



**NORTH ITASCA  
ELECTRIC**

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

**WATTS  
NEWS**

VOL. 29 NO. 5

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MAY 2026

## CEO Report

*Good afternoon, NIECI!*

I don't want to push my luck; it's currently looking like a nice stretch of weather coming. This should mean open water fishing is close! I'm sure there are many hands working on summer preparation. I try to replace several reels of line before the big one gets away because I failed to inspect my equipment.

With the turn of the season, we find ourselves in the wildfire

danger zone. This is a major concern for North Itasca. We never want to be the cause of harm or damage to your family or property. This is the reason we worked with partners to develop a wildfire mitigation plan.

Once adopted this month by our Board of Directors, the plan is essentially a playbook and set of rules to prevent starting wildfires. This plan was developed through cooperation with Star Energy Services.



Brad Dolinski, CEO

Star took wildfire data from FEMA and other sources and overlaid our service territory into the map data. We analyzed where the threats are the highest across our system. We will use this

CEO to p.2>

## Member Services Update

*by Drew Francisco*

Hello again everyone!

I'm absolutely thrilled to have had a glimpse of the warmer weather that should be arriving soon. As a fireman, I'd like to see some rain in the forecast, but I'll take it. The last month has been a little bit of a whirlwind for me. With travel to offsite meetings and spring projects beginning, it looks like another busy but hopefully productive summer.

As I wrote in my last

article, I have a

few updates on the Great River Energy rate redesign.

There are going to be some changes on the back end of how North Itasca

Electric is currently being billed for its energy purchase. I won't bore you with all the details, but the importance of load control programs and load balancing is going to be an important factor over the next few

years. The reason is that all the equipment beyond the meter that is on a load control program such as Dual Fuel or Peak Shave Water Heating can be considered a Zonal Resource Credit—

Member to p.2>

*Where your power comes from:*

## Energy markets explained

Keeping the lights on across the Upper Midwest requires constant coordination among utilities, power generators and transmission operators. At the center of that coordination is the regional grid operator MISO, which plays a critical role in how electricity is delivered to Great River Energy and the 26 member-owner cooperatives it serves, including North Itasca Electric Cooperative.

MISO is a nonprofit, independent organization that manages the flow of electricity across a multi-state transmission system. Its footprint spans 15 U.S. states, including Minnesota, and the Canadian province of Manitoba. Rather than owning power plants or transmission lines, MISO operates the high-voltage transmission grid and oversees wholesale electricity markets designed to ensure reliable service at the lowest reasonable cost.

MISO functions as both a reliability coordinator and a market operator. Great River Energy owns and operates generation resources and transmission assets, but it relies on MISO to balance supply and demand across the broader regional grid in real time. Every five minutes, MISO evaluates electricity needs across its footprint and dispatches power from the most cost-effective available resources, while ensuring the system remains stable.

For Great River Energy's member cooperatives, MISO's work is largely behind the scenes but has a direct impact on reliability and cost. When the regional grid is managed efficiently, electricity can be delivered more reliably and at a lower overall cost — ultimately benefiting cooperative member-consumers. During periods of high demand or unexpected outages,

Markets to p.6>

**Member Appreciation Day**



**Thursday, May 14**

Squaw Lake Community Center

**Burgers & Brats**

**on the grill**

**11 a.m.-3 p.m.**

**(serving food until 2 p.m.)**

**Door Prizes!**

**See energy saving equipment and ideas for your home!**

*Save the date! Annual meeting Thursday, June 18, 2 p.m. at the Bigfork Headquarters Building.*

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

**New warranty program**

page 7

**Mother's Day Sale**

pages 8-9

**Save the date!  
Annual Meeting June 18**

**Office Hours**

Mon. - Thurs.

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

(218) 743-3131

# CEO Report

>from p.1  
data to ensure the highest level of care to prevent NECI from being an ignition source.

We worked with the Minnesota Department of Commerce to secure a grant to start this process. North Itasca was awarded a \$100,000 grant to develop a wildfire mitigation plan and to carry out the tasks called out in the plan. I am happy to report that we are well under way. Right of way

clearing is top of the list to prevent wildfires. There will be more attention to dead and unhealthy trees along our powerlines.

Our wildfire plan will be available to our Member-Owners on our website next month. You can see the depths Star took to ensure we are prepared.

In some areas of the United States of America, utilities are expected to shut lines off in fire risk situations.

Thankfully, this was not yet a recommendation in our plan. I would encourage you to look at the document once it is posted. Feel free to call me with suggestions or concerns regarding the wildfire mitigation plan.

On May 14th I'm looking forward to Member Appreciation Day at the community center. Andrew has been working hard to provide some additional information to all. He has invited several of our vendors to be with us. If you are interested in heating, generator, battery, or other projects, this might be a great opportunity to learn more about what we have to offer.

Also, Daryl and I will be slinging burgers and brats out on the grill for everyone that attends.

Our nominating committee meets in the first week of May. Thank you to the volunteers that stepped forward to ensure we meet your expectations and bylaw requirements for director's elections.

Also, a huge thank you to our Operation Round-Up Board that met in April. This caring group always does a great job thoughtfully reviewing all applications. With limited resources, we are always left wishing we could give more.

*By your side! Miigwech*  
Brad

# Member Services

>from p.1  
in most cases. Electric Heating, Heat Pumps, and potentially Whole House Generators are some examples of what can be considered an "asset" in this new design. Having the capability to call on all these devices during times of high-cost energy purchase is why we would get the Resource Credits across our entire system.

The next few steps in this process are going to be very important. Controlling strategies to balance our system's peaks and rebounds are going to be key. It is a great feeling to know that all our efforts in updating/maintaining the metering systems and load control equipment are setting a very solid foundation for us to try to take advantage of this



Drew Francisco

new rate design. There is still a lot of work to be done to get where we want to be, but I am confident that our crew in this little co-op can pull together to make things happen!

I hope I didn't bore you too much, but I feel it's important to share as these updates play a vital role in rate structure over the next few years. If you have any questions or are interested in load control programs, please reach out. I'd love to hear from you and offer an assist!

*Until next time,*  
Drew Francisco

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

## WATTS News deadlines

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

Month	Deadline	Day
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



**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



**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



**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*



# 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](http://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

**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

# Highlights from the Board Room

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

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

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

**Directors Present Via Zoom:** J. White.

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

- Pledge of allegiance was recited.
- Motion to adopt the agenda. Seconded; motion carried. Motion was made to consent agenda. Seconded; motion carried.
- A safety discussion was held by Brad & Daryl. With the spring thaw, the edge of the gravel roads is very soft already and watch for ATVs & Side by Sides. The frost heaves are also popping up on County Rd 4.
- Dan presented the Operating Report. Motion to approve. Seconded; motion carried.
- Andy reviewed Board Policy 100.10 – Function & Duties of Board of Directors with the Board. Motion to show the policy was reviewed on 3/26/26. Seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Daryl presented the Line Department report. Crews have completed 2 new underground services this month, along with system inspections. Daryl also updated the Board of permit requirements along County Rd 52.
- Drew presented the Member Services report. He has received lots of calls for home evaluations and equipment. The new Eaton devices are set to arrive late April/beginning of May. He had applied for a free “Day with the Twins” and got it! Three MN Twins players will be at the city field on May 22nd from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Made a motion to reviewing the Cogeneration Report; supports.
- Dan presented the Office Report. Brady Martz will be on site March 23rd & 24th and plan to have them at the April Board meeting to present the audited financials. A notice for the nominating committee will be going out with April’s statement.
- Brad presented the CEO report. MMG meeting was mostly consumed by contract discussions. April 13th is Lineman Appreciation Day and April 22nd is Office Administration Day.
- 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 1:22 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.*

# Business Office Highlights



May this month bring you fresh beginnings and bright moments!

