



**NORTH ITASCA
ELECTRIC**

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

**WATTS
NEWS**

VOL. 29 NO. 4

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

APRIL 2026

CEO Report

Good afternoon NIECI!

With a little luck spring might just hang in there this time. We've had some glimmers of hope and I'm ready to transition. I want the open water season. I am ready for the side by sides to come out in force. I'm ready for what is to come.

Our Board of Directors and I traveled down to the Capitol this week. We visited with our legislators and friends. I was extremely excited to see Senator John Hoffman. John and I have become

friends over the past several years. He doesn't represent our area, but he represents Minnesota. John was attacked this past summer; shot nine times. He is still serving in the Minnesota Senate and wishes to run in the upcoming election. John cares about Minnesota and improving the lives of all Minnesotans. Extremely nice to see Senator Hoffman!

We were fortunate enough to have several of our legislators join us for supper. We team with Lake Country Power,



Brad Dolinski, CEO Arrowhead, Co-op Light and Power, Mille Lacs, and North Star Electric. This team approach allows us to combine forces and visit with legislators we otherwise may not have a chance to spend time with.

We were able to
CEO to p.2>

Member Services Update

by Drew Francisco

Hello again everyone! Just when I thought we were going to be blessed with an early spring we get smacked by Mother Nature once again. The firefighter in me is happy with some more moisture, but every other part is unimpressed.

This last month my focus has still been on a variety of different areas of the Member Services Department. Load control, home evaluations and economic development

efforts. With that being said, don't forget about the Operation Round Up and Bigfork Revitalization grants that are open and ready for applications! If you have any questions or need assistance, please let me know!

This week I head down to Great River Energy to attend the Member Services meeting. This meeting has some important topics that need

to be discussed. As Brad has mentioned in his past articles, future rates and load control programs are priority numero uno. It is our job to ensure that the membership of North Itasca Electric can utilize

Member to p.2>



Spotlight on Opportunity: Bagpipes in Bigfork

The evocative sound of a bagpipe played by a lone piper over the Scottish moors.

As a fourteen year old boy, Josh Whittemore heard this music on a visit

to family in Scotland, and the distinct sound stayed with him. A year later, his family found a way to gift him a set of bagpipes, but it wasn't until he was a student at the University of Minnesota, Duluth that he connected with the DSHA: Duluth Scottish Heritage Pipe Band (now the Twin ports Highlanders) and learned to play the instrument.

Now he is bringing that opportunity to Bigfork and the surrounding area through a program sponsored by the Bigfork Bagpipes to p.6>

< Josh Whittemore plays the practice chanter in his classroom at Bigfork High School. The chanter is the part of the bagpipe that carries the melody.



Thank a lineman on:

Lineworker Appreciation Day, Monday, April 13



**Jake Bowers
Bruce Carlson
Cody Eichens
Joshua M Hubbard
Chris Larson
Richard "Dick" Lind**

**Trevor Michienzi
Daryl Pederson
Eli Rahier
John Rahier
Cole Serfling**

Board nominations open for Districts 4, 5 and 6

The duty of the nominating committee is to select, propose and post a list of candidates for director for the following districts:

- District 4 – Incumbent Mary Rahier – 3 year term
- District 5 – Incumbent Lloyd Kongsjord – 3 year term
- District 6 – Incumbent Todd Christensen – 3 year term

If you are interested in becoming a director nominee, please contact a nom-

inating committee delegate or alternate.

The nominating committee members as appointed by the board at its meeting on February 26, 2026 are shown on page 5.

All candidates selected should be qualified by the nominating committee person prior to the meeting to ensure that if elected, he/she could serve in the capacity of director for a period of three years. Each candidate must be a Member of the

Nominating to p.5>

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

Scholarships

page 5

April Refrigerator Sale

pages 8-9

Questions answered from
the Business Office

page 3

Office Hours

Mon. - Thurs.

6 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

CEO Report

>from p.1
visit about net metering. If solar installations are not sized to load, we have cost shifting between members.

We don't have an issue with solar. If Member-Owners want to install it, great! I do not like when North Itasca Electric is forced to purchase the power from a system that is overbuilt for more than I must pay Great River Energy for the same power. Solar power has a place in our mix of resources; it does not

pencil out at utility scale currently. Mr. Mark Bakk told us a riveting story about resources in general. He talked to us about a battlefield. The opposition is the electric load coming at us. Our knights in fancy uniforms were solar resources and wind. At night half of them disappeared from the battle; the sun went down. During the cold snap in January, the wind didn't blow and we lost all our wind soldiers. We have other soldiers; they come and go at will. These are off-peak

fighting the good fight for years. We need them to continue to win against a growing load. Sorry, Mark, if I butchered a great speech.

I spent my time talking about transmission investments being made today, along with nuclear power. It was a sight to see at the Capitol. There were bucket trucks out front with a huge American Flag hoisted between them. We were able to take part in a nuclear energy discussion where Representative Igo and Senator Hauschild both spoke in favor of nuclear energy. We are close to passing a bill for a nuclear energy study in Minnesota. This is a very thoughtful approach prior to asking to lift the nuclear moratorium.

I just want to thank Minnesota Rural Electric Association. They put together a great meeting and a great opportunity to engage with our legislators. Job well done!

*By your side! Miigwech
Brad*

programs; we can call on them to slow the attack from load when needed. Our front line is still hardened by coal, natural gas, and nuclear power. This is the wall of resources that have been

Member Services

>from p.1
programs that are cost effective. I'm curious to see what the discussion on rate design and load control strategies will bring. I'm certain that other cooperatives like us will bring forward their concerns and I'm going to be right there beside them taking notes and getting involved with these conversations. I understand that this is a very vague overview, but I need more intel before I try and educate you all on what the future will hold for us.

As I write this, I notice I am now starting my third year here at North Itasca Electric. Somedays I feel like it was just yesterday I walked through the door for the first time, and other days I feel like an owly veteran who has been a part of this team for much longer than two years. Cheesy sports reference there, but there



Drew Francisco

is some accuracy within it. It has been an awesome experience thus far, and it has been a privilege to get out and meet a lot of you.

We will be doing our Member Appreciation Day celebration again this year. This time we will be heading to Squaw Lake to set up vendors and informational booths. Brad and Daryl have been "voluntold" to man the grill and a few others will be floating around to answer any questions you may have. Hope to see you all there!

As always, I hope all you have a great month and please reach out with any questions!

*Until next time,
Drew Francisco*

WATTS News deadlines

Ad and editorial deadlines for 2026 (subject to change, check the banner on the Classified page):

Month	Deadline	Day
May	April 16	Thursday
June	May 14	Thursday
July	June 18	Tuesday
August	July 16	Thursday
September	August 18	Tuesday
October	September 17	Thursday
November	October 15	Thursday
December	November 17	Tuesday




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

Closed April 1-16.

Highway 46, Squaw Lake **218-659-2131**



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

Meat raffle
every Sat at 6p

Full bar, on/off sale,
pull tabs, casino

Open daily at 11 a.m.

Full menu
including Broasted Chicken

Kitchen is open
Sun-Thurs until 8p
Fri-Sat until 9p



Tree Removal and Natural Resource Management

218-256-6355



-Windows -Siding -Decks

General Contractor

35334 HWY 2 Grand Rapids, MN
218.327.9505
Free Estimates #BC775961



WATTS NEWS

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

Office Hours: 6 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday
Telephone: (218) 743-3131
After hours (to report power outages): (800) 762-4048
Website: www.NorthItascaElectric.com
Chief Executive Officer: Brad Dolinski
WATTS NEWS Editor: Sally Sedgwick

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.

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

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

Highlights from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 26, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on February 26, 2026.

Directors Present: J. Kilian, M. Rahier, L. Salmela, T. Kallio, W. Waller, L. Kongsjord and R. Bain.

Directors Present Via Zoom: J. White and W. Waller.

