



NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

WATTS NEWS

VOL. 29 NO. 7

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

JULY 2026

CEO Report

Thank you for attending your Annual Meeting of North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc.

I always start out my presentation with a lot of well-deserved thanks. Our office department led by Dan just finished our yearly audit. This went smoothly due to the hard work of the professionals in our office. Right as we finished the yearly audit, we were informed by Rural Utility Services that we were chosen for a RUS audit. Our office professionals jumped into action to provide the necessary information for that process. We are waiting for the outcomes from our RUS auditor currently. Our office works very hard on our behalf, and I want to say thank you.

Daryl Pederson runs our line department. Daryl and our talented line crew have

been busy with the start of the construction season. This season starts long before we ever bury a line or set a pole. Dick Lind is out designing line and meeting with landowners while Chris Larson is procuring materials for the jobs to come. This team is well oiled and adapts to the crazy prices and availability of materials in the new normal we're finding ourselves in. Our entire group of linemen lead with safety and professionalism. I need to call out two of them at this meeting, Trevor and Eli. These gentlemen, like the rest of our crew, are now Journeymen linemen. They put in the work and study time to pass necessary tests to perform their jobs safely and to obtain the knowledge to be proficient in their daily work.

As Trevor and Eli



Brad Dolinski, CEO advanced in their career, Mr. Chuck Peck advanced also. After almost 30 years Chuck hung up his hooks and belt for retirement. Congratulations Chuck, and thank you for your service. Thank you to our line crew.

Drew oversees our Member-Services Department. Drew has excelled in his position working with members. He bounces from high bill complaints, ordering HVAC equipment, managing our Off-Peak system and a host of other duties. Drew and Roxanne are the friendly faces you turn to in a time of need. Thank you to all our employees!

Our Board of Directors and Attorney help me to navigate these shifting seas. Our Board of Directors is prepared to set policy and oversee the strategic direction of your cooperative. They invest in classes and training, building knowledge in the boardroom. Our board is active across the State of Minnesota,

Member Services Update

by Drew Francisco

Hello again everyone!

I took a month off as we had quite a bit of information to share in our last edition of the WATTS News about annual meeting and various other informational bits.

Thank you to all the membership that were available to attend the annual meeting. It was great to see and chat with you!

The last two months have been busy. A portion of the new Eaton cellular load

control devices have shown up, and the testing phase has started. These new models are what we call a "door swap." Instead of changing the unit in its entirety, we are able to install a cellular controlled circuit board into existing equipment. Roxanne and I have been preparing some doors at the office and are looking to start installing some of these

units out in the field in the next few days. This project may be lengthy, but super exciting to have a system with more localized control and reliability.

Over the summer, my availability is going to be a little scattered.

Member to p.2>



Patty Bender won the Grand Prize of a \$100 electricity credit for Bender's Camp presented by Board Chair Larry Salmela.



Wes Waller is leading a Minnesota Rural Electric Association meeting today and cannot be here with us. Our board is engaged with our legislators and knows the issues we are facing so they can best

CEO to p.2>

(left) David Magnuson and (below) Helen Oestreich won \$50 electricity credits, presented by Board Chair Larry Salmela.



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**Wilderness Days
in Bigfork**

page 16

**July Sale: freezers &
microwaves**

pages 8-9

Gopher State One Call

page 6

Office Hours

Mon. - Thurs.

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

(218) 743-3131

CEO Report, continued

>from p.1
represent our cooperative. Thank you to our Board of Directors and Attorney for your due diligence.

So, what is news at your cooperative? We are stuck in an era of rising rates. With legislative changes that have happened, GRE will be one of the most affected G&T companies by "carbon free by 2040." GRE has load almost strictly in Minnesota. Other generation and transmission companies have load in other states without mandates; they can shift resources on paper where we do not have the ability to do so.

GRE has the responsibility to serve our load. Without coal resources we have had to

redesign our approach. GRE has been focused on this redesign for several years. Today we are securing wind contracts to serve the members of GRE. Additionally, wind is an intermittent resource. If the wind isn't blowing you need another power source. Thankfully, there is language in the 2040 mandate to allow for peaking plants.

GRE is in the process of building a peaking plant just outside Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Most likely this will be a 49.9 kW peaking plant that runs off natural gas. Without firm resources, we are exposed to the market prices in MISO. On a normal day this is fine, often we see pricing very

favorable compared to owning a large plant. On days where there is scarce power, the pricing can exceed \$900/MWh. That equates to \$.90/kWh, and we sell it for about \$.15 cents. These conditions make peaking plants very valuable. We lean on our peaking fleet when pricing is high or power is needed. This is flexible and a good mix during difficult times. Shifting gears:

There have been a lot of discussions about data centers over the past couple of years and in the news. I will assure you, we have not been approached to serve a data center. I will also share; I would love to serve one if we had the chance to do it responsibly. They use a ton of power and that could help to offset the operating cost for all members of NIECI. There are multiple players in the data center world. There are centers that use water, and ones that cool these facilities with other means. I would like to bring in

professionals to discuss what a data center is and what are the pros and cons of having a facility in the region. Would you be interested in attending that type of community meeting? I will be clear; I am not seeking interest from a company to come to our service territory. I would like to learn more about these facilities together.