The office personnel have finished the yearly audit! We were given many “thank you” for starting the switch over to paperless as they prefer electronic files. We are expecting a great report. Great Job, Dan!

We launched our new statement design. There is a reference guide on our website [www.northitascaelectric.com](http://www.northitascaelectric.com) under the Accounts tab “How to Read Your Statement” If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call. We are happy to assist you.

For National Lineman’s Day, we treated our “Heroes” with a picnic style lunch. We love hanging out as a TEAM! Thank You Linemen for ALL that you do. From restoring power in white-out conditions to moving our office furniture. We Greatly Appreciate You!

Tree theme was Easter and every team member received a bag full of treats.

We are looking forward to serving you a “Burger or Brat” at Member Appreciation Day at the Squaw Lake Community Center on Thursday, May 14!

## GRE Annual Report available

Great River Energy recently published its 2025 annual report which details the cooperative’s operations and financial performance over the past calendar year.

Also included in the report is a letter to members and stakeholders from President and Chief Executive Officer David Saggau and Board

Chair Michael Brasel; a look at GRE’s energy network map, including transmission and power supply resources; and highlights from the previous year’s initiatives and projects.

Visit the Financial page on GRE’s website [greatriverenergy.com](http://greatriverenergy.com) to view the 2025 annual report in addition to previous reports.

**Road conditions:**  
Call 511 or visit [511mn.org](http://511mn.org) for maps, cameras, weather alerts.

**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

Highway 46, Squaw Lake



218-659-2131

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

**Meat raffle**  
every Sat at 6p

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

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

**Full menu**  
including Broasted Chicken

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



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



**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)

# Energy assistance program notice

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.



# Reducing the risk of wildfires

Gone are the days when wildfires were primarily confined to the western United States. Rising temperatures, prolonged drought and shifting weather patterns are creating dangerous conditions in places that historically experienced few major fires. Today, more than 30 states face elevated wildfire risk. At North Itasca Electric, protecting our members and the communities we serve is our highest priority. As we recognize National Wildfire Awareness Month in May, I want you to know that wildfire mitigation is not seasonal work

for us. It is a year-round commitment embedded in how we operate and invest in our local system. One of the most important ways we reduce wildfire threats is through our comprehensive vegetation management program. Overgrown trees and power lines are a dangerous combination, particularly during dry and windy conditions. Throughout the year, North Itasca Electric crews—along with our trusted local contractors—proactively trim and remove vegetation that could come into contact with power lines and other critical infrastructure. This work requires careful planning, coordination with property owners and ongoing inspection. While it may not always be visible, it is one of the most effective tools

we have to prevent fire ignition and maintain reliable electricity. While we are committed to doing our part, wildfire prevention is a shared responsibility. There are important steps each of us can take to protect our homes and neighborhoods. Properly extinguish fires by dousing them with water, stirring the ashes and ensuring they are cool to the touch before leaving the area. Avoid outdoor burning on windy or excessively dry days. Maintain a defensible space around your home by clearing dry leaves, dead branches and other flammable debris. Use lawn equipment carefully, particularly during hot conditions, and always check local regulations for burn bans or restrictions.



### Church Musician Needed!

Jesse Lake Lutheran Church, 45834 County Road 4, Talmoon, is looking for a part time pianist (We have a lovely grand piano!) or organist. You would not play every Sunday, but coordinate play dates with Elaine Rasmussen, our current pianist who is reducing her workload. This is a paid position. If talented and interested, contact Elaine at 218-259-8439.

for us. It is a year-round commitment embedded in how we operate and invest in our local system. One of the most important ways we reduce wildfire threats is through our comprehensive vegetation management program. Overgrown trees and power lines are a dangerous combination, particularly during dry and windy conditions. Throughout the year, North Itasca Electric crews—along with our trusted local contractors—proactively trim and remove vegetation that could come into contact with power lines and other critical infrastructure. This work requires careful planning, coordination with property owners and ongoing inspection. While it may not always be visible, it is one of the most effective tools

for us. It is a year-round commitment embedded in how we operate and invest in our local system. One of the most important ways we reduce wildfire threats is through our comprehensive vegetation management program. Overgrown trees and power lines are a dangerous combination, particularly during dry and windy conditions. Throughout the year, North Itasca Electric crews—along with our trusted local contractors—proactively trim and remove vegetation that could come into contact with power lines and other critical infrastructure. This work requires careful planning, coordination with property owners and ongoing inspection. While it may not always be visible, it is one of the most effective tools

we have to prevent fire ignition and maintain reliable electricity. While we are committed to doing our part, wildfire prevention is a shared responsibility. There are important steps each of us can take to protect our homes and neighborhoods. Properly extinguish fires by dousing them with water, stirring the ashes and ensuring they are cool to the touch before leaving the area. Avoid outdoor burning on windy or excessively dry days. Maintain a defensible space around your home by clearing dry leaves, dead branches and other flammable debris. Use lawn equipment carefully, particularly during hot conditions, and always check local regulations for burn bans or restrictions.

# 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

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As temperatures start to rise, many homeowners focus on staying cool. Don't forget about the small gaps around windows and doors. While air sealing is often associated with keeping cold air out during winter, it's just as important during summer. Tiny cracks and worn weatherstripping allow cool, conditioned air to escape and hot, humid air to seep indoors. This forces your air conditioner to work harder than necessary and increases energy costs. Take a few minutes to check for drafts, replace weatherstripping and seal leaks. A tighter home keeps you more comfortable and helps manage energy use.

Source: energy.gov



## Talmoon Boat & Mini Storage



Archie and Sandy Wass  
Phone: 218-743-3635  
Cell: 218-341-8522

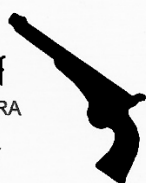
- Three storage sizes available!
- Boat, RV and Snowmobile
- Pontoon Trailer Rental
- Launch to Dock Service



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

# ADDRESS CHANGE

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

County \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Spring Operation Round-Up Awards

Applicant Organization	Project Title	Amount Awarded
Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge	Benevolence Fund	\$ 395.76
Forward Health Foundation	Party in the Park	\$ 395.76
Blackduck High School Trap Club	Spring Trap Season	\$ 300.00
Grace House of Itasca County	Homeless Prevention Fund	\$ 150.00
Bigfork Youth Sports Association	Baseball jerseys	\$ 395.76
PTKS	Books for All	\$ 395.76
PTKS	Angel Fund	\$ 395.76
Mizpah Community Events	Easter Egg Hunt & Lunch	\$ 395.76
Bigfork Parent Teacher Association	Continued Support for Bigfork PTA	\$ 395.76
Bigfork Wilderness Committee	Wilderness Days 2026	\$ 395.76
New Beginings Pregnancy & Family Support	Essential Baby Care & Emergency Lactation Support	\$ 150.00
Bigfork Trap Team	Bigfork Youth Trap Team 2026	\$ 395.76
Northome Community Food Shelf	Food purchase	\$ 1,000.00
Deer River Area Food Shelf	Provide healthy food	\$ 500.00
Northern Itasca Hospital District	Gift Nest display fixtures	\$ 150.00
Northern Itasca Hospital District	Senior Fitness Classes and Equipment	\$ 320.89
Bigfork Youth Volleyball	Youth Volleyball equipment and uniforms	\$ 395.76
Northome City Library	Books/Programs for Children and Adults	\$ 395.76
Ardenhurst Township	Memorial Day Veterans Luncheon	\$ 250.00
Bigfork School	Literature Circles	\$ 395.76
Bigfork School	Government and Arts Field Trip	\$ 395.76
Grace Community Lutheran Church	Rural Partnerships: Filling holes with bowls	\$ 500.00
Edge of the Wilderness Discovery Center	Environmental Education Summer Program	\$ 350.00
Marcell Family Center	Marcell Family Center Summer Programs	\$ 250.00
Bigfork Improvement Group	Medical Loan Closet	\$ 384.84
Deer Lake Watershed Association	Water Protection - Water quality testing	\$ 395.76
ISD 363 - Northome School	New treadmill for weight room	\$ 395.76

## A roadmap for the future

Great River Energy submitted its integrated resource plan (IRP) April 1 to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, outlining a long-term strategy to reliably and affordably serve its 26 member-owner cooperatives while adapting to a rapidly evolving energy landscape.