Also Present: CEO Brad Dolinski, Dan Heinecke, Drew Francisco, Daryl Pederson 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.
- A safety discussion was held by Brad. Covid and RSV are going around so if you are planning on going into the clinic, you may want to mask up. He also shared a video of a pickup driving over a live downed power line.
- Dan presented the Operating Report. Discussion was held on the PCA charges for January. Per Brad's recommendation, made a motion to spread the charge over 4 months with the first one showing on the March Statements. Seconded; motion carried.
- Board Policy: the Board reviewed their Nominating Committee members list and is as follows: District 1- Myron Albrecht, District 2- Dale Quandt, District 3- Brandon Francisco, District 4- Jesse Rahier, Alternate Troy Beckner, District 5- Eric Handyside, Alternate Kelly Handyside, District 6- Crystal Braunwarth, Alternate Karen Christensen, District 7- Lisa Peterson, District 8- Les Jensen and District 9- John (Jack) Schultz. A motion to approve the list of the Nominees. Seconded; motion carried. The meeting will be held in the first week of May.
- Daryl presented the Line Department report. MREA performed an onsite crew observation. Crews installed one new service with our ground thawing equipment and continue to work on CR 252 rebuild. They also began upgrading along CR 228 and CR 229 in Effie. The 2026 project will be 4 miles of single-phase along Hwy 52, UG conversation on MacKenzie Island and Matt Zimmer Rd.
- Drew presented the Member Services report. He still has received a lot of high bill complaints and is doing his best to educate Members on the new rate structure. New Eaton devices have been ordered. Test devices were delivered and testing is complete.
- Dan presented the Office Report. He has been working on the year end audit requests for auditors Brady Martz; they are planning to be onsite March 23-25. The state has approved our request for a substitute private insurance plan for the new Paid

Business Office Highlights

IMPORTANT UPDATE RE: BILLING, PAYMENTS AND DISCONNECT NOTICES

We've received several questions recently regarding due dates and disconnect notices. We want to clarify our processes and ensure you have all the information needed to keep your account current.

Understanding February's timeline

Due to the shorter month in February, disconnect notices were mailed the day after the due date—roughly five days earlier than usual. We understand this may have caused concern. If you receive a notice but have already sent your payment, please call our office to verify receipt.

Managing mail delays

We are seeing significant delays with mail delivery. To avoid late fees or notices, please allow extra time for your payment to reach us. A 10% loss of discount is applied to any payment received after the due date. If you are experiencing a delay in the delivery of your statements, we offer the option of paperless billing through text or email notifications.

Convenient ways to pay

To ensure your payment arrives on time, consider these options:

- In-Person: At our office front desk or the drop box in our entry.
- Local Banks: Payments are accepted at Deerwood Bank in Northome and Blackduck.
- Phone: Call our 24/7 automated line at (800) 762-4048.
- Digital: Pay online or via the North Itasca mobile app (available on Google Play and the Apple App Store). Instructions are available at www.northitascasaelectric.com.
- Autopay Incentive: Set up autopay using your checking account to receive a one-time \$25.00 bill credit. You can also use a credit card for autopay.

Family Medical Leave (PFML) requirements. We are also reviewing our disconnect policy and are looking at adding past due notices to reduce disconnects.

- Brad presented the CEO report. IEDC has hired Kyle Erickson as the new executive director. Brad will set up a time with Kyle and Drew to go over the Bigfork Improvement Grant. GRE continues to discuss the next steps in contract extensions. Drew, Dan and Brad will meet with Tom Lambrek from GRE on Monday for the Rural Economic Development Grant for the Bigfork Fire Dept.
- Wes Waller gave the MREA report.
- Lloyd gave the GRE report.
- Round Table discussion was held. Made a motion to adjourn. Seconded; motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

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.

Past Due accounts & disconnection

If a bill remains unpaid after the due date, the account is considered past due and service may be discontinued. If you are struggling to make a payment, contact us immediately to discuss an acceptable payment arrangement.

Cold Weather Rule (October 1 – April 30)

If you receive a disconnect notice during these months, a Cold Weather Rule (CWR) form will be included. Please note:

- The CWR does not automatically prevent a winter shut-off.
- You must meet specific requirements to qualify for protection.
- Please read the included form carefully and contact our office to discuss qualification guidelines.

Our goal is to work with you to keep your lights on. Please reach out to our team with any questions or concerns regarding your statement.



**Jesse Lake Lutheran
Free Community Meal**
Lasagna Soup, Garlic Bread
& More...

Tuesday, April 21 • 4-6 p.m.

Take out available

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

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

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





**EDGE OF THE
WILDERNESS
REALTY**

Serving **ALL** of Itasca County
Call us for all of your Real Estate Needs!

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

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

WWW.EOWREALTY.COM
love where you live



Cold weather rule & energy assistance program notice

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

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

North Itasca Electric Cooperative must provide:

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

Energy Assistance Program

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below 60 percent of the state median income (\$71,999 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2026. To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.
- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance, Kootasca Community Action (218) 999-0800. North Itasca Electric Cooperative exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please contact Sheila Hafeman at (218) 743-3131 to set up a payment plan.



Energy assistance

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

KOOTASCA ENERGY ASS'T. -Itasca
822 NE 5th Ave.
Grand Rapids MN 55744
218-999-0800; 877-687-1163

KOOTASCA ENERGY ASS'T. - Koochiching
900 5th St. Suite 304
International Falls, MN 56649
218-283-9491

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

ITASCA COUNTY SOCIAL SERV.
1209 SE Second Ave.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
218-327-2941

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

LEECH LAKE ENERGY ASS'T.
115 6th St, Suite E
Cass Lake, MN 56633
218-335-8292

Spring into energy savings

Spring is a season of renewal— and a great time to refresh your energy habits, too! As temperatures begin to warm and daily routines shift, a few small changes around your home can add up to meaningful energy savings.

If you’re looking for a simple place to start saving, look no further than ceiling fans. Fans don’t actually cool or heat the air, but they help you feel more comfortable by moving it. During warmer months, make sure your ceiling fan blades are set to rotate counterclockwise. This creates a downward breeze

that makes you feel cooler, allowing you to raise your thermostat a few degrees without sacrificing comfort. In cooler months, reverse the direction of fan blades clockwise to help push warm air down from the ceiling, improving efficiency when your heating system is running.

Speaking of thermostats, adjusting the temperature just a few degrees can make a noticeable difference on your energy bill. As spring arrives, try setting your thermostat slightly higher when cooling or slightly lower when heating. Even a two- or three-

degree adjustment can reduce energy use while still keeping your home comfortable — especially when combined with ceiling fans or open windows on mild, pleasant days.

Finally, the time of day you use energy can also play a part in savings. When you run major appliances during off-peak hours (when energy demand is lower), you can take advantage of non-peak rates and help reduce pressure on the electric grid—that’s a win-win!

Source: NRECA

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



Glen Hopkins Gravel and Dirt Work



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

(218) 743-3716

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

ADDRESS CHANGE

Name _____

Box/Street _____

City/State _____

Zip + 4 _____

County _____

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

Nominating committee to meet

>from p.1
cooperativeandabona fides resident of the district having director elections.

There may be situations where the spouse of a Member wishes to become a director nominee. In accordance with the bylaws of the cooperative, a spouse is not automatically a Member unless the membership is a joint membership with both spouse's signatures on file.

If you are uncertain about being a qualified director nominee, please contact the office at (218) 743-3131 and we will check our records. A copy of the Cooperative's Bylaws regarding Qualifications for Eligibility to serve on the Board of Directors is available from any nominating committee person or at the Cooperative Headquarters in Bigfork.

2026 Nominating Committee					
Del/Alt	District	Delegate	Address/ Phone		
Delegate 1		Myron Albrecht	Mizpah	56660	218-897-5048
Delegate 2		Dale Quandt	Wirt	56688	218-659-2601
Delegate 3		Brandon Francisco	Effie	56639	218-244-6452
Delegate 4		Jesse Rahier	Bigfork	56628	218-810-8405
Alternate		Troy Beckner	Bigfork	56628	218-244-3272
Delegate 5		Eric Handyside	Bigfork	56628	218-766-6312
Alternate		Kelly Handyside	Bigfork	56628	218-244-7178
Delegate 6		Crystal Braunwarth	Blackduck	56630	218-779-3249
Alternate		Karen Christensen	Squaw Lake	56681	218-659-4612
Delegate 7		Lisa Peterson	Squaw Lake	56681	218-760-6741
Delegate 8		Les Jensen	Marcell	56657	218-832-3410
Delegate 9		John (Jack) H.Schultz	Deer River	56636	218-259-4429

The candidates selected by the nominating committee for Districts 4, 5 or 6 will be placed on the ballot and voted on by the Members within that district. Your district is listed directly below the portion of your bill that lists your Name, Account Number and Statement Date.

The Annual Meeting will be

held Thursday, June 18, 2026 at the headquarters building in Bigfork beginning at 2 p.m.

Watch the WATTS News for further information.

Demand response participation evens out demand

More than 370,000 appliances owned by cooperative members like you are playing a role in managing the reliability of the regional electric grid and saving the entire membership money at the same time.

North Itasca Electric Co-op and the other 25 member-owner cooperatives that receive wholesale electric power from Great River Energy offer voluntary programs that empower members to use the grid efficiently and economically by reducing demand during periods of stress and shifting energy consumption to off-peak times.

