday, Aug. 21, at 5 p.m. It will again be held at the Ardenhurst Community Park on beautiful Island Lake south of Northome. Just drive 4.1 miles south of Northome on State Highway 46, turn left/east on Island Lake Road and go down the hill toward the lake.

As always, everyone is invited - old residents, new residents, old friends, new friends and friends of friends of friends. Come get to know your Ardenhurst neighbors! Rain or shine, we hope to see you under the pavilion at the park.

Cold drinks and paper products will be provided. Call Peg Wiklund at (612) 590-9154 or (218) 897-5262 for more information.

Itasca Waters Practical Water Wisdom

Enjoy “Practical Water Wisdom” online programs starting at noon with Itasca Waters on the first Thursday of the month. The August 7 program is Harmful Algae Blooms and Climate Change with limnologist Chris Filstrup Dr. Daniel Larkin of the the University of Minnesota Duluth’s Natural Resources Research Institute.

Cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae can rapidly form dense surface scums, or blooms, that are difficult to predict. Under the right conditions and with the right types of cyanobacteria, blooms can become harmful when certain cyanobacteria strains produce potent toxins that make people sick and can kill pets and wildlife. In this talk, Filstrup will discuss how cyanobacteria are well adapted to future climate conditions, what factors may be contributing to their expansion into lakes where they were previously rare, and what potential strategies we can use to mitigate severe harmful blooms.

On Sept. 4, the topic is Managing Stormwater Runoff on Your Shoreland Property - Minimizing Your Impacts with John "JB" Bilotta, Senior Research and Extension Coordinator with the U of M’s Water Resources Center where he leads the Minnesota Stormwater Research and Technology Transfer Program, and Maggie Karschnia, U of M Sea Grant program and Water Resources Center.

Register at itascawaters.org.

~ August Calendar ~

- 2 Naturalist programs Tuesdays and Saturdays at 11 a.m. through August 23 and Saturday, Aug. 30 at Edge of the Wilderness Discovery Center just north of Marcell.
- 6 “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) (651) 303-8248, lynn\_ettl@msn.com.
- 6 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
- 7 Jesse Lake Lutheran hosts a Grief Support Group at 10 a.m. on Thursday mornings. For more information, call Marion at (320) 293-5741.
- 7 Musical workshop for all ages with Third Coast Chamber Collective at the Edge Center, Bigfork. Reserve a spot at 218-743-6670.
- 8-10 Koochiching County Fair at Northome fairgrounds on Highway 71. See p. 16.
- 8 The Edge Center Gallery, Bigfork hosts an Award Reception for artists showing in the Annual Juried Exhibit, 5-7 p.m. with awards at 6:15 p.m. Arrive before 6 p.m. to vote on the People’s Choice Award. The Juried Exhibit runs from August 7 - 30. Edge Gallery is open 1-4 p.m. Thursday-Saturday. More information, call (218) 743-6670.
- 9 Smokey Bear’s Birthday at the Discovery Center north of Marcell on Highway 38, 11 a.m.
- 7 “Practical Water Wisdom” online programs over the lunch hour with Itasca Waters. Topic: Harmful Algae Blooms and Climate Change with limnologist Chris Filstrup Dr. Daniel Larkin of the the University of Minnesota Duluth’s Natural Resources Research Institute.
- 11 ISD 317 School Board meets at Deer River HS, 6 p.m. Public forum 5:45 p.m.
- 11 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.
- 11 Perry Heide VFW Post 9703 meets the second Monday of the month, 7 p.m. at the Marcell Family Center. Everyone is welcome.
- 11 Women of the Woods, 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Comm. Center. More info, (218) 659-4796.
- 11 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 11 Blackduck ISD 32 School Board meets, 6 p.m. in the Media Center.
- 12 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.
- 12 Bigfork City Council meets at City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 13-17 Itasca County Fair, Grand Rapids. Registration information and premium book online at www.itascacountyfair.org
- 16 Backwoods Bash at Blackduck Wayside Rest, 8:30 a.m-midnight. 5k, food, adult and youth activities, parade, live music by Orlando and Shell Shock. Golf tourneys on Aug. 15 and 17. More info at www.backwoodsbash.net
- 16 Third Coast Chamber Collective in opening concert "It Takes Five" of the TCCC’s chamber music festival in Northern Minnesota at the Edge Center. Meet the artists, 6 p.m., concert 7 p.m. Tickets \$10 adults, children free.
- 19 Free Community Meal at Jesse Lake Lutheran Church, 45834 Co. Rd. 4 in Talmoon 4-6 p.m. Shepherd's Pie, takeout available.
- 20 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.