The IRP is a foundational planning document that evaluates how Great River Energy will meet electricity needs over the next 15 years. It reflects extensive analysis of forecasted energy demand, system reliability requirements, fuel and technology costs, policy considerations, and emerging market trends. Together, these inputs help guide investment decisions that support affordable power for member-consumers while maintaining a resilient electric system.

“At its core, this IRP is about balancing reliability, affordability and flexibility in the face of uncertainty,” said Kyle Leier, manager of resource strategy and development at Great River Energy. “We looked closely at a wide range of future scenarios to identify strategies that perform well under many different conditions, so we can continue to serve our members reliably and cost-effectively.”

The plan continues the cooperative’s commitment to a diverse resource mix that includes renewable energy, dispatchable generation and energy storage, while recognizing the critical role of transmission and

operational flexibility. Rigorous modeling evaluated a broad range of potential futures, including varying load growth, resource costs, market conditions and policy drivers, allowing Great River Energy to understand tradeoffs and risks over the planning horizon.

Stakeholder engagement was a key component of the IRP process. The IRP team gathered input from Great River Energy’s member-owner cooperatives and held public meetings to provide transparency into planning assumptions, modeling approaches and preliminary results. Feedback received throughout the process helped inform refinements to the plan ahead of submittal.

Now the IRP will undergo regulatory review, including opportunities for public comment and additional stakeholder engagement. While the IRP does not authorize specific projects, it serves as a roadmap to help guide future resource decisions as conditions evolve.

Great River Energy is working closely with member-owner cooperatives as the IRP moves through the review process and key assumptions are continually evaluated to ensure they remain accurate.

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

## Operation Round-Up

The North Itasca Community Trust Board trustees met in April to distribute Operation Round-Up® funds for community-based projects which help Members.

A total of \$10,242.13 was distributed to help 26 separate projects for childrens’ programs, community meals, township repairs and more. Operation Round Up has been granting community projects at North Itasca Electric since 2004,

Operation Round Up is funded through the generosity of Members who choose to round up their bill to the next dollar each month. Those cents add up, so that twice each year awards can be made for community initiatives.

**DWIGHT L. KALVIG**  
Accountant

Kalvig & Associates

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

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

Glen Hopkins

Gravel and Dirt Work



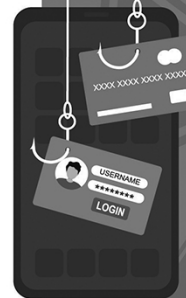
Fill Dirt, Class Five,  
Top Soil, Road Building,  
Ditching, Culverts,  
Clearing, Grubbing

(218) 743-3716

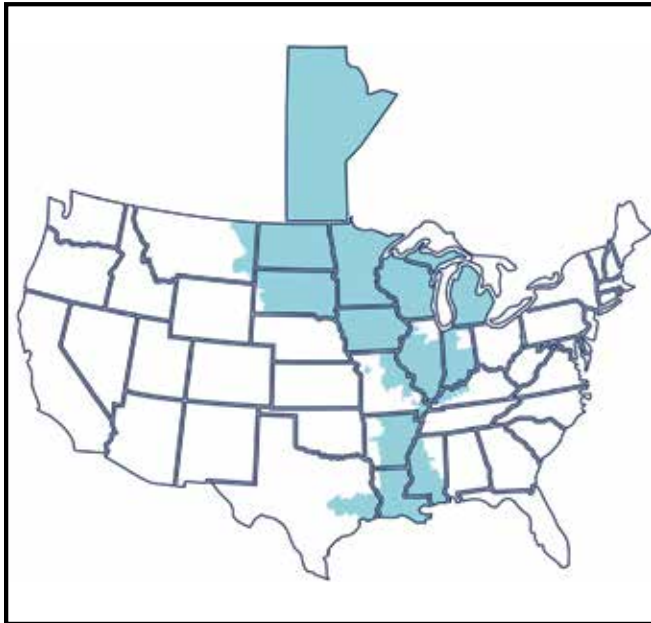
TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

⚠️

If you receive a call from someone stating you have overpaid your energy bill and you should provide your banking information or a credit card number to receive a refund, hang up because it’s likely a scam. If you overpay your bill, your utility will apply the overpayment credit to your account balance or mail a check. They will not call and request your banking information to issue the refund.



Source: Utilities United Against Scams



## Energy Markets

>from p.1

MISO's coordination helps prevent localized problems from cascading into broader disruptions.

That coordination is especially important as the energy landscape continues to evolve. Great River Energy has been adding renewable resources such as wind, which are weather-dependent and variable by nature. MISO's regional view allows it to integrate those resources efficiently, smoothing out variability by drawing on a diverse mix of generation spread across a wide geographic area. This regional approach reduces the need for each utility to maintain excess capacity on its own.

MISO also plays a key role in

long-term planning. Through a collaborative process involving utilities like Great River Energy, state regulators and other stakeholders, MISO studies future electricity needs and identifies transmission upgrades required to maintain reliability and support economic growth. These studies help guide major transmission investments that strengthen the grid, improve resilience during extreme weather and enable the addition of new generation resources.

Great River Energy participates in MISO's stakeholder processes by advocating for policies and market rules that reflect the needs of its member-owners

and the communities they serve. That involvement ensures that the cooperative perspective is represented as MISO makes decisions affecting everything from market design to transmission planning.

MISO serves as the air traffic controller of the electric grid while Great River Energy and its members remain responsible for producing power, investing in infrastructure and serving homes. Together, their coordinated roles help deliver reliable, affordable electricity across Minnesota and the broader region.

**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

SQUAW LAKE

**POLAR**

Fiberglass • Spray Foam • Cellulose  
 Floor Coatings • Roofing/Coatings

**218-659-4351**  
 Tom Kallio • PolarInsulating.com

## Stay clear of downed power lines

Severe Weather Awareness Week, April 13-17, is a great time for Minnesotans to prepare for unpredictable and extreme Midwestern weather. Great River Energy and its member-owner cooperatives and customers are always working to keep the power flowing to homes, farms and businesses.

"Severe weather increases the likelihood of electric service interruptions, even though outages are typically brief for most people," said Mark Peterson, director of system operations at GRE. "During these events, personal safety is essential. If an outage happens, it's important to stay aware of your surroundings and avoid downed power lines as our crews work to restore power safely and as quickly as possible."

If you come across a downed or low hanging power line, keep these important safety tips in mind:

- Stay well away from the area and call 911 right away to report it.
- You can't tell whether a power line is energized just by looking at it — always assume it could provide deadly electrical voltage.
- Do not drive over a downed power line, even if it's blocking your driveway or roadway. Call 911 and take a different route.
- Avoid touching anything that is in contact with a power line, including trees or branches tangled in the line.

- If a power line falls onto your vehicle or touches it, remain inside the vehicle. Call 911 using your cell phone and wait for emergency responders.
- If you must leave your vehicle because of a fire, jump clear without touching the car. Land with both feet together and shuffle away from the vehicle.

When severe weather causes widespread damage, sometimes outages can be extended. When this happens, GRE and its member-owner cooperatives and customers work hard to restore power quickly and safely. The first focus is on removing any threats to public safety, then following established priorities for making repairs that will restore the most members first.