By choosing to enroll an electric appliance, such as a water heater or air conditioner, into one of your cooperative's "demand response" programs, you are helping keep electricity reliable and affordable.

North Itasca Electric provides two ways for its members to make contributions toward helping manage the grid while receiving rebates or other incentives for their participation: interruptible programs and off-peak programs.

Using the example of an electric water heater, a member who enrolls this home appliance into an interruptible program gives permission for their cooperative to pause service to the water heater

to eliminate all or part of its load from the system for up to eight hours when wholesale energy market prices are high.

"Through the flip of a switch, this strategy helps reduce our monthly billing peak," said Drew Francisco, manager of member services. "Water heaters enrolled in this program do have sufficient storage capacity to supply hot water over the peak period while service is paused so members aren't left in the cold."

Participants are often alerted in advance of a control event by North Itasca Electric and have regular access to a website that shares the schedule up to a day in advance. This strategy is employed mostly to avoid high wholesale energy prices and to reduce the monthly billing peak of Great River Energy's member-owner cooperatives.

Members who are interested in the off-peak program would receive a rebate for a high-efficiency water heater that is "charged" overnight with sufficient storage capacity via less expensive electricity to supply your home's hot water needs. Program participants can expect their water heaters to recharge for eight hours, typically between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. during the winter season and 10 p.m. to 9 a.m. in

summer. This strategy only applies to weekdays, excluding weekends and holidays unless billing peak control is needed.

"Participation in this program helps provide significant economic relief to the overall membership by shifting heating load to the overnight hours, resulting in more favorable rates," said Francisco. "This also helps us defer wholesale energy purchases to off-peak hours that would otherwise cost more to purchase during on-peak hours."

Contact Drew Francisco at (218) 743-1313 for more information on our demand responses programs and how you can get enrolled.

Scam Tip

Don't fall victim to power outage scams. When widespread outages occur, scammers may target affected utility customers. They can contact you via call, text or email, urging you to act quickly and provide personal information to restore service. Always communicate with your utility through official channels, such as their website, mobile app or phone number listed on your bill. Your safety and personal information are worth taking a moment to pause and verify unknown senders.

Source: FTC.gov

Scholarships

North Itasca Electric funds college scholarships through unclaimed capital credits. High school seniors whose parents or guardians are members of North Itasca Electric can apply for these through the Northome High School scholarship committee.

Applications are available online on the Northome School counselor's web page at <https://www.northome.k12.mn.us/scholarship-information-links>, at schools in the service area or at the North Itasca Electric office. For more information, contact the Northome School counselor at clundin@northome.k12.mn.us.

Children of families who live out of the area but are members of the cooperative (such as seasonal properties with a meter) are also eligible to apply.

As funds are available, there is also a scholarship for a member who has been in the workforce and has decided to return to school. This application is due April 24 at the same link and is called the "North Itasca Returning Adult Student."

If the application is mailed, be sure to allow enough time for it to arrive before the due date.

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 for more information.

The inspectors can be reached weekday mornings between 7:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

- **Itasca County** – Eric Kluge (612) 772-6659
- **Koochiching County** – Brian Johnson (612) 757-9458
- **Beltrami County** – Wade Koons (218) 580-8589

Visit your co-op at
www.NorthItascaElectric.com
Get updates on Facebook!



DWIGHT L. KALVIG
Accountant

Kalvig & Associates
EST. 1974

• Bookkeeping and Tax Service •

Bus: (218) 835-4546 Fax: (218) 835-6590
Toll Free: (888) 888-6735
359 Main St., Box 309 • Blackduck, Minnesota 56630
kalvigandassoc@paulbunyan.net

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

OLD SCENIC COMMUNITY CHURCH

25747 County Rd 340, Bigfork

Pastor Sam Ketchum

218-743-3953

*A Full Gospel and Bible Based Church
Come and join us in worship, and a study of the Word.*

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School: 10:45 a.m. ⇨ Bible study: Thurs. 6 p.m.

<https://www.oldscenic.com>



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

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:

www.C21Lakes.com



**THE PILLARS
OF GRAND RAPIDS**

SENIOR LIVING | ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE

CALL TO SCHEDULE A TOUR
218-616-8266

WWW.PILLARSGRANDRAPIDS.COM

Bagpipe program in Bigfork

>from p.1

School Parent Teacher Association.

“There is a huge interest in the bagpipe program from both kids and adults,” explained PTA President Gabby Root. The PTA is raising money to get the program underway by buying practice chanters (the reed pipe that is fingered and creates the melody) as well as reeds, books and supplies for a “musical instrument Lend-to-Learn Library.” The program is meant to be free to learners of all ages, including weekly lessons, with the understanding that once proficient, pipers will give back in community

service. Pipers are often sought for Veterans events, ceremonies, weddings, funerals, parades and more.

Whittemore has taught 8-12 grade social studies at Bigfork High School for ten years, also teaching civics, U.S. and world history, economics and personal finance. Social studies is a good field for him;

his family is culturally diverse with many ethnic backgrounds from all over the world including Scottish and Irish from his paternal and maternal grandparents respectively.

Growing up in Pine River, Whittemore reflected that his parents blessed him with two prized gifts: education and travel. As a result, he can speak French, Italian, Spanish and some Gaelic and is a faculty member for this summer’s high school student trip to Greece.

As part of his Scottish heritage, his paternal grandfather identifies with the clans Grant and MacLean of Duart. (Whittemore noted that “generally, ‘Mac’ is more prevalent in Scotland, while ‘Mc’ is more common in Ireland.”) The bagpipe instrument, that existed from antiquity in some form, originally migrated from Ireland to Scotland through Viking conquests.

The bagpipe is made up of a bag that operates like a bellows using the breath of the piper, a nine-note chanter which is played to form the melody, and three drones, reed pipes extending from the bag which play a single note each, two tenor and one bass. The overlay of the melody on the drone background notes gives the music its unique emotional appeal, said Whittemore.

Mural in Whittemore’s classroom created by former students.



Full highland dress in 2008.

Whittemore said, are probably the marches heard during parades, but there are also hornpipes (rabble rousing music!), jigs and reels, and laments.

Why is Whittemore volunteering his time to create this opportunity? “I love this community,” he said. “They invested in me; I want to give back.”

Whittemore expects to start a new bagpipe class with free lessons this fall. To date, the program has four quality chanters, which can

cost up to \$200 each, thanks to generous donations. Two came from Whittemore’s former mentors from the DHSA, Chuck Bergquist, pipe major and Al Mackenzie, pipe sergeant. Instrument quality bagpipes themselves are expensive: they can cost from 800-\$1,300 used or up to \$5,000 new.

To help with these purchases, a GIVEMN account has been set up by the PTA, a non-profit, at GIVEMN.org, search for Bigfork Community Bagpipe. Donations are also accepted at First State Bank of Bigfork, be sure to note “Bagpipe Program” on the memo line. All instruments will stay with the program in the community, said Root.

For more information, email PTAPipesAndDrums@gmail.com. For examples of bagpipe music, visit the Twin Port Highlanders on Facebook.

Article by Sally Sedgwick.



(top) Fingering on the chanter is done with the whole finger, not the tip like a recorder. Fingering techniques create the “chirps and warbles” typical of the music. (l) The practice chanter with reed at top.

Roxanne's Sales Talk

by Roxanne Prather, Member Services Representative

Good afternoon, everyone. Today is a beautiful day, 40 degrees and the snow is almost gone!

Just when I start to get my hopes up, I hear we are supposed to get up to 7 inches of snow over the next couple of days. I sure hope it melts fast because the ground is too soft to plow and it's going to be a mess.

I'm happy to say this month people are starting to move around more, and sales are starting to pick back up. Something about

the warmer weather makes people want to shop!

I'm a people person and love seeing people come in, so stop in and check out our showroom. We have a very good selection of appliances. Whatever your needs may be, I am happy to help you, and if I can't help you, I'm sure we can find someone who can. I love it when it's busy – it makes the day go by fast.

I try to have a sale every month,

so watch the WATTS paper and our website northitascaelectric.com to see what's on sale. I want to remind you that we offer bundling deals where if you buy three appliances you will get 8% off, buy four appliances and get 10% off and for those of you who need a whole house deal, five or more appliances, you will get 15% off.

When you're out and about, stop in, even if it's just to say "Hi!"

Lineworkers are ready when it matters most

In April, we take time to pause and recognize the brave men and women who make that possible every single day—our lineworkers.