- 20 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m. at Northome School
- 21 Annual Ardenhurst Township potluck picnic at Ardenhurst Community Park, 5 p.m.
- 23-24 White Oak Antique Tractor Club annual tractor show at the club site, one mile north of Deer River on Highway 6. Flea market on Aug.22. Admission and parking free. Pancake breakfast 7-11 a.m. Sat. and Sun.
- 24 Edge Center benefit concert with John Perkins and Sandy Perkins, 2 p.m. *The Poetry of Nature & Life Put to Music*. Tickets: \$10 adults, children free.
- 21 Flea market at Little Turtle Lake Store, Talmoon, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 25 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.
- 25 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.
- 27 Blackduck Elementary Back to School Open House, 4:30-6 p.m.
- 25 Women of the Woods, 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Comm. Center. Call Lori Dehn, (218) 659-4796.
- 26 Bigfork Valley Hospital board meets, 9 a.m.
- SEPT 1 Labor Day
- SEPT 2 First day of school, all schools

Area Church Directory

<b>Alvwood Community Church</b> Sun 10:00a 58712 Co. Rd. 131 Blackduck 56630 218-659-4681	<b>Effie Fredheim Lutheran Church</b> (ELCA) 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
<b>Balsam Bible Chapel</b> Sun 10:00a 41516 Scenic Hwy 7 Bovey 55709 218-245-1960	<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>Bear River Lutheran Church</b> Sun 10:00a 11141 Hwy 22 Cook 55723 218-376-1012	<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>Bethesda Lutheran Church</b> Sun 9:00a Mizpah 56660 218-897-5654	<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>Bowstring Chapel</b> Sun 10:15a 45114 Co Rd 133 Deer River 56636 218-832-3171	<b>Grace Community Church</b> (ELCA) 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>Calvary Covenant</b> Sun 10:30a 54764 Co. Rd. 31 Northome 56661 218-897-5684	<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>Centennial Lutheran Church</b> Sun 8:30a Hwy 46 Squaw Lake 56681 218-259-0115	<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>Clara Lutheran Church</b> Sun 9:00a 41447 Little Clara Drive Deer River 56636 218-360-1503	<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	



Annual Tractor Show in Deer River Aug. 23-24

The White Oak Antique Tractor Club will host their annual tractor show at the tractor club site, one mile north of Deer River on Highway 6 on August 23-24. Flea market will be open on Friday the 22nd. Admission and parking are free.

Daily events on Saturday and Sunday are the pancake breakfast from 7-11:00 a.m., tractor parade at 1:00 p.m., antique tractors and equipment on display. Food and drinks available onsite.

“Hit and miss” engines will be demonstrated along with saw milling, shingle mill, threshing, and corn shelling each day as well as blacksmithing. The Country Store will be open

in the main building selling souvenirs, antique household goods, and home grown fruit and vegetables.

Women’s activities will be in the south end of the main building. There will be quilts and handmade craft items for sale along with raffle tickets for a quilt.

This year’s raffle tractor is a 1947 Farmall A. Tickets are available from club members and will be sold on the grounds during the show until 2:00 p.m. on Sunday with the drawing at 3:00 p.m. First prize is the tractor or \$1000 in cash, second prize is \$500 and third prize is \$250. The quilt will be raffled at the same time.

*submitted by Edith Ducher*



**FILTHY CLEAN**  
WE DON'T CUT CORNERS, WE CLEAN THEM!

(218) 327-9186  
www.filthycleanmn.com

- Office Cleaning
- Carpet/Upholstery Cleaning
- Window Washing
- Construction Clean-Up
- Floor Care/Waxing
- Restroom Sanitizing
- Janitorial and Custodial
- Pressure Washing
- Janitorial Supplies

- Residential Cleaning
- Debris/Trash Removal
- Emergency Clean-Up
- Insurance Claims
- Water Damage Cleaning
- Fire/Smoke Damage
- Odor removal
- Grout Cleaning/Sealing
- General Cleaning and More

**ANDY'S**  
SKID STEER SERVICES LLC

Andy Dreher  
(218)556-3106  
Andy's Skidsteer Services LLC

MULCHING/BRUSH  
REMOVAL, FENCE  
LINE/DITCH CLEARING,  
SHOOTING LANES/TRAILS,  
DIRT WORK, SNOW  
REMOVAL, & MORE!