Bigfork, MN

**WILD PINE BUILDERS**

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

License # 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

**Williams Portables, LLC**

**Toilet Rentals & Septic Service**

Clean portable toilet rentals  
 Affordable prices

**218-290-7868**

Serving Effie-Bigfork and surrounding areas.

**ITASCA AUTOMOTIVE**

**(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

**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



## Favorite falcon duo returns

The onset of spring at Great River Energy's Elk River campus is marked by the arrival of a pair of peregrine falcons at the onsite nesting box. The male, Brooklyn, has returned for his 12th consecutive year while the female, Breezy, is now in her ninth year at the site. Breeding pairs tend to be monogamous throughout their lifespan and return to the same nesting location year after year.

The pair of falcons arrived in late February, engaged in courtship and bonding throughout March then produced four eggs in late March. Both male and female falcons will share incubation duties during the 33-day incubation period. The eggs should begin hatching in early May.

With help from an Eagle Scout and the Raptor Resource Project, Great River Energy installed a nesting box in 2006 at the former Elk River Energy Recovery Station. It was moved in 2020 to a platform above the prairie on the Elk River campus, and a new box built by another Eagle Scout was installed in late 2025. Since 2006, 61 young falcons have fledged from the site.

The Elk River location is a great spot for a nesting box because it is within a peregrine falcon migratory flyway. The site, beside the Mississippi River, is also a draw because the birds prefer to nest in high locations near water.

The falcon cam is streamed live on YouTube at Great River Energy falcon cam.

### What to expect

Brooklyn and Breezy can be observed via Great River Energy's peregrine falcon cam. Here is a general timeline of what you may see in the coming months:

- April: A 33-day incubation period in which both male and female share incubation duties.
- May: Eggs will hatch followed by the adults feeding the eyasses (i.e. baby falcons).
- June: Eyasses are banded at 18-22 days old by the Raptor Resource Project. The band numbers are recorded in the Midwest Peregrine Society database, used for tracking and future nesting information. Fledging can take place from June to early July.
- July through October: The adult falcons will remain at the nest box until migration in October. The young usually remain in the area during this time, perfecting their flying and hunting skills.

# Roxanne's Sales Talk - new extended warranty option!

by Roxanne Prather, Member Services Representative

Good afternoon. I'm excited to tell you about a couple of extended warranties that we are now offering through a company called CPS. You can take a 1- to 5-year warranty.

Everyone knows how expensive it can be to call a repair man. One service call can cost well over \$200. If your appliance costs over \$500 but under \$1500 you can get a 5-year extended warranty for only \$163.99 plus tax; that's less than one service call and it covers your appliance for 5 years.

Fun Fact! Did you know that an appliance will last up to 10 to 12 years?. That is why I think this warranty is a good deal. If you have purchased an appliance in the last year and you still have a warranty left and would like to extend your warranty, call me and I would be happy to help you.

### Major Appliance - True Extended

This warranty starts at the end of your original 1-, 2- or 3-year warranty and will cover up to another 5 years for a total of 8 years (true extended).

- Price does not differentiate based on appliance type (i.e. refrigerator, washer, etc.)
- Covers manufacturers defects
- Covers parts, labor, and in-home service
- Covers up to \$50 laundry credit
- Covers up to \$300 food loss
- Covers up to \$75 for delivery & haul away on replaced products
- Covers up to \$150 on removal & reinstall
- No lemon guarantee
- Limit of liability- Full value program
- Does not cover consumable replacement parts i.e. Knobs, handles, trays, shelves
- In the event the product cannot be repaired, it can be replaced through the seller or dealer

### Major Appliance - 50% back

Starts on the date of purchase, CPS takes over on day 366 for 5 years.

- Price does not differentiate based on appliance type (i.e. refrigerator, washer, etc.)
- Covers manufacturers defects
- Covers parts, labor, and in-home service
- Covers up to \$50 laundry credit
- Covers up to \$300 food loss
- Covers up to \$75 for delivery & haul away on replaced products
- Covers up to \$150 on removal & Reinstall
- No lemon guarantee
- Limit of liability- Full value program
- Does not cover consumable replacement parts, i.e. knobs, handles, trays, shelves
- If not utilized the customer receives 50% back of the warranty MSRP
- In the event the product cannot be repaired, it can be replaced through the seller or dealer

## 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>

**FIRST STATE BANK**  
OF BIGFORK

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

**POWELL EXCAVATING**

Landscaping	Boulder Walls/Steps
Excavating	Retaining Walls
Land/Site Clearing	Paving Stone Walkways/Patios
Site Prep	Snowplowing
Brushing/Mulching	Road Grading
Septic Design & Installation	Gravel
Road Building	Class 5
Driveways	Sand
Culverts	Black Dirt
Building Demolition	Rock
Shoreline Restoration	Crushed Granite

218-244-9276  
WWW.POWELLEXCAVATING.COM



800-252-1166 or 811

Call before you dig

**ITASCA RELIABLE**  
insurance agency, inc

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

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

Choice You Deserve. Service You Trust.

Visit Our Website for On-line Quotes.  
[www.itascareliableinsurance.com](http://www.itascareliableinsurance.com)

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

# Mothers' Day Sale



**DVE55CG710WAS- \$777.86 SALE \$ 700.86**

Samsung 7.4 c.f. Smart electric dryer with steam sanitize. White.

**DLE7400VE \$926.47 SALE \$750.00**

LG 7.3 c.f. Vented electric dryer with sensor dry technology. Monochrome gray



**WA54CG7105ASWUS \$777.86 SALE \$700.88**

Samsung 5.4 c.f. Washer with ActiveWave agitator and super wash. White.



**WT7150CM \$947.70 SALE \$852.93**

LG 5.0 c.f. Top load washer with impeller. White.



**GTD38EASWWS \$548.81 SALE \$491.23**

GE 7.2 c.f. Electric dryer with up to 120' venting, reversible door. White.

**DLE7150M \$852.93 SALE \$767.64**

LG 7.3 c.f. Ultra large high efficiency electric dryer. Middle black.



**GTD38GASWWS \$673.40 SALE \$606.06**

Same as GTD38EASWWS, but gas dryer.

**WT8200CW \$943.31 SALE \$848.98**

LG 5.0 c.f. Top load washer, TurboWash 3D, Wi-Fi, easy unload. White.



**GTW385ASWWS \$562.47 SALE \$506.22**

GE 4.3 c.f. Top load washer with stainless steel basket & ColdPlus. White.

**DLE8200W \$960.09 SALE \$864.08**

LG 7.3 c.f. Electric dryer, Wi-Fi, AI sensor dry. White.



Ask about our new TRUE extended warranty!



**DLE7000W \$770.90 SALE \$693.81**

LG 7.3 c.f. Ultra large high efficiency electric dryer. White.



**DLE3470M \$965.45 SALE \$868.90**

LG 7.4 c.f. Ultra large capacity electric dryer with sensor dry, NFC tag on. Middle black.

**MLTE41N1BWW \$539.96 SALE \$485.96**

Midea 7.0 c.f. Electric dryer, sensor dry. White.



**WM3470CM \$1058.20 SALE \$952.38**

LG 5.0 c.f. Front load washer. Middle black.



**MLTE45N4BWW \$590.94 SALE \$531.85**

Midea 7.0 c.f. Electric dryer, sensor dry.



**MLTW44A4BWW \$491.26 SALE \$442.13**

Midea 4.4 c.f. Top load washer, agitator, stainless tub. White.

**DLE74000WE \$983.45 SALE \$885.10**

LG 7.3 c.f. Ultra large high efficiency electric dryer. White.



**HTW265ASWW \$542.10 SALE \$487.89**

Hotpoint 7.2 c.f. Vented electric dryer, auto dry, 120' venting. White.



**DLE6100W \$627.33 SALE \$564.60**

LG 7.3 c.f. Vented electric dryer. White.