When storms impact our communities and outages occur, many people experience the inconvenience, but our lineworkers see a call to action. Our crews are always ready when it matters most—leaving family dinners, working through the night and heading into challenging conditions to restore power as safely and quickly as possible. That readiness is not accidental. It comes from rigorous training, deep experience and a shared commitment to serving others.

especially remarkable is that they aren't just restoring power to a system—they're restoring power to their own communities. Powering the places we call home is personal to lineworkers.

At times, serving our neighbors means going beyond our own service territory through a process known as mutual aid. During major outage events, North Itasca Electric crews stand ready to assist neighboring co-ops—sometimes close to home, and sometimes across state lines—to help restore power. This spirit of mutual aid strengthens all cooperatives and ultimately benefits the members we serve.

lights go out can be frustrating, bringing everyday life to a halt. We are incredibly grateful to our members for your patience and encouragement during these times. Linework is demanding, physical, and at times, it can be dangerous. Our crews approach each job with a focus on safety and teamwork. They take pride in their craft and in the trust our members place in them.

On April 13, 2026, we will celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day, but one day is hardly enough. Every day, we thank lineworkers for their service and dedication, which are the backbone of our cooperative.

What makes lineworkers

We understand any time the

NRECA

BEFORE YOU DIG IN

Dial 811 or visit 811beforeyoudig.com to mark buried utility lines.

FILTHY CLEAN (218) 327-9186
www.filthycleanmn.com

WE DON'T CUT CORNERS, WE CLEAN THEM!

- 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

218-256-7316
cozyairhp@gmail.com

Cozy Air
Heating and Plumbing

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As we prepare for the seasonal shift, remember to set your ceiling fan rotation accordingly. In winter months (or whenever your home heating system is running), fan blades should rotate clockwise, which produces an updraft that pushes warm air down. In summer months (or whenever your home cooling system is running), blades should rotate counterclockwise, which produces a downdraft or windchill effect that makes you feel cooler. When used correctly, ceiling fans can boost comfort and allow you to adjust the thermostat a few degrees for energy savings.

Source: energy.gov

An Old Fashioned General Store

Spring Lake Store

218-832-3626

Happy Easter!

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

Cheeses, lunch meat, sandwiches, groceries, gifts, WiFi, post office

Visit us during Treasures Are Fine Food and Garage Sale · Sat, May 2

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

MIKE N' AUSTIN'S LAKE HOME SERVICES

A lifetime of quality painting, repairs & remodeling.

Marcell, MN
847-344-4890

Refrigerator Sale

Model Number MRB19B7AWW Sale \$563.24

Midea 18.7 c.f. bottom mount 30" wide refrigerator. Electronic temperature control, LED interior lighting, frost-free, one full width and three half width bins with gallon storage in the door. Two adjustable glass shelves, two tier interior freezer drawers, one clear and one white plastic. Two humidity-controlled crispers. 2-year warranty. White.



Model Number ATMWE71TH Sale \$318.99

Arctic Wind 7.1 c.f. top mount, frost-free refrigerator with glass shelves, one clear crisper drawer, three clear full-width door bins. White.



Model Number FFHT1822UW Sale \$576.35

Frigidaire 18 c.f. top mount refrigerator with two humidity controlled crisper drawers. Spacious interior storage, bright LED lighting, reversible door, ice maker ready, three full width door shelves, dairy compartment, glass shelving, gallon door storage, Energy Star. White.



Model Number LFDS22520S Sale \$1560.78

LG 22 c.f. 30" French door bottom freezer refrigerator. Smart cooling system, multi-air flow technology, glide-n-serve drawer with two tier organization levels in the freezer. Inverter linear compressor with 10-year warranty. SmartDiagnosis system, four adjustable half width glass shelves, two humidity controlled clear crispers. Seven total door bins, gallon storage. Factory installed ice maker, daily ice production 2.8 lb., Ice Plus production 3.1 lb., ice bin in the freezer. LED lighting, Energy Star. Stainless.



Model Number FRSS2623AW Sale \$1036.20

Frigidaire 25.6 c.f. S x S refrigerator. Door alarm, power failure alarm, LED lighting, air filter, water filtration, adjustable door bins, dairy compartment, glass shelving, clear crisper drawers. Gallon door storage, ice and water in the door. Dairy compartment. White.



Model Number LF25H6200S Sale \$1537.45

LG 25.1 c.f. 33" standard depth max French door with dual handle refrigerator. Ice maker in freezer, freezer daily ice production 2.5/2.8 (Ice Plus) lbs. 1 stage filtration system, 4 temperature sensors, door alarm, control lock, smart diagnosis, auto closing door hinge, Wi-Fi enabled, ThinQ®, ThinQ® care, ThinQ® upgrade, Sabbath mode, ADA compliant, two full width tempered glass shelves, two crisper bins, Glide-N-Serve pantry drawer, three left and three right door bins. Pull drawer freezer with two tier organization, has drawer divider, LED lighting. Energy Star certified. Stainless.



Model Number GRFS287DAS Sale \$1292.16

Frigidaire 28 c.f. French door refrigerator. Store more flexible organization solutions, three temperature settings. Keep fruits and vegetables fresh longer with our advanced crisper that automatically removes excess moisture and has an added ethylene absorber filter. Wine rack can be used for four 750 ml wine bottles, eight drink cans, four 20 oz drink bottles or a combination of all three. ReadyCook™ Flex pan is perfect for marinating, storing fresh pizza dough, prepping meals and cooking—then goes straight into the oven. Adjustable gallon door bins, water filter, dual ice maker, advanced cooling system, LED lighting, air filter, auto closing doors. Full width temperature adjustable deli drawer, glass shelves, two ClearSeal® Plus crisper drawers, ice dispenser on door: ice, crushed ice and water. Stainless.



Model Number MRF29D9BST Sale \$1320

Midea 29 c.f. French door refrigerator with dual ice. Midea's OneTouch AutoFill is the industry's first hands-free ice and water dispenser that automatically senses and dispenses. It also has one touch Infinite shelf, one touch Infinite door bin. Tall dispenser design holds 40 oz. tumblers and 10" tall water bottles; dual icemakers produce up to 7 lbs. of ice per day. Two-year warranty. Full width deli drawer, 2 crispers, 4 half width adjustable glass shelves, three clear door bins on the right and three on the left. 2-year warranty. Stainless.



Model Number LRDCS2603S Sale \$1615.18

LG 26 c.f. bottom mount refrigerator with pull out bottom freezer, door cooling plus, Energy Star certified, multi air flow freshness system, five built-in digital sensors, smart cooling system, two humidity crispers, factory installed ice maker stores up to 12 lbs. at a time, freezer drawer with two tier organization. LED lighting, SmartDiagnosis. 2 full width spill proof tempered glass shelves, one clear full width deli drawer. Door alarm, auto closing door hinge, Sabbath mode, LoDecibel quiet operation, Glide-N-Serve drawer, two gallon sized, two half (tilt), one small bin in the door. Print-proof stainless finish.





Model Number GRFC253AF Sale \$1819.35

22.6 c.f. counter depth French door refrigerator. Water dispenser with filtered ice and water, plus second ice maker, LED lighting, Energy Star, door alarm, Sabbath mode, adjustable racks, door storage, three adjustable gallon door bins, three fixed condiment door bins, one fixed gallon door bin, air filter, door stop, basket divider, power failure alarm, crisp seal plus, 2 clear humidity-controlled crispers, one full width deli drawer, four half-width adjustable shelves. Print-proof stainless finish.



Model Number MRT18D3BWW SALE \$587.15

18 c.f. top mount refrigerator, glass shelves, ice maker ready, Energy Star, clear crispers, one full width gallon sized door bin, two half width adjustable door bins and one full width narrower door bin on bottom of the door, auto defrost, two tempered glass spill-proof shelves in the refrigerator and one in the freezer, two full width door shelves in the freezer, 2-year warranty. White.



Model Number FFTR2045VW SALE \$652.40

Midea 20.4 c.f. top mount refrigerator, auto defrost, reversible door, LED lighting, door storage, adjustable racks, three full width gallon door bins, 2 clear crispers, two adjustable full width tempered spill proof glass shelves. Adjustable temperature dial, icemaker ready. White.



MODEL NUMBER MRB19BAST Sale \$704.35

Midea 18 c.f. bottom mount 30" wide refrigerator. Pull out freezer drawer with two tier organization, one full width clear gallon door bin, three clear adjustable half width door bins, frost free, one glass shelf in the freezer and two in the refrigerator, two clear crispers. LED lighting, Energy Star, icemaker ready. 2-year warranty. White.



Please call Roxanne with any questions; 218-743-3132 or roxanne@nieci.com.