**SharMar Optical Solutions**  
**"EYEGLASS BARN"**  
Exceptional Bargains  
**(218) 452-1134**

Marcell Family Center • Tues., Thurs. 9 a.m.–5 p.m.  
or by appointment

**LOVDAHL ELECTRIC**  
**PH. 218.398.1900**  
**LovdahlElectric@lov-elec.com**  
**RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL**

Pancake Breakfast August 16 for SLFD

The Squaw Lake Fire Department will hold a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, August 16 at the Squaw Lake Community Center from 9-11 a.m. or until it's gone.

There will be bacon, sausage and beverages as well as pancakes, \$10 with ages 10 and under free.



North Itasca Electric is on Facebook!

• recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes •

### Baked Zucchini Supreme

Slice 9 small zucchini and steam until tender.

Drain and place in buttered baking dish. Cover with peeled fresh tomato wedges.

Add buttered croutons.

Top with one cup grated cheese: cheddar or parmesan or combination.

Bake at 450° for about 1/2 hour until hot and brown.

Serves about 8.

### Squash Casserole

1-1/2 lbs. yellow squash  
1 large onion  
2 eggs  
1/2 cup cottage cheese  
1/2 cup grated cheee  
1/2 cup fine bread crumbs  
salt and pepper

Boil squash and onion in water until tender. Drain.

Add remaining ingredients except bread crumbs. Place squash in casserole dish and top with bread crumbs.

Bake in 350° for one hour (covered except to brown at the end).

*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.*



**DEADLINE**  
for the SEPTEMBER issue:  
**Friday, Aug. 15**

# CLASSIFIEDS

## -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

**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

**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  
DahlkeDumpsters.com  
Flat rates on dumpster rentals!  
Flexible rental times!  
Great Customer Service!

## -SERVICES-

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

**Gus's Auto and Recycling of Bigfork**  
Used auto parts, steel, tires and bridge beams.  
A buyer of metals.  
**Snowplowing**  
Wanted: dead vehicles  
Over 30 years experience  
(218) 929-7117  
Hm: (218) 743-3598  
Gus David

## -WATER SPORTS-

**-boats, docks-**  
*For sale:* 40 foot steel dock. Needs work. \$500 obo Call (320) 510-0379. 8/25  
*For sale:* The Paddle King paddle boat. Seats 4. Pontoon damaged. \$500 as is. Call 218-910-9750. 8/25  
*For sale:* Alumacraft aluminum canoe 17 ft. Good condition. Used for several Boundary Water trips and mostly on Eagle Lake. One owner. Currently on Eagle Lake (Hwy 7 & 45). \$280 cash. Call (651) 455-0275. 9/25

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

## -WATER SPORTS-

**-boats, docks-**  
*For sale:* Shoremaster boat lift model 2596. 2500 lb, 96 in wide inside. Very good cond. wheel kit. \$1,100. Turtle Lake. Call (612) 670-6487 8/25  
*For sale:* 2015 22 ft. Sweet Water 220 Special Edition, 2015 70 hp Yamaha 4 stroke motor, one owner, both excellent condition, \$18,000. Call (808) 226-8867 9/25  
*For sale:* 8x8 swimming platform with slide. Great summer fun! \$500. Call or text for pictures. Call Tom (763) 228-0333 8/25  
*For sale:* 14' Crestliner fishing boat with 3 swivel boat seats and trailer. \$500. Call (218) 910-9750 8/25

## -VEHICLES-

*For sale:* 1988 GMC pickup. 122,000 mi, 4WD, 8 ft. box, topper. 2 new tires, runs good. \$1,200. Call (612) 298-0797 8/25

## -FARM-

*For sale:* 8N Ford tractor, with loader, brush cutter, 2 bottom plow and cultivator. Low hours on rebuilt engine. Very good rubber. \$4,000. Call 218 360-3234 9/25