**FLVE7000AW \$534.73 SALE \$481.26**

Frigidaire 4.1 C.F. Top load washer. White.



**WT8200CW \$943.31 SALE \$848.98**

LG 5.0 c.f. Top load washer, TurboWash3d, Wi-Fi, easy unload. White.



**FLVE7000AW \$534.73 SALE \$481.26**

Frigidaire 4.1 c.f. Top load washer. White.



Contact Roxanne with any questions 218-743-3132  
roxanne@nieci.co

**Happy Mother's Day!**  
**Spring Lake Store**  
**218-832-3626**  
*An Old Fashioned General Store*

Cheeses, lunch meat, sandwiches, groceries, gifts, WiFi, post office  
 Mon-Thurs: 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.  
 Fri-Sat: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
 Sun: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Visit us during Treasures Are Fine garage sales Sat, May 2  
 Serving Sloppy Joes, chips, beverages  
 Sale in Fireside Room & outside

**Jesse Lake & Suomi Lutheran**  
**Free Community Meal**  
 Tacos, Mexican Street Corn, & More...  
**Tuesday, May 19 • 4-6 p.m.**  
 Take out available



Drawing for a \$25 Spring Lake Store Gift Certificate!  
 45834 County Road 4 (2 miles from Talmoon)  
 All are Welcome!

**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

**LENNOX** Carrier  
 Turn to the Experts.

**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

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



Student Art

A lifetime of quality painting, repairs & remodeling.  
 Marcell, MN  
 847-344-4890

# Call for Entries: Art on the Edge

20th Annual Juried Art Exhibit at the Edge Center for the Arts in Bigfork

Are you or is someone you know, a visual artist? Are you ready to enter a Juried Art competition?

What work is most likely to be selected for the show and maybe even win an award? That is entirely up to the juror who is a paid professional from outside this area. Some years the winning art is folk art, sometimes abstract and other times it is realistic. In the past, winners have included paintings, collages, photos, drawings, sculptures, furniture, glass, woodworking and pottery. Any visual media may be entered.

What is the juror usually looking for as he or she selects the work for the exhibit? The most important thing is that the work be original and creative in subject matter, style or materials. Original means that it is not copied from another artist's work, is not a print of an actual artwork, and is fresh and unusual.

Along with that, composition and craftsmanship are carefully considered. For an artist to enhance his or her chance of being chosen, the digital images submitted for consideration need to be of high quality. When the image is blurred or too small, shows reflections from the glass or photographed from an angle, the juror cannot get an accurate view of the work and will

usually remove the work from consideration. After that it may boil down to the personal preferences of a person whose taste reflects their study of thousands of pieces of art during their career. The juror's decisions are final.

*Art on the Edge* is on exhibit from August 7 to August 29. **The deadline for entries is June 15.** The entries must be submitted on the entry form on [www.edgecenterarts.org](http://www.edgecenterarts.org). Artists will be notified by July 6 about whether their work has been accepted.

There is a \$25 non-refundable fee for up to 3 entries and the work must be created in 2024, 2025 or 2026, and never before shown in the Edge Center Gallery.

Please think about entering this Juried Exhibit, or tell your friends and relatives about this opportunity. Artists must be 16 years or older. There are no geographic limitations.

Check the Gallery page at [www.edgecenterarts.org](http://www.edgecenterarts.org) for the prospectus with information and an online application form.

## 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>

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

**Presenter:** Dr. Jon Oliver, public health entomologist at the U of M 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 environments where these mosquitoes thrive, habitat controls that help homeowners reduce the number of mosquitoes, and measures that Minnesotans can take to reduce disease transmission risks while enjoying the great outdoors.

### June 4: Potential Impact of Fireworks on Lakes and Other Waters

**Presenter:** Dr. Andrew Johnson, Chair of the Dept. of Civil, Environmental, and Construction Engineering, Texas Tech University

**Topic Summary:** Each year in the U.S., hundreds of millions of pounds of fireworks are used, releasing perchlorate—a known drinking water contaminant—into the environment. This presentation looks at the effect on drinking water sources and factors that influence perchlorate levels and potential risks.

**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](http://www.ttdoglodge.com) A Home Away From Home For Your Pet!  
[ttdoglodge@gmail.com](mailto:ttdoglodge@gmail.com)  
 Find us on Facebook

**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



**M.A.D. GUTTERS**  
 Office: 218-743-6448 SEAMLESS GUTTER INSTALLATIONS  
 Cell: 218-929-7134 [www.madgutters.com](http://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**

# Edge Center Gallery

## From Forest to Savanna: Elich Taxidermy

The Edge Center Gallery presents Jeff Elich taxidermy, on exhibit during June 2026.

Jeff is an award-winning taxidermist who has been providing customized services and participating in competitions for over 35 years. He uses his artistic vision and acute attention to detail to provide realistic posturing and mounting for species ranging widely in size and geographic origin. Specimens from North America and Africa will be featured in this wildly unexpected exhibit.

The exhibit will run from June 4-June 27. There will be an Artist's Reception on June 4 from 5-7 p.m. The Edge Center Gallery will be open to the public Thursday-Saturday, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.



## Student Art Show

The Edge Gallery. Bigfork invites everyone to stop in and see what our area creative

youth have been up to!

From May 14 to May 23 a student art exhibit will feature art projects that include drawings, ceramics, and photography. Please come and enjoy the students' work!

The Edge Center Gallery is adjacent to the Bigfork School and is open to the public Thursday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.



## 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](http://dnr.state.mn.us/fishwildlife/outreach).

### May 6 – Minnesota's fishing opener

Join DNR fisheries staff to talk about the walleye outlook for this year, a behind-the-scenes look at how we manage walleye and some tips to get out there and catch your first walleye dinner of the summer.

### May 20 – The curious case of yellow bass

oin Jonah Dagel, Windom area fisheries biologist, and Jon Lore, an avid yellow bass angler, as they discuss the status, biology, challenges and angling opportunities involving this relatively new species that is expanding in southern Minnesota.

## 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.

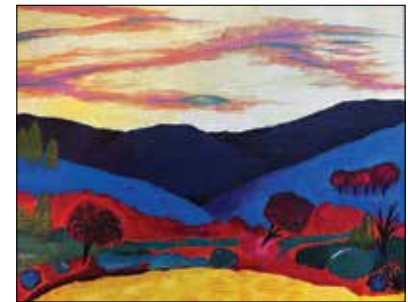
We hope you are able to stop by and support a great cause. This event is a freewill donation.


## 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.





**Andy Dreher**  
 (218)556-3106  
 Andy's Skid Steer Services LLC

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



**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)

## Poenix Contracting LLC

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



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



Cozy Air

Heating and Plumbing


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](http://www.C21Lakes.com)



218-256-6355

**Tree Service and Natural Resource Management**

## Bigfork PTA hosts Spring Gala

Support Bigfork School students and community at the Bigfork PTA Spring Gala. It's a Black-Tie event on May 29, 6-9 p.m. at the Wilderness Wedding Barn on Jayne's School Road.

Only 175 tickets will be sold for an elegant evening that includes a catered dinner by the Timberwolf Inn, a live auction of school artwork (cash only) and live string quartet music. Guests will also arrive to a red carpet and professional photography.

Diners will be offered a choice of a chicken piccata entrée plus sides or a gluten-free vegetarian meal, both followed by raspberry cheese cake with dark chocolate ice cream.

Tickets are \$75 per person, and sales will end on Friday, May 15. The direct QR code link can be found below or on a poster. For more information, contact the PTA at bigforkpta@gmail.com,



The Gala is an opportunity to generously support and learn more about school programs and school funding needs. Donations are also accepted and may be sent to Bigfork PTA, P.O. Box 22, Bigfork, MN 56628, write "donation" in the memo line.