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

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

T&T Dog Lodge
 Dog Boarding and Grooming
 Located in Talmoo, MN
 Call for Information and Appointments
218-256-9575
 Professional Animal Care
 www.ttdoglodge.com A Home Away From Home For Your Pet!
 ttdoglodge@gmail.com
 Find us on Facebook



Storlie Construction
 Locally serving the Bigfork, Effie and Marcell areas

- * New construction
- * Remodels
- * Roofing



Jesse Storlie
 Residential Contractor
 218-689-0627
 storlieconstruction@outlook.com
 License #BC779504

49407 State Hwy 38
 Marcell Mn 56657

MN Up North Realty

WWW.MNUPNORTHREALTY.COM



Call Your Local Real Estate Agents!
 Dave Ritter-Broker 218-360-1200
 Cheryl Ritter-Clerk 218-360-4111
 Jason Ritter- Agent 218-244-4711
 Lisa Ritter- Agent 218-259-4249

218-832-3121

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

Classic Movie Series: *Mr. Roberts*

Four great stars share the antics in this month's smash hit 1955 comedy, *Mister Roberts*. Henry Fonda wants to go into war. James Cagney is the inept, bad guy Captain. William Powell likes to make alcoholic concoctions. And Jack Lemmon is the Oscar winner.

Together, these four sail the seas in the cargo ship *Reluctant* in the Pacific during WWII.

There's so many goofy happenings aboard this ship that *Mister Roberts* was the top grossing

comedy of 1955 and among the top 5 most popular comedies of the entire decade.

The reason for this success may be due to three legendary 20th Century directors who shared the making of the picture: John Ford (*The Quiet Man*), Mervyn LeRoy (*Quo Vadis*), and Joshua Logan, who directed 1500 performances of the earlier play version of *Mister Roberts*. The picture appeared in the new wide-screen process,

Cinemascope, and it looks great.

I loved this movie when it first appeared in 1955. You'll love it now if you come see it. *Mister Roberts* will be shown at 6:30 p.m. at the Edge Center Theater in Bigfork on April 9th. FREE!! And all are welcome. Come aboard the *Reluctant* and laugh.

SPECIAL BONUS: The schedule for the next season of The Classic Movie Series will be presented.

Arts on the Edge

The Piatigorsky Foundation concert tour featuring violinist Alexander "Sasha" Yakub and pianist Kessa Mefford will arrive in Bigfork, MN at The Edge Center for the Arts on Friday, April 17 performance for the public at 7 p.m. Sasha Yakub has received numerous awards for his violin concerto and serves as concertmaster for BeComEnsemble. Kessa Mefford debuted at Carnegie Hall in December 2022 and is the only pianist in the world to perform all of Maurice Ravel's art songs from memory. Yakub and Mefford will deliver an hour-long program of duets by Debussy and Ravel.

Tickets at the door: Adults \$10, Youth FREE.

The Piatigorsky Foundation was established in 1990 to honor Gregor Piatigorsky, who deeply believed in the healing and inspirational power of classical music. He once said, "Music makes life better. Music is a necessity. It is rich. It is imaginative. It is magnificent. And it is for everyone."

For over 35 years, The Piatigorsky Foundation has brought musicians demonstrating artistic excellence to communities across Minnesota to increase awareness and appreciation of classical music. Please join us for this special performance at the Edge Center Theatre, 101 2nd Avenue, Bigfork.

Visit your co-op at www.NorthItascaElectric.com

MnDOT announces winners of Name a Snowplow contest

Oh, For Sleet's Sake and Flurrious George are the top vote-getters in the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Name a Snowplow contest and will soon join our fleet of snowplows statewide along with six others. The winning names, in order of vote totals, and their future homes are:

- Oh, For Sleet's Sake – District 3 (Central Minn.)
- Flurrious George – District 6 (Southeast Minn.)
- Sled Zeppelin – District 2 (Northwest Minn.)
- K Pop Blizzard Hunter – District 8 (Southwest Minn.)
- Minne-Snow-ta – District 1 (Northeast Minn.)
- Every Day I'm Shovelin' – District 7 (South Central Minn.)
- O Brother, Where Art Plow? – District 4 (West Central Minn.)
- The Life of a Snowgirl – Metro (Twin Cities)

Nearly 19,000 voters cast a ballot in February to select these winning names. The order of all 30 finalists can be found on MnDOT's Name a Snowplow website.

"Let's remember it's not just the plows," said Commissioner Nancy Daubenger. "It's also about the more than 1,600 Minnesota snowplow operators who keep us safe, and our roads cleared all winter long. Please slow down and give the operators of Sled Zeppelin, The Life of a Snowgirl and all of Minnesota's other snowplows plenty of space to clear roads safely every time it snows."

This is the sixth year that MnDOT has hosted the Name a Snowplow contest. MnDOT invited people to submit creative snowplow name ideas in December 2025 and received more than 67,500 submissions. Agency staff narrowed those submissions to a list of 30 finalists.

MnDOT now has 52 named snowplows, including four additional snowplows statewide in acknowledgement of highways the state plows adjacent to tribal lands.

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

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

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

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

Poenix Contracting LLC
218-246-2740
poecon@paulbunyan.net
42298 Co Rd. 48
Deer River,
MN 56636
You PLAN it,
we'll NAIL it!
We specialize in building
homes, not just houses.
Remodels • roofing • ICF basements...
Serving Itasca County for over 25 years.
MN #BC637472

LENNOX **CARRIER**
NORTHERNAIR
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

Itasca Waters Webinars

Practical Water Wisdom: A Virtual Learning Series, is hosted by Itasca Waters. This FREE, hour-long program takes place online at noon on the first Thursday of each month (except July, when it's on the second Thursday). Each session includes a live Q&A. Register at <https://itascawaters.org/water-wisdom-2026>

April 2: Waterbird Biology, Ecology and Conservation

Presenter: Annie Bracey, an Avian Ecologist at the University of Minnesota's Natural Resources Research Institute.

Topic Summary: Explore the ecology of waterbirds, how scientists monitor them, and why long-term tracking is essential. The webinar will highlight what waterbirds can reveal about the health of our environment, with a special focus on several tern species.

May 7: Ecology, Disease Prevention, and Control of Floodwater Mosquitoes

Presenter: Dr. Jon Oliver is a public health entomologist at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health.

Topic Summary: Floodwater mosquitoes are abundant in the summer in Northern Minnesota and can ruin a camping trip and transmit dangerous diseases. This presentation will describe the sorts of environments where these mosquitoes thrive, habitat controls that homeowners can undertake to reduce the number of mosquitoes, and measures that Minnesotans can take to reduce disease transmission risks while enjoying the great outdoors.

Order deadline for Native Plant Sale is April 17

The deadline for ordering plants from the Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District's Native Plant Sale is April 17. There are many choices available in wildflowers, grasses, shrubs and trees, flower kits, seed mixes, tree and shrub packs, and browse prevention items. Most trees and shrubs are sold out; visit the online store at itascaswcd.org to check available inventory. Pick up dates are May 14 or 15 at the SWCD office in Grand Rapids.

For more information, visit the website, call (218) 999-4439 or email matthew.picklo@itascaswcd.org

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

DNR Outdoor Skills & Stewardship webinars

Try the Department of Natural Resources "Outdoor Skills and Stewardship" webinars. Each webinar begins at noon on Wednesdays and lasts less than an hour. For more information and to register, visit dnr.state.mn.us/fishwildlife/outreach.

April 8 – Turkeys in Minnesota

Turkeys are one of our most successful reintroduced species. Join Greg Henderson, wildlife specialist to talk about turkey populations across the state, different hunting opportunities and some tips.

April 22 – The native fish of Minnesota

Join Shannon Fisher, fisheries populations and regulations manager, as he talks about what native fish species we have in Minnesota, what we have learned about the importance of native species, and new regulations around fishing for them. Fisher will share new information about bowfin, as well as updates on native rough fish rulemaking and legislation.

First Responder course

Are you interested in emergency response training as a community first responder? Bigfork Valley will be offering a 40 hour course. Learn essential life-saving skills!

You can find out more information or add your name to the list of interested participants for an upcoming class by calling (218) 743-4285 or emailing jroot@bigforkvalley.org.

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

M.A.D. GUTTERS

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

THE ULTIMATE GUTTER PROTECTION SYSTEM

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

Gutterglove PRO HEAVY DUTY FREE ESTIMATES
GUTTER PROTECTION

Choice You Deserve. Service You Trust.

ITASCA RELIABLE
insurance agency, inc

Our Experienced Agents are Committed to Our Community and Your Needs!