*Hay for sale:* square bales, mixed grass, baled dry, stored dry. \$5 per bale. Call (218) 244-0957 9/25

*For sale:* Tractor implements: PTO Brush hog great for trails \$500, 3 Pt heavy duty back blade \$200. Call Tom (763) 228-0333 8/25

## -REALTY-

*Self-storage business for sale by owner:* 26-unit self-storage business located in NE Itasca County, MN. 24'x220' steel Morton building with cement floor. Six 8'x10' units and 20 - 10'x24' units situated on 3.28 acres along Co Rd 533 east of Effie. Outdoor storage space is available behind the building, along with a prepared space for a 36'x60' additional building. Well-established customer base. Currently doing business as Up North Storage and Services, LLC. Serious inquiries only. Call 218-244-5000 9/25

**Emails** will be answered; if no reply, please resend.

## How to place a classified ad:

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

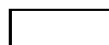
Classified ads are free to members, \$5 per insertion to non-members or businesses.

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.

## 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.

**SQUAW LAKE**  
**POLAR**  
Fiberglass • Spray Foam • Cellulose  
Floor Coatings • Roofing/Coatings  
**218-659-4351**  
Tom Kallio • PolarInsulating.com

## Koochiching County Apartments-Northome

12244 2nd St  
Elderly / Disabled Building  
1 Bedroom Available Immediately  
Heat, Water, Trash included  
On site Laundry  
Income Restrictions Apply  
Rental assistance program  
Call 218-999-9326



## CANINE CHARISMA

Dog Grooming and Bathing

204 Main Street  
Bigfork, MN 56628  
**(218) 743-2721**

caninecharisma@hotmail.com  
www.caninecharisma.com



## -Windows -Siding -Decks

General Contractor

35334 HWY 2 Grand Rapids, MN

218.327.9505

\*Free Estimates\*

#BC775961



## 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 BigforkStorage.com**  
**24/7 for sizes and availability**



# Koochiching County Fair is August 8-10

## Friday, August 8

9 a.m. to 7 p.m. - Exhibit building open  
9 a.m. Rummage sales, contact (218) 897-5980  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Northern Star Cooperative  
Customer Free Appreciation Lunch  
*Free dessert, compliments of Northland Progressive*  
4-8 p.m. Youth Food Booth  
4:30-6 p.m. -Veggie Creature Creation Class  
*Entry required for the Veggie Creature Contest*  
5 p.m. - American Legion Flag Disposal Ceremony  
5 p.m. - Let's Talk Gardening *in the Garden Park*  
5-7 p.m. - All open class entries plus Lego Creation  
5-6:30 p.m. - Spaghetti Dinner, Mustang Girls  
Basketball Team  
7 p.m. - Jason Waldron Band, Grandstand  
8 p.m. -1:00 a.m. - Fireman's Dance at the  
Fire Barn in Northome

## Saturday, August 9

7 - 11 a.m. - Breakfast at the Legion Stand  
8 a.m. registration, 9 a.m. start, 11 a.m. awards  
43rd Scenic Sinkhole Scramble, 897-5065.  
8 a.m. - Youth Food Booth  
8-11 a.m. - All open class entries and Lego Creation  
11:30 a.m. - Judging begins; Exhibit halls closed  
for judging until 12:30 p.m.  
Noon - Parade, Main Street in Northome  
After Parade: Antique Car Show at Fairgrounds  
1-7 p.m. - Kids Party House Rides & Amusements  
2 p.m. - Bingo *run by the Fair Board*  
2-3 p.m. Blacksmith Demonstratons, Farm Museum  
2-4 p.m Headwaters Science Center, Grandstand  
2-5 p.m Live music by Due North, under the tent  
2 p.m. Firemen's Bean Bag Toss Tournament, 21  
and up, sign up on Fire Dept. Facebook page  
3 p.m. - Antique Tractor Demonstration  
3 p.m. - Youth Bean Bag Toss, text (218) 368-3743  
5-6:30 p.m. Scalloped Potato/Ham Dinner by Hope  
& Bethesda Church Youth Group  
5 p.m. Let's Talk Gardening *in the Garden Park*  
5-6:30 p.m. Ham Dinner by Hope & Bethesda  
Church Youth Groups  
7-9 p.m. Grandstand Show: Pier Country  
Dusk - Fireworks (weather permitting)