## Effie may need to raise sewer rates

by Sally Sedgwick

At its April 13 meeting, the Effie City Council heard that the city clerk had received a call from USDA Rural Development regarding a \$4,000/year sewer replacement fund as a condition to the sewer bond. The city was not aware of this requirement although it does budget for an annual amount required by the state. The sewer replacement fund can also be used for sewer system repairs which the city currently funds separately. Schmit was told that the city would probably be required to raise rates because it is "not supposed to levy funds to pay for your sewer."

In other business, the council heard from two local residents on general beautification and setting up a city Christmas scene next winter, and indicated that projects planned for 2026 include new doors and outside building siding or painting.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 11 at 6 p.m. in the Community Center.

*excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum*

## Community Cafe in Deer River

The Community Cafe is available to anyone who is in need of a meal. Each Monday - Thursday, 4:30 p.m.- 6:00 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

June 6th - Take A Kid Fishing 9am-Noon  
Sept. 12th - Hog Roast 5pm-7pm



To stay up to date, follow us on Facebook

## Bigfork allocates remainder of ARP funds

At its April 14 meeting, the Bigfork City Council heard that there are remaining American Rescue Plan Funds in its account with the county to be spent on water system/infrastructure and playground equipment. The city decided to use the portion toward the water system to drill a test well for the new city well and accepted a quote from Thein Well for \$51,810. The council also elected to put the remaining \$7,000 for playground equipment toward the PTA Preschool Playground project.

Fire Chief Drew Francisco brought a purchase request from the Fire Department for replacement of a failed pump for \$18,595.89 that would be covered by funds set aside for equipment. The purchase was approved. Francisco also noted that although the department has a full roster of 22 firefighters, there are five additional applicants. Adding roster spots is being discussed.

Sara Reif, owner of Canine Charisma, asked about running the business from her home in the city. There is no ordinance preventing this and neighbors support it. Mayor Pifer suggested a sign for the alley to slow traffic down, however.

The issue of clean up of burned homes in the city was discussed. Homeowners could be invited to a council meeting and, if nonresponsive, the city could proceed to tear down the buildings and assess the homeowner through property tax, according to Commissioner Terry Snyder. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

In other business, the council asked the clerk to check whether the softball field has been named or if naming rights were available.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

*excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum*

### 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

## 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.

## 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.

## College for Kids

College for Kids, June 9-12 in Grand Rapids at Minnesota North College-Itasca is designed for youth ages 6-12, but there are also preschool classes for 4 and 5 year olds.

Legos, animation video, sewing, dance, soccer and more - there are lots of options BUT classes fill up fast so call early to register. Participants can select for up to three classes. Classes are \$30 each.

Registration opens at 7 a.m. on Friday, May 1 and closes at noon on Sunday, June 7. Classes are \$30 each. Register online at getlearning.org or by phone at (218) 327-5730.

## area bookmobile stops

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

Mondays: May 4; June 15

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

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

Tuesdays: May 5, 26; June 16

**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: May 7, 28; June 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 News

## ~ May Calendar ~

### Ardenhurst

Annual Ardenhurst Township Memorial Day Luncheon will take place on Monday, May 25th immediately following Memorial Day Services at the Ardenhurst Alwood Cemetery at Ardenhurst Township Hall (generally between 11 am and noon). Residents and Veterans are encouraged to attend.

In preparation for our Memorial Day Luncheon, please join us to assist in the annual Cemetery cleanup. Any and all help will be much appreciated. This will take place on Saturday, May 16 at 9 a.m. at Ardenhurst Cemetery.

### Suomi

Annual Mother's Day Auction at Suomi Lutheran Church: On Friday May 8th 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. 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.

### Talmoon

The Flea Market at the Little Turtle Lake Store at the intersection of Hwys 6 and 286 in Talmoon will run from Memorial Day to Labor Day on Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

### General Interest

Filing dates for many elected offices for the November 3 elections run from Tuesday, May 19 to Tuesday June 2 at the county courthouse. The courthouse will be closed on Memorial Day, May 25. Candidates for city, township, school district and Northern Itasca Hospital District offices (without primaries) may file for office at their respective clerk's office July 14 through July 28. Visit the Minnesota Secretary of State website for more details.

- 1 Registration opens for College for Kids at 7 a.m. (ages 4-12). Visit [getlearning.org](http://getlearning.org).
- 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](mailto:treasuresarefine@gmail.com).
- 3 Bigfork Food Shelf Breakfast fundraiser., "Make your own breakfast burrito." Bigfork City Hall 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Freewill donation.
- 4 Special Board Meetings for ISD363 (Northome) Monday, May 4, 7 p.m.; Thursday, May 7, 6 p.m.; and Friday May 8, 6 p.m.
- 4 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](http://watchictv.org).
- 6 DNR Outdoor Skills webinar at noon on Minnesota's Fishing Opener. Register at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishwildlife/outreach>
- 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) 832-3612, [lynn\\_ettl@msn.com](mailto:lynn_ettl@msn.com).
- 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 Practical Water Wisdom online programs over the lunch hour with Itasca Waters. Topic: "Ecology, Disease Prevention and Control of Floodwaters Mosquitos." Register at [itascawaters.org](http://itascawaters.org).
- 8 Suomi Lutheran Church Annual Mother's Day Auction. 42935 Co Rd 48, Deer River, 6:30 p.m.
- 9 Minnesota Fishing Opener
- 10 Mother's Day
- 11 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 11 ISD 317 School Board meets at Deer River HS, 6 p.m. Public forum 5:45 p.m
- 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 Wilderness Days meeting, 6 p.m. at BIG Community Center, Bigfork.
- 14 **Member Appreciation Day for North Itasca Electric** at the Squaw Lake Community Center on Hwy 46, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Burgers & brats on the grill until 2 p.m. Energy saving equipment and ideas on display.
- 14-23 Student art show at the Edge Center, Bigfork. Open 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Thurs.-Sat.
- 15 Last day to buy tickets for the Bigfork PTA Black Tie Gala event on May 29. See p. 12.



## 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.

## Area Church Directory

<b>Alwood Community Church</b> Sun 10:00a 58712 Co. Rd. 131 Blackduck 56630 218-659-4681	<b>Dora Lake Alliance</b> Sun 10:00a 59329 Co Rd 145 Northome 56661 218-659-4551	<b>Northome Community Church</b> Sun 10:00a 12071 Bartlett St. Northome 56661 218-897-5040
<b>Balsam Bible Chapel</b> Sun 10:00a 41516 Scenic Hwy 7 Bovey 55709 218-245-1960	<b>Effie Fredheim Lutheran Church (ELCA)</b> Sun 8:30a Hwy 1 Effie 56639 218-743-3368	<b>Northwoods Chapel</b> Sun 9:00a 50539 Mushgee Rd. (corner of Co. Rd. 622) Deer River 56636 218-659-2784
<b>Bear River Lutheran Church</b> Sun 10:00a 11141 Hwy 22 Cook 55723 218-376-1012	<b>First Presbyterian Church, BF</b> Sun 10:15a 109 Ash St. Bigfork 56628 218-743-3783	<b>Old Scenic Community Church</b> Sun 9:30a 25747 Co. Rd. 340 Bigfork 56628 218-743-3953
<b>Bethany Lutheran Church</b> Sun 9:00a 35297 State Highway 6 Deer River, MN 56636 218-246-8398	<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: <a href="http://www.sandlakealliancechurch.org">www.sandlakealliancechurch.org</a>
<b>Bowstring Chapel</b> Sun 10:15a 45114 Co Rd 133 Deer River 56636 218-832-3171	<b>Grace Community Church (ELCA)</b> Sun 10:15a 401 State Hwy 38 N Bigfork 56628 218-743-3368	<b>St. Catherine's Catholic Church</b> Sat 4:00p 52265 State Hwy 46 Squaw Lake 56681 218-743-3255
<b>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](mailto:sedgwick@paulbunyan.net)