1121 Hwy 169 East • Grand Rapids, MN
218-326-8518 1-800-873-1471

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

AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS • HEALTH

Bigfork Food Shelf Fundraiser

The Bigfork Food Shelf is hosting their annual fundraiser on Sunday, May 3 from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Please join us at the Bigfork City Hall for a breakfast of pancakes, sausage and make-your-own breakfast burrito (scrambled eggs, sausage or taco meat, peppers, onions, cheese). Coffee and juice are also available.

We hope you are able to stop by and support a great cause. This event is a freewill donation.

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.

You can send in a change of address using the form on page 4.

FIRST STATE BANK
OF BIGFORK

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

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

WILD PINE BUILDERS

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

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

New construction Remodels
Garages Reroofs

Check us out on Facebook

License # BC706317 WildPineBuilders@msn.com

SAIL classes

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

- 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.

FREE Tax Preparation



Tax preparation for families and individuals of all ages and backgrounds

February 2 -April 12, 2026

****BY APPOINTMENT ONLY****

For information and appointments: 218-245-9202

- Call to make an appointment
- Free service for families and individuals
- Tax- Aide volunteers are IRS trained and certified every year

This service is available through a grant provided by the State of Minnesota

Sponsored by:



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.

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.- 6:00 p.m. (or until gone), a nutritious three-course meal is served. Location: King Elementary School door #9. For more information, visit communitycafemn.org.

Squaw Lake Fire Department



2026 Schedule of Events

Apr. 11th - Fish Fry & Pie Auction 4pm-7pm

June 6th - Take A Kid Fishing 9am-Noon

Sept. 12th - Hog Roast 5pm-7pm



Community Education

Try out a Community Education class! To find and register for programs in Itasca County, see getlearning.org. For Blackduck and Northome classes, see the school websites or Facebook pages. Here are some of the offerings:

"Rally-O" a fun Dog Sport!: Rally is based on "doodling" exercises used to train Obedience but has been turned into lively sport. Ages 14 to adult. Students under age 16 MUST have an adult with them. \$35 fee is based on working dog teams; a dog, parent and child, OR youth over 15 and a dog, or adult with a dog. April 4, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

AARP Smart Driver course

The AARP Smart Driver course is designed for drivers age 50 and older. Drivers will benefit from a 10 percent discount on their auto insurance premium upon completing the course. Drivers learn how to manage and accommodate common age-related changes in vision, hearing and reaction time. Cost for the class is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for nonmembers. Please arrive 15 minutes early. Monday, April 20: 4-8 p.m. at the Senior Center, King Elementary School, 500 SE 5th St., Deer River., To register, call 218-246-8241, ext: 60227.

Northome Food Shelf

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.

Blackduck Community Library:

(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

Northern Itasca Emergency Food Shelf

200 Main, Bigfork

Thursdays

12:30-3 p.m.

3rd Thursday

12:30-4:30 p.m.

(218) 256-4170

Northome Library

(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

Resource Centers:

Blackduck:
(218) 835-5768

Northome:
(218) 897-5952

Exploring Your Family Tree Workshop: Explore the exciting information hidden in marriage records, newspapers, criminal records, medical records and more. Pick an ancestor(s) and use your resources to discover more about your family's personal and social history and tackle your family tree hands-on. Be sure to bring your computer! There are family mysteries to explore. Saturday, April 18 at Marcell Family Center, 10 a.m.-noon, \$35. For ages 14 and up.

How Health Can Affect Your Wealth in Retirement:

Truths & falsehoods about health care and retirement, including rising costs of health care in retirement, how much you may need, five factors that can affect overall costs, primary resources available, including Medicare and Medicaid, steps to help manage your out-of-pocket costs and how to take advantage of health savings accounts. Tuesday, April 14, 6-7:30 p.m. No fee. Deer River High School media center.

Visit your co-op at
www.NorthItascaElectric.com

area bookmobile stops

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

The 2026 schedule has changed for our area. See highlighted items for changes.

Mondays: March 2, 23; April 13

2:45 - 3:30 p.m. Northome; Apartments

4:15 - 5:15 p.m. Squaw Lake; Community Ctr

Tuesdays: March 3, 24; April 14

10:00 -11:00 a.m. Deer River: Comstock Ct.

11:30-12:30 p.m. Bowstring Store

1:45 - 2:45 p.m. Effie: Country Store

3:15 - 4:15 p.m. Bigfork: City Hall

Thursdays: March 5, 26; April 16

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

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.

Community News

~ April Calendar ~

Northome

The 2026 Northome Farmers Market will be held on Fridays, 3-6 p.m. starting June 5. (note earlier start date). A vendor information/registration meeting will be held April 23, 6-8 p.m in the Northome City Hall Community Room. All returning and new vendors need to attend at this meeting if they did not attend the March meeting to hear about the new season changes, register and pay the \$15 fee. Questions can be directed to Northome Farmers Market Facebook page or leave a message at (612) 201-4519.

Suomi

Save the date! The Annual Mother's Day Auction will be held at Suomi Lutheran Church on Friday, May 8. At 6:30 p.m. we will begin auctioning off our homemade items! Various items are made and gifted to the church. Some of these are quilts, pies, bird/bat houses, smoked ribs, breads, pickled items, salsas, plants, woodworking, etc. Every year is unique. Come grab your number & coffee and cookie at 42935 Co Rd 48, Deer River, Minn. We also have a "Buy it Now" table where the proceeds are gifted to a need (usually weather disaster) that we choose prior to the auction.



Marcell Family Center

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

MFC hours:

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

Mon: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 4-7 p.m.
Tues, Thurs: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 4-7 p.m.
Fri: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

- 1-3 No school, Bigfork School.
- 1 "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.
- 2 Jesse Lake Lutheran hosts a Grief Support Group at 10 a.m. on Thursday mornings. For more information, call Marion at (320) 293-5741.
- 2 Practical Water Wisdom online programs over the lunch hour with Itasca Waters. Topic: "Waterbird Biology, Ecology and Conservation" with Annie Bracey, avian ecologist. Register at itascawaters.org.
- 3, 6 No school, Blackduck, Northome schools.
- 4 Easter Egg Hunt, 11 a.m. at Effie Community Center hosted by the Effie American Legion Auxiliary for ages 12 and under.
- 4 Easter Egg Hunt, 2 p.m. hosted by Swampsiders Snowmobile & ATV Club, 29730 County Road 52, Bigfork. Visit with the Easter Bunny.
- 5 Easter
- 6 ISD 318 School Board meeting, Administrative Board Room, 650 SW 7th St, Grand Rapids 6:30 p.m., open forum 6 p.m. Livestream at watchictv.org.
- 7, 10 No school, Deer River School.
- 8 DNR Outdoor Skills webinar at noon on wild turkeys. Register at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishwildlife/outreach>
- 9 Classic Movies presents *Mister Roberts* (1955) with Henry Fonda, James Cagney, William Powell and Jack Lemmon, 6:30 p.m., Edge Center in Bigfork. Free.
- 11 Squaw Lake Fire Department Fish Fry and pie auction, 4-7 p.m., Squaw Lake Community Center.
- 13 Lineworker Appreciation Day. *Thank a Lineworker today!*

- 13 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 13 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 15 Blackduck ISD 32 School Board meets, 7 p.m. in the Media Center.
- 13 Perry Heide VFW Post 9703 meets the second Monday of the month, 7 p.m. at the Marcell Family Center. Everyone is welcome.
- 13 ISD 317 School Board meets at Deer River HS, 6 p.m. Public forum 5:45 p.m.
- 13 Stop & Stitch meets at the Marcell Family Center the 2nd Tuesday of every month, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. More info, call Debbie at (218) 360-1503.
- 14 Bigfork City Council meets at City Hall, 5:30 p.m. .
- 15 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m., Northome School.
- 17 Order deadline for the Itasca County SWCD Native Plant Sale. See itascaswcd.org> plant sales. Order pickup dates are May 14 and 15.
- 17 Piatigorsky Foundation classical music concert with Alexander "Sasha" Yakub, violin and Kessa Mefford, piano at the Edge Center, Bigfork, 7 p.m. Adults \$10, youth free.
- 21 Jessie Lake & Suomi Lutheran free community meal, 45834 Co. Rd. 4 in Talmoon 4-6 p.m. Lasagna soup, garlic bread and more.
- 22 DNR Outdoor Skills webinar at noon on Minnesota's Native Fish. Register at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishwildlife/outreach>
- 27 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 20 ISD 318 School Board meeting, Administrative Board Room, 650 SW 7th St, Grand Rapids 6:30 p.m., open forum 6 p.m. Livestream at watchictv.org.