## Sunday, August 10

7 - 11 a.m. - Breakfast at the Legion Stand  
9 a.m. - Youth Food Booth  
9 a.m. - Community Church Service at the  
Grandstand  
11 a.m. Bingo  
11 a.m. Kiddie Races  
11 a.m. - Bocce Ball tourney, (612) 554-7350  
Noon - Country Music Jam under the tent  
12:30 p.m. - Olson's Kid's Tractor Pull  
2:30 p.m. - Antique Tractor Demonstration  
3 p.m. - Cattlemen's Assoc. Meat Raffle

### Photography Contest!

Categories: Scenery, Black & White, 4 Seasons, Other.  
One photo per category, up to 8x10 with backing but  
no glass, taken last three years. See complete rules at  
[koochichingcountyfair.org](http://koochichingcountyfair.org) > competitions.

Advanced registration for the Sinkhole Scramble; \$15.  
Registration on race day, 8-8:45 a.m., \$20. Checks to:  
Koochiching County Fair c/o Mike Lorenzen, 11036 Co.  
Rd. 25, Mizpah, MN 56660: Call (218) 897-5065.

Drawings for County Fair Button Prizes at local  
merchants before Fair and Fair office during Fair,  
buttons \$2, drawing begins Saturday afternoon.

Veggie Creature Contest: 12 and under.  
Make your creature Friday, 4:30-6 p.m.

Check out the FARM MUSEUM with historic  
demonstrations, petting zoo, chainsaw display and  
photos of Northome and Mizpah areas. Blacksmith  
demonstration Sat. 2-3 p.m.

ART BARN: Open Saturday 2-7 p.m. and Sunday noon  
- 3 p.m. featuring local artists. More info, call Rena  
(218) 766-8907.

More information at:  
[KoochichingCountyFair.org](http://KoochichingCountyFair.org)  
Email Address: [koochcountyfair@gmail.com](mailto:koochcountyfair@gmail.com)

Tickets for the Meat Raffle will be sold in the Fair  
Office for \$2 per ticket.  
Drawing at 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Bingo! Saturday at 2, Sunday at 11.

### NEW THIS YEAR!

Children's LEGO CREATURE CONTEST.  
Open to age 12 and under, register Friday, Aug. 9  
from 4:30-6 p.m.  
NO KITS ALLOWED!  
Construct your creature at home: it will be judged on  
construction, originality, creativity and naming.  
Age categories: 6 yrs. and under, 7-9 yrs. and 10-12  
yrs. Prizes awarded in each category.

## County Fair Weekend!

Bring the family and come to Northome on the  
second weekend in August for a real county fair  
experience. It's a county fair that has been running for  
118 years!

There's no parking fee and no admission; lots  
of food, garden produce, art and other displays,  
competitions and music. Please, no pets on the  
grounds.

The Kids Party House Rides and Amusements will  
be one day only: 1-7 p.m. on Saturday.

Highlights on Saturday are the parade, Sinkhole  
Scramble and the fireworks. Parade Contact is LaVon  
at (218) 244-8716.

This year live music will headline the Jason  
Waldron Band on Friday and Due North and Pier  
Country on Saturday.

Koochiching County residents and anyone within  
25 miles of the Koochiching County line may  
enter in the Farm Market Garden Produce, Giant  
Pumpkin, Giant Zucchini and Flower Arrangements  
Competitions. Note that there are no distance  
restrictions for children 18 yrs. and under entering the  
Children's Flower Arrangement Competition.



Office  
218.659.4572

Amber  
218.360.5196

54529 Michalek road • Blackduck, MN 56630

**Firewood: Cut, Split & Delivered**

LENGTHS:  
16 inch  
20 inch  
25 inch

To place an order or for pricing call or email  
[a.m.logging@gmail.com](mailto:a.m.logging@gmail.com)



**THE PILLARS  
OF GRAND RAPIDS**

SENIOR LIVING | ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE

**CALL TODAY!**

Take a tour (218) 999-4999  
[PillarsSeniorLiving.com/grandrapids](http://PillarsSeniorLiving.com/grandrapids)



49407 State Hwy 38  
Marcell Mn 56657

**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**