- 19 Jessie Lake & Suomi Lutheran free community meal, 45834 Co. Rd. 4 in Talmoon, 4-6 p.m. Mexican Street Tacos, corn and more.
- 20 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m., Northome School.
- 21 Edge of the Wilderness Book Club meets 3rd Thursday of every month (except Dec) at the Marcell Family Center at 10 a.m. New members welcome.
- 22 Last day of school, Northome School.
- 20 DNR Outdoor Skills webinar at noon on yellow bass. Register at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishwildlife/outreach>
- 25 Memorial Day. No school, all schools. **North Itasca Electric offices CLOSED.**
- 26 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.
- 26 Bigfork Valley Hospital board meets in public meeting, 9 a.m.
- 28 Community Music Jam at Marcell Family Center, 5-8 p.m. Everyone welcome.
- 28 Last day of school, Blackduck School.
- JUNE**
- 3 Last day of school, Bigfork, Deer River schools
- 18 Save the Date! North Itasca Electric Annual Meeting in Bigfork, 2 p.m.**

## Wilderness Days Wants You!

Bigfork's Wilderness Days Committee is on a mission – to make the 2026 celebration bigger and better than ever!

The event has been moved to three days in July, July 17-19, and the committee is currently seeking food trucks, vendor and artisan booths, and community and educational outreach booths. And lots of enthusiastic and reliable volunteers!

Want to just enjoy the day? Plan now to create a winning float, or march or ride in the main parade. Or even apply for the BBQ contest.

There will be a lot going on all three days, and you can help plan the activities at the May 13 or June 17 meetings, 6 p.m. at the B.I.G. Community Center (formerly the Over 50 Club) on Main Street in Bigfork.



**LOVDAHL  
ELECTRIC**

**PH. 218.398.1900**

**LovdahlElectric@lov-elec.com**

**RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL**

**North Itasca  
Electric is on  
Facebook!**



**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

**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](http://BigforkStorage.com)  
24/7 for sizes and availability**



**Construction Services Inc.**

*"Serving the excavation needs of Itasca County and beyond since 1968"*

**Ray V. Kongsjord & Sons**  
www.rkconstructionservices.com  
email: rkconstructioninc@gmail.com

Office: (218) 832-2842      • Demolition roll off service  
Cell: (218) 244-6201      • Site preparation • Landscaping

39335 State Highway 286      • Basements • Septics • Shoreland  
Marcell, MN 56657      • Gravel • Road construction

Bonded and licensed - MPCA Lic. 1204

## Don't prune oaks through July

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds Minnesotans that not pruning or cutting oaks from April through July is the simplest way to curb the spread of oak wilt disease.

Oak wilt is a non-native disease that can kill any oak species in Minnesota. Sap beetles spread oak wilt via fungal spores as they move from infected logs or trees to fresh cuts or wounds on healthy oaks. As weather warms, these beetles become very active, making spring and early summer a high-risk time to prune or cut oaks or move infected oak firewood.

After mid-July, the risk of wound infection drops. However, once an oak is infected, the disease spreads down its trunk and through its roots to neighboring healthy oaks.

"Treating oak wilt can be difficult and costly, but fortunately, prevention is simple and cheap," said Brian Schwingle, DNR forest health program coordinator. "By following simple pruning guidelines and avoiding the highest risk period from April through July, people can limit the spread of oak wilt in their yards, woods and communities."

The DNR has confirmed oak wilt in 31 Minnesota counties and notes that the disease is slowly spreading north and west. No new counties had confirmed cases in 2025.

The DNR also cautions people not to move fresh oak firewood, which can spread oak wilt over long distances to new areas. Use locally sourced or certified firewood.

More details about oak wilt, including identification, prevention, reporting instructions and mitigation, is on the DNR's oak wilt management webpage.

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

### Corn & Zucchini

*Thank you to Janet Kogler for this May recipe!*

Equal amounts of corn cut off cob and zucchini cut about the same size as corn.

Sit fry. Add salt and pepper and chopped basil at the end until basil is wilted.

**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.



### Dairy-free Butter for Baking

Blend equal parts of avocado oil, coconut oil and unsweetened applesauce in a mixer, beating well until there are no lumps and it forms a creamy white batter. Refrigerate in half cup jelly jars for easy use.

It is convenient to make three cups at a time, 1 cup of each ingredient. Use 1:1 for butter in a recipe.

This is also gluten-free and soy free!

**To use in chocolate chip cookies:**

**Mix well:**

- 1 1/4 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup butter substitute above

**Add and beat in:**

- 1 Tablespoon of molasses
- 2 eggs

**Add and mix (don't over mix):**

- 2 1/4 cups gluten-free flour (like Bob's Red Mill 1:1)

**Add:**

- 3/4 cup dairy-free, soy-free chocolate chips (like Enjoy Life)

**Bake** at 375° 12 minutes. Note that this batter is softer than other cookies and will cook with a crinkled top.

# CLASSIFIEDS

**AD DEADLINE**  
for the JUNE issue: **Thursday, May 14**

**-SERVICES-**

**Dahlke Dumpsters**  
218-929-7228  
DahlkeDumpsters.com  
Flat rates on dumpster rentals!  
Flexible rental times!  
Great Customer Service!

**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

**-SERVICES-**

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

**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

**-WANTED-**

*Wanted:* Birch, Maple or Oak slab wood. Will pick up. Call (612) 961-7337 5/26

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

*Church Musician Needed:* Jesse Lake Lutheran Church, 45834 Co. Rd. 4, Talmoon, is looking for a part time pianist (We have a lovely grand piano!) or organist. You would not play every Sunday, but coordinate dates with our current pianist who is reducing her workload. This is a paid position. If talented and interested, contact Elaine at (218) 259-8439, 6/26

**-SALES-**

*Rummage and Bake Sale:* May 1 and 2, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Bethany Lutheran Church 35297 Hwy 6, Deer River.

**-FOR SALE-**

*For sale:* Clay pigeon thrower. Spring loaded with rope pull release. Holds 1 or 2 clay targets. Like \$55 model at Cabelas. Marcell area. \$20. Call (612) 961-7337 5/26

*For sale:* Rabbit stuff. 8 cages, feeders, waterers, etc. \$50 for all. Call (218) 246-9183 6/26

*For sale:* '87 Felling skid steer trailer, 74" x 16" bed, (22' overall), 10,000 lb. Elect. brakes, tool box & spares. \$1,700, Call (612) 300-7705 6/26

*For sale:* 4-way hydraulic skid steer bucket, 6' wide, brand new. \$850. Call (612) 300-7705. Sand Lake 6/26

*For sale:* Power Mobility Chairs, Golden Power Scooter, Like new XL Invacare Wheelchair, transfer poles, wheelchair pressure cushions. Call (218) 553-1805, text or call 6/26

*For sale:* Tongue & groove stained lumber, 1950 Call (218) 553-1805, text or call 6/26

*For sale:* Ridgid 13" Planner, model R4330, used very little. \$200 or best offer. Call (218) 659-4222 6/26

**-FOR SALE-**

*For sale:* Full sized, gently used Springwall mattress and box springs. \$100. Call (218) 897-9535 5/26

*For sale:* Three-drawer dresser with matching mirror. \$100. Call (218) 897-9535 5/26

*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

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

**-FISHING-**

*For sale:* Strikemaster 8" Lazer ice auger. 2.5 hp, 2 cycle gas motor. \$150 or best offer. Call 218-659-4222 6/26

*For sale:* Fishing jig making supplies, C Palmer Hot Pot lead melter, 4 jig molds for different weights and styles, Lil Mag Midjet, Jimco, C Palmer 560 and Snag hook. Over 500 new jig hooks in 6 sizes. \$45 or offer. Marcell area. Call (612) 961-7337 5/26

**-FISHING-**

*For sale:* Strikemaster 8" 4 stroke auger with extension. Runs good, blades dull. \$40. Call (218) 246-9183 6/26

**-AUTOMOTIVE-**

*For sale:* Gray Leer 180 truck topper (6.5 ft) with a concealed and lockable gun cabinet/storage in ceiling. Very good shape and stored inside. \$1500 or best offer. Call (218) 659-4222 6/26

**-AUTOMOTIVE-**

*For sale:* 1950 Ford block engines & parts. Call (218) 553-1805, text or call 6/26

**-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

**Spring Lake**  
Heating and Air

Charlie Hazzard  
218-259-8903



WE SERVICE ALL MAKES & MODELS

"OUR SPECIALTY IS HEATING AIR CONDITIONING VENTILATION"

---

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



**Bob Elties**

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

FILTHY CLEAN

WE DON'T CUT CORNERS, WE CLEAN THEM!