24 Application deadline for North Itasca Electric Scholarships. Application at www.northome.k12.mn.us/scholarship-information-links or in the headquarters office.

- 23 Music jam at the Marcell Family Center, 5 p.m.
- 28 Northwoods Quilters meet 4th Tuesday of the months April - October at Marcell Town Hall, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Show 'n Tell and quilting techniques.
- 28 Bigfork Valley Hospital board meets in public meeting, 9 a.m.

MAY

- 2 "Treasures Are Fine" garage sales along highways 6, 4 and 29, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. More info on Facebook or treasuresarefine@gmail.com.
- 3 Bigfork Food Shelf Breakfast fundraiser. Bigfork City Hall 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- 8 Suomi Lutheran Church Annual Mother's Day Auction. 42935 Co Rd 48, Deer River, 6:30 p.m.

Area Church Directory

Alvwood Community Church Sun 10:00a 58712 Co. Rd. 131 Blackduck 56630 218-659-4681	Dora Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a 59329 Co Rd 145 Northome 56661 218-659-4551	Northome Community Church Sun 10:00a 12071 Bartlett St. Northome 56661 218-897-5040
Balsam Bible Chapel Sun 10:00a 41516 Scenic Hwy 7 Bovey 55709 218-245-1960	Effie Fredheim Lutheran Church (ELCA) Sun 8:30a Hwy 1 Effie 56639 218-743-3368	Northwoods Chapel Sun 9:00a 50539 Mushgee Rd. (corner of Co. Rd. 622) Deer River 56636 218-659-2784
Bear River Lutheran Church Sun 10:00a 11141 Hwy 22 Cook 55723 218-376-1012	First Presbyterian Church, BF Sun 10:15a 109 Ash St. Bigfork 56628 218-743-3783	Old Scenic Community Church Sun 9:30a 25747 Co. Rd. 340 Bigfork 56628 218-743-3953
Bethany Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a 35297 State Highway 6 Deer River, MN 56636 218-246-8398	Gemmel Community Church Sun 10:00a 10609 Town Rd 34 Gemmel 56660 218-897-5966	Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church Sun 9:00a Mass also Tu, W, 9:00a. 320 Golf Course Ln Bigfork 56628 218-743-3255
Bethesda Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a Mizpah 56660 218-897-5654	Good Hope Church - Bigfork Sun 10:00a 101 Golf Course Ln. Bigfork, MN 56628 218-556-9856	Sand Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a 55581 Co. Rd 4 Spring Lake 56680 218-659-2872 Church website: www.sandlakealliancechurch.org
Bowstring Chapel Sun 10:15a 45114 Co Rd 133 Deer River 56636 218-832-3171	Grace Community Church (ELCA) Sun 10:15a 401 State Hwy 38 N Bigfork 56628 218-743-3368	St. Catherine's Catholic Church Sat 4:00p 52265 State Hwy 46 Squaw Lake 56681 218-743-3255
Calvary Covenant Sun 10:30a 54764 Co. Rd. 31 Northome 56661 218-897-5684	Hope Lutheran Church Sun 10:30 a.m. 12234 Third St. Northome 56661 218-897-5654	St. Michael Catholic Church Sat 7:00p 12026 Lake St Northome 56661 218-743-3255
Centennial Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a Hwy 46 Squaw Lake 56681 218-259-0115	Jehovah's Witnesses Tu 7:00p., Sun 10:00a Hwy 38 Bigfork 56628 218-743-3275	Suomi Evangelical Lutheran Church Sun 10:30a 42935 Co. Rd. 48 Deer River 56636 218-832-3883
Clara Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a 41447 Little Clara Drive Deer River 56636 218-360-1503	Jesse Lake Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a 45834 Co. Rd. 4 Talmoon 56637 218-832-3883	True Life Church Sun 10:00a 45976 Terry Talmoon 56637 218-244-7089
Deer River Bible Church Sun 10:00a 33276 State Highway 6 Deer River 56636 218-246-9570	Marcell Community Church 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

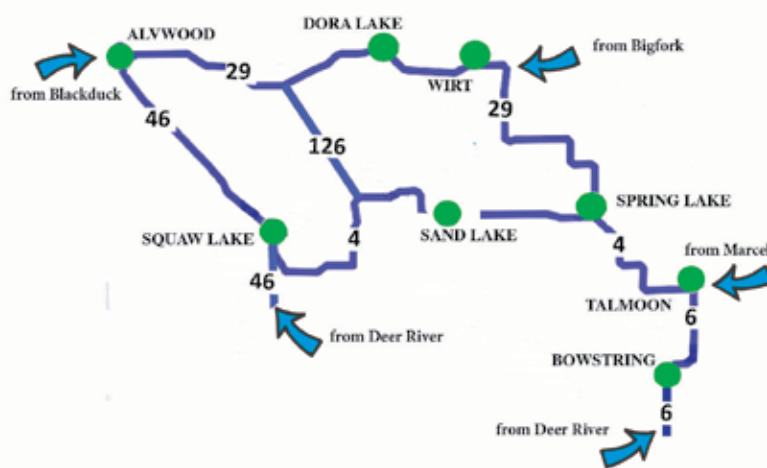
60 mile long garage sale in NW Itasca County on May 2

Want to get out of the ‘When is Spring coming?’ ho-hums? Release your inner bargain hunter and explore 60 miles of community garage sales in northwest Itasca County! It’s the annual Treasures Are Fine garage sales on Saturday, May 2 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Over 65 participants at 25 locations are already registered to be on the map. The route follows State Highway 6 through Bowstring to Talmoon and then county roads 4 and 29 through Spring Lake, Sand Lake, Squaw Lake, Dora Lake and Wirt. The route can be accessed from any direction: Deer River, Marcell, Bigfork, Blackduck or Northome. Some sales will also continue on Sunday; check the map for information.

The map will be available at stores along the route or online on Facebook @treasures6429 before the sale. Shown are locations and some of the specialty items shoppers can find, like tools, antiques, Depression glass, vegetable seedlings, log furniture, and electric and plumbing items. Updates will be posted during the day.

No one will go hungry! As well as local homemade



jams, maple syrup and baked goods, shoppers can find huge cinnamon rolls, wood-fired pizza, BBQ sandwiches and more at stores and sales along the route.

Thank you to the 2026 major sponsor, Paul Bunyan Communications. Other sponsors include Bethany Lutheran Church; Gentry, Kossaris & Kitterman families; Max Mini Store; Riley’s Cannibal Junction; Spring Lake Store; and Williams Septic and Electric, Inc. Sponsors make it possible to advertise the event and print the map.

Bigfork to start well project

At its March 10 meeting, the Bigfork City Council conducted a public hearing on the first phase of the water system project, to rehab the water treatment plant and replace the secondary well of the two active wells used by the city. That well would then become the primary well. The total project is projected to cost about \$1.2 million, take place in 2027 and be completely grant funded.

Justin Root, manager of EMS services at Bigfork Valley Hospital, described the new NEMT (non-emergent medical transportation) program which provides appropriate transportation for elderly or patients unable to drive to appointments. To date the program has been free due to an initial grant from the Effie American Legion Auxiliary. The city voted to donate \$1,000. To schedule a ride, call Justin Root at the hospital, (218) 743-3177.

In other business, the council heard a description of the Bigfork PTA preschool playground project and also approved donations of \$500 to the Bigfork High School robotics team and \$500 to Wilderness Days, which will be held this year on July 17-19.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum.




**LOVDAHL
ELECTRIC**

PH. 218.398.1900

LovdahlElectric@lov-elec.com

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL



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!

**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

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

Puffy French Toast

Thank you to Janet Kogler for this April recipe!

- 1 cup flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup milk
- 2 eggs, well beaten
- 8-10 slices English muffin bread, cut in thirds
- Powdered sugar or syrup

Heat oil in deep fryer to 375°. Combine flour, baking powder and salt. Stir in milk and eggs. Mix well.

Dip bread in batter and fry until golden. Turn. Drain on paper towel. Dip in powdered sugar or pour syrup over.

This is delicious for a special treat!

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.

Lemony Raisin Bars

Thank you to Bev Sampson for this April recipe!

- 2 cups Sun-Maid® raisins
- 1 (14 oz) can of Eagle Brand® sweetened condensed milk (not evaporated milk)
- 1 Tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 Tablespoon lemon rind
- 1 cup of butter or margarine, softened
- 1 1/3 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 1/2 cups oats
- 1 cup chopped Diamond® walnuts

Heat oven to 375°. In a saucepan combine the raisins, sweetened condensed milk, lemon juice and lemon rind. Cook and stir over medium heat until bubbly. Cool slightly.