- Office Cleaning
- Residential Cleaning
- Carpet/Upholstery Cleaning
- Debris/Trash Removal
- Window Washing
- Emergency Clean-Up
- Construction Clean-Up
- Insurance Claims
- Floor Care/Waxing
- Water Damage Cleaning
- Restroom Sanitizing
- Fire/Smoke Damage
- Janitorial and Custodial
- Odor removal
- Pressure Washing
- Grout Cleaning/Sealing
- Janitorial Supplies
- General Cleaning and More

(218) 327-9186  
[www.filthycleanmn.com](http://www.filthycleanmn.com)



SPECIALTY CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

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

---

SPECIALTY CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

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

Licensed Septic Installation

Concrete Flat Work - Foundations

General Contractors License #BC775961  
SSTS License #L4130

FREE ESTIMATES!!!



**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](mailto:sedgwick@paulbunyan.net)

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

## Area Greenhouse Openings

### Bigfork

**Bigfork Hardware** is located just north of the river on Highway 38. Onsite greenhouse open during store hours, Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Phone: (218) 743-3231

**Country Gardens Greenhouse** is located in the parking lot of Kocian's featuring flowers, heirloom vegetables and hanging baskets. Opening mid-May, hours 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon-Sat. Phone: (218) 743-3343.

### Blackduck

**Grundmeier's Greenery** is located at 589 Main St. North, Blackduck. Opening Friday, May 1. Hours are Mon-Sat, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Grundmeier's carries bedding plants, vegetables, a selection of Proven Winners®, hanging baskets and planters. Phone: (218) 368-4282.

### Effie

**Forevergreen Greenhouse and Gifts** is located 1 mile east of Effie on Highway 1. Opening Sat., May 2. Bursting at the seams with blooms; specialties include patio tomatoes, petunias and geraniums plus a large variety of flowers, baskets and vegetables. Some new flower varieties this year. There is also an attached gift shop with candles, western primitives, garden art and more. Open 7 days a week, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Phone (218) 743-3358; 218-244-3295 or email forever@bigfork.net, or find us on Facebook at Forevergreen Greenhouse and Gifts.

### Marcell

**Lloyd's Landscaping** is located at the junction of Highways 38 and 286 in Marcell. Bedding plants, shrubs, fruits, perennials, hanging baskets, bagged soil and bulk bin materials like mulch, crushed rock and top soil. Landscaping services available - call with your questions. Hours Mother's Day to June 15 are Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat. & Sun., 9-3 p.m. Phone: (218) 832-2842. Check out our website: [www.LandscapeWithLloyd.com](http://www.LandscapeWithLloyd.com).

### Mizpah

**Mizpah's Local Roots Greenhouse** is located at 11354 Pleasant St. in Mizpah. Celebrating 10 years of business with special offers every weekend. Opening Friday, April 24, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 7 days a week. Opening weekend drawings and refreshments. Large variety of vegetables and flowers: succulents, herbs, perennials and annuals. Strawberry and flower baskets, porch pots of cucumbers, strawberries and tomatoes. Gardening supplies, potatoes and onion sets. Lots of hanging baskets! Phone: (218) 244-9716. On Facebook under Mizpah's Local Roots Greenhouse.

### Northome

**Harvest Moon Greenhouse** is at 12337 Town Rd #425. (from Hwy 71, north on Co. Rd. 15, right on Co. Rd. 51, right on Co. Rd. 425) Opening April 24. Hours 8 a.m.-6 p.m., 7 days a week. Custom pots and design, bedding plants, annuals, non-GMO vegetables, baskets. Wedding/event rental planters. Three greenhouses! Phone: (507) 456-7611, Facebook at Harvest Moon Greenhouse.

## Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremonies & Military Honors

### Effie:

#### American Legion Waldron-Flaats Post 182

**\*\*100th anniversary\*\***

The public is invited to a luncheon and cake at the Effie Community Center at noon, Memorial Day, May 25 to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Post 182. There will be displays featuring those who served in WWI and WWII.

#### Saturday, May 23

Bear River Cemetery 10 a.m.

#### Monday, May 25

Fredheim Cemetery 9 a.m.

Stokes Cemetery 10 a.m.

Bigfork Cemetery 11 a.m.

*Luncheon at Effie Community Center, 12 noon.*

### Jesse Lake:

#### Perry-Heide VFW Post 9703

#### Monday, May 25

Wirt Cemetery 8:45 a.m.

Sand Lake Cemetery 9:25 a.m.

Donnelly Cemetery (private)

10:10 a.m.

Jessie Lake Cemetery 10:50 a.m.

Talmoon Cemetery 11:30 a.m.

Suomi Cemetery 12:10 p.m.

### Community ceremony:

#### Saturday, May 23

Dora Lake (Popple Cemetery, Kinghurst Township) 9 a.m.

*Coffee and doughnuts*

### Northome:

#### American Legion Dahlgren-Ettestad Post 499;

#### Larry McKenzie VFW Post 3869

#### Monday, May 25

Gemmel Cemetery 8 a.m.

*Coffee, doughnuts and light breakfast at Mizpah City Hall 8:15-10 a.m.*

Forest Grove Cemetery 8:25 a.m.

Mizpah Cemetery 8:50 a.m.

Wildwood Cemetery 10 a.m.

Ardenhurst Cemetery 10:55 a.m.

Nore Cemetery 11:20 a.m.

Ardenhurst Town Hall sandwich luncheon 11:40 a.m.

Forest Hill Cemetery 12:15 p.m.

### Deer River:

#### American Legion Louis Lequier Post 122;

#### VFW Post 2720

#### Monday, May 25

*Meet at Comstock Apartments*

*Flagpole 9:15 a.m.*

Pine Ridge Cemetery 9:40 a.m.

Olivet Cemetery 10:10 a.m.

Ball Club Cemetery 10:30 a.m.

Tibbetts Cemetery 10:45 a.m.

Town Site Cemetery 11:00 a.m.

Fairbanks Cemetery 11:20 a.m.

Turtle Cemetery 11:35 a.m.

George Johnson Memorial Cemetery 11:45 a.m.

Winnie Dam (honoring those buried at sea) 12:00 p.m.

*Lunch to follow at the Deer River Vets Club.*

**Kris Anderson**  
**WOOD PRODUCTS**  
 \*Custom Sawing \*Kiln Dry  
**Sawing Timbers up to 28 feet**  
 \*Paneling \*V-Groove \*Nickle Gap \*Tongue & Groove  
 \*Shiplap \*Live Edge \*Dimension  
 Let us know what you're looking for.  
**218-244-7148**  
 28275 STATE HWY 1

  
**THE PILLARS**  
**OF GRAND RAPIDS**  
 SENIOR LIVING | ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE  
**CALL TO SCHEDULE A TOUR**  
**218-616-8266**  
[WWW.PILLARSGRANDRAPIDS.COM](http://WWW.PILLARSGRANDRAPIDS.COM)

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**