In a bowl combine butter, brown sugar and vanilla: beat well. Stir in oats and walnuts. Reserve 2 cups of oat mixture for topping. Press remaining mixture into 9" x 13" greased pan. Spread raisin mixture into within 1/2 inch of edges. Sprinkle with reserved oats mixture, press lightly. Bake 25 to 30 minutes or until golden brown. Cool. Makes 48 bars.

Lemony Raisin Bars is from the 2025 Christmas Cookie Cookbook. You can still receive a copy by email by sending a request to roxannep@nieci.com !

CLASSIFIEDS

-SERVICES-

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

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

Monuments and Markers
Available in granite
and bronze.
Also do final dating.
FREE estimates.
Serving your area for
over 35 years,
Jerry Pula, sales rep.
Call (218) 743-3711

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

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

-SERVICES-

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!

-WANTED-

Wanted: Well maintained, in good running order, used rototiller. Call (218) 659-4729 5/26

-FOR SALE-

For sale: Winchester SX3 automatic 12 ga. 3-1/2" shotgun . Good condition & Shadowgrass camo, \$625. Please text (218) 404-0209, I can then send photos to you as needed. 7/26

For sale: Many brand new boxes of 12 ga —-3" steel shotgun shells to sell Cost depends on the exact type. Please text (218) 404-0209 7/26

AD DEADLINE

for the MAY issue: **Thursday, April 16**

-FOR SALE-

For sale: Honda generator 2200. Never been used. Brand new condition. \$800. Call (218) 553-0632 for more info. 7/26

For sale: Craftsman snow blower, electric start, heated handles and thumb (like new). \$850. Call (218) 743-3933 4/26

For sale: 1 Vexilar color camera. Underwater. Used twice. Like new, with extras. \$350. Call (218) 743-3933. 4/26

-CAMPERS, RVs-

For sale: 2021 Grand Design RV-Model 315. Less than 500 miles and in excellent condition. Has everything you could possibly want in an RV. 3 slide outs, 3 cameras, queen bed, 40" TV and fireplace. Call (218) 553-0632 for more info. 7/26

-POWER SPORTS-

For sale: 2003 Yamaha 660 Grizzly 4 wheeler. 2500 original miles. Chains. Very good tires. 5 ft. plow. Just gone through. All new fluids, rebuilt carburetor, fresh tune up, new battery coil, voltage regulator, new neutral switch, new starter. All new bearings. New brakes. Very strong machine. \$3500 in repairs. Have all receipts. Nice looking machine Price: \$3.800 Call (218) 256-5004 4/26

To Place a Classified:

Contact the editor by one of the ways in the coupon on page 12 or bring your ad into the office.

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

Find Place an Ad coupon on page 12.

Town of Carpenter, Itasca County NOTICE

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments
This may affect your 2027 property taxes.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for *Carpenter Township* shall meet on April 14, 2026 at 1:00 PM at the Carpenter Town Hall The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The Board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county Board of Appeal and Equalization.
Cheryl Steege, Clerk

Notice to Pomroy Township Residents

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments
This may affect your 2027 property taxes.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Pomroy Township shall meet on **April 22, 2026 at 10:00 AM at 54655 County Road 31, Northome, MN.** The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The Board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county Board of Appeal and Equalization.

Cheryl Jackson, Clerk

Notice of Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments.
This may affect your 2027 property taxes.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Ardenhurst Township shall meet on Thursday, April 16, 2026 1:00 PM at the Ardenhurst Town Hall located at 66733 State Highway 46. The purpose of this meeting is to ensure that property in the township's jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact the Itasca County assessor's office (218-327-2861) to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The Board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county Board of Appeal and Equalization.

NOTICE

ASSESSMENT NOTICE – MARCELL TOWNSHIP

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments.
This may affect your 2027 property taxes.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Appeal and Equalization for **Marcell Township** shall meet on **4/23/2026 at 9:30 AM at the Marcell Town Hall.** The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The Board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county Board of Appeal and Equalization.

Thank you,
Marcell Township
218-832-3965 – marcell.township@yahoo.com

REQUEST FOR ROAD & BRIDGE QUOTES MARCELL TOWNSHIP

Request for quotes for the Road Grading & Summer Maintenance and the Snowplowing & Winter Maintenance contracts for Marcell Township. For details, please contact Marcell Township at 218-832-3965 (leave message) or email us at marcell.township@yahoo.com.

For consideration, quotes must be received, with the required paperwork, by April 8th, 2026, 5:00 PM. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all quotes.

Quotes must be accompanied by verification of general liability and Workman's Comp.

Quotes can be directed to:
Marcell Township
PO Box 141
Marcell, MN 56657
218-832-3965
marcell.township@yahoo.com

NOTICE

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments
This may affect your 2027 property taxes.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for **Wirt Township** shall meet on **April 28, 2026, 10:00 AM at Wirt Town Hall.** The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The Board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county Board of Appeal and Equalization.

Cheryl A. Carrigan, Clerk
Wirt Township



**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.

2026 National Policy Priorities for Electric Cooperatives

American families and businesses count on reliable electricity at a price they can afford. But with the demand for power continuing to climb and the supply of always-available power sources at risk, smart energy policies are more important than ever.

As we head into 2026, America's electric cooperatives are focused on a few key issues that directly impact our members:

• Faster Disaster Recovery:

We support the bi-partisan FEMA Act of 2025. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is a critical partner in helping electric co-ops restore power and rebuild their systems in the wake of natural disasters, but it could be more effective and responsive to the needs of rural America. If the FEMA Act passes, it will help utilities restore power more quickly after storms and disasters.

• Cutting Through Red Tape:

Outdated and overly complex permitting rules slow down essential upgrades to power lines and substations. Streamlining these processes helps us keep up with growing demand and improve reliability. We're urging Congress to pass comprehensive permitting reforms, including the SPEED Act and PERMIT Act, both of which cleared the House in December.

• Keeping Reliable Power Plants Online:

We're advocating for realistic energy regulations that don't force dependable power plants to

shut down before reliable replacements are ready. Mandating emissions limits based on unavailable technology would force critical power plants off the grid and restrict the operation of new natural gas plants.

• Protecting Critical Hydropower:

Hydroelectric dams in the Pacific Northwest play a key role in keeping electricity reliable and affordable across multiple states, which is why we support preserving the Lower Snake River Dams.

• Smarter Land Management Policies:

We're advocating for smarter land-management policies like the Fix Our Forests Act that would allow electric cooperatives to better maintain power lines on public lands and mitigate wildfire risk.

• Maintaining Funding for Grid Innovation and Investments:

Federal loan and grant programs help co-ops strengthen the grid, prepare for extreme weather, improve cybersecurity and explore new energy technologies—without shifting costs to members.

Understanding today's evolving energy landscape is important as it shapes how electricity is produced, delivered and consumed. These policy priorities all come back to the same goal: making sure our members have safe, reliable and affordable power—now and in the future.

Save the date!



Member Appreciation Day

Thursday, May 14
Squaw Lake Community Center
11 a.m.-3 p.m.
(serving food until 2 p.m.)

Burgers & Brats on the grill

See energy saving equipment and ideas from our vendors.

Business Revitalization Grants

Do you have a business storefront project that would make your business more attractive to potential customers? Is there an improvement or update that your building needs, either inside or outside?

Consider applying for a matching grant through the Bigfork Business Revitalization Grant program.

In its second year, the program has provided grants to a number of local businesses, resorts and organizations. Some have gone on to use funding to apply for energy grants through the Arrowhead

Economic Opportunity Agency Business Energy Retrofit Program.

The program was started with seed money from the Itasca Economic Development Corporation and supported by the city of Bigfork, Bigfork School, North Itasca Electric, Bigfork Valley Hospital and the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board.

Applications are now being accepted. For more information, contact Drew Francisco at (218) 256-4142 or andrewf@nieci.com.



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

Office: (218) 832-2842
Cell: (218) 244-6201
39335 State Highway 286
Marcell, MN 56657
Bonded and licensed - MPCA Lic. 1204

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



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
RE/MAX Advantage Plus
Grand Rapids MN

Bob Elies

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



HUSKY

SELF STORAGE

STORAGE AVAILABLE

218-743-4025

Located 1/4 mile south of Bigfork Fire Hall



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

Bigfork Valley
Hospital • Clinics • Communities
Where skill meets compassion



(218) 743-4000
or (888) 366-5735
43576 County Rd 14,
Bigfork

Mon - Fri . 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Dealer level repair facility
vehicles, snowmobiles/ATVs
oil changes, AC systems
tires, 4-wheel alignments
computer diagnosis, NAPA auto care



www.itscaautomotive.com