Another exciting topic on the watch list is that our legislators passed a nuclear study bill in Minnesota this year. Representative Igo led the charge on this bill. He put in the work to meet with constituents and interested parties. Spencer worked very closely with the Prairie Island Indian Community to draft the bill passed in Minnesota. This would be a comprehensive study covering everything about nuclear power. Based on this study, there may be future legislation to consider lifting the nuclear moratorium in Minnesota. I'm getting close to

Member Services

>from p.1

With how spread out our devices are across our service territory, it may take me some time to get back to you. So please leave a message with the office and I'll do my best to get back to you as soon as I can. As of now, I plan to make Mondays an office day, and the rest of the week I'll be out in the field assisting with the installation of new equipment.

As always, please reach out to me if you have questions

wrapping up here, another hour should cover it (sarcasm intended). How many of you have been south of Talmoon on Hwy 6 lately? GRE is investing in our transmission reliability along that corridor. The existing transmission line was due to upgrade because of age and condition. The decision was made to bring the line out to Hwy 6 because the current route was not accessible. If problems arose, we couldn't get the necessary equipment to the line. This construction will improve transmission outages on our system. There will be a few shorter outages on the Jesse Lake Substation as they tie the line to our system.



Drew Francisco

regarding load control, new services and anything else regarding Member Services.

Hope all of you are enjoying these warmer days and everything else the northwoods we call home has to offer.

Until next time,
Drew Francisco

Finally, before I open it up to questions, there are a lot of transmission projects being built in Minnesota. There are new lines and upgrades happening across the state. All of this is to carry power in a newer fashion than we have had in the past. These lines come at a growing cost. When the lines were designed, equipment was, frankly, less money. The Northland Reliability line running from the cities to Grand Rapids area was bid at roughly \$900 million. The last time I heard, this line is over \$1.5 billion. These necessary transmission lines will be split across MISO, but we will still see impacts on rates at North Itasca Electric.

By your side!

Miigwech, Brad

NORTHERN ITASCA HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD FILING NOTICE

Filing is open for the following positions of the Northern Itasca Hospital District Board of Directors:

- Carpenter Township 4 year term
- City of Big Falls 4 year term
- City of Bigfork 4 year term
- Itasca County At-Large 4 year term
- Koochiching County At-Large 4 year term
- Marcell Township 4 year term
- Pomroy Township 4 year term

The filing period opens Tuesday, July 14, 2026 and closes at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2026.

Interested individuals must file an Affidavit of Candidacy with the city or town clerk of their residence. Individuals residing in unorganized territory must file with the appropriate county auditor.

Election Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

Questions regarding candidacy or board service may be directed to Renee Tower, Executive Administrative Assistant, at (218) 743-1772.



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WATTS NEWS

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

Subscriptions for Members are included as part of the annual membership dues. \$12.00 per year or partial year for non-members, billed and payable in January for the following year.

Second class postage paid at Bigfork, MN 56628. USPS 016-849 **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to WATTS NEWS, North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 227, Bigfork, MN 56628-0227

Office Hours: 6 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Monday-Thursday

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(800) 762-4048

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WATTS NEWS Editor: Sally Sedgwick

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

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Highlights from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
May 28, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on May 28, 2026

- Pledge of allegiance was recited.
- A motion to adopt the agenda. Second; motion carried. A motion to consent agenda. Second; motion carried.
- Tick season is upon us and there's a new tick, Lonestar Tick with a white dot, that if you are bitten causes a red meat allergy and carries several diseases. If you get bitten by any tick and feel sick, go to the doctor.
- Dan presented the operating report. A motion to accept financials was made. Second; motion carried.
- Board Policy: Andy reviewed Policy 100.40 - Delegation of Duties to the CEO. Motion to note Policy 100.40 was reviewed on 5/28/26. Second; motion carried. A motion was to have Dan Carlisle as legal representation at the Annual Meeting. Motion carried.
- Daryl presented the Line Department report. MREA was on site for Pole Top and Bucket Rescue and conducted Safe Trenching Practices also while they were here. Work plan for 2026 is conversion of overhead to underground on MacKenzie Island, Matt Zimmer Rd. and CR 52 single-phase line relocation for a road move.
- Drew presented the Member Services report. The Member Appreciation Day went well with roughly 100 people stopping by for lunch and to see what the 5 vendor tables had to offer. A motion was made to pass the New Salem Resolution. Second; motion carried.
- Dan presented the Office Report. Annual Meeting will be June 18th in Bigfork, registration cards have been sent to members, and a reminder insert will be going out with the June bill. The 2025 Allocations for 5326 members were \$822,153.53; \$429,861.74 being the Cooperative portion and \$392,291.79 being the G&T portion. Motioned to approve. Second; motion carried. Motioned to approve the proposal from Brady Martz to continue as our auditors for the 2026 – 2028 audits. Second; motion carried. They will be conducting remote audits going forward.
- Brad presented the CEO report. Solid April financials were highlighted at GRE for PCA credit driven by favorable power supply results. Board to consider expense & travel to the District 2 meeting in Cohasset on July 10th. Motion to approve compensation made. Second; motion carried. A motion made for the BLC 978.1 & EIS. Second; motion carried.
- Wes gave the MREA report.
- Brad presented the GRE report.
- Motion to adjourn. Seconded; motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Innovation helps reliability

Keeping the lights on every hour of every day takes more than poles and wires. It also takes innovation.

Great River Energy, wholesale power provider for North Itasca Electric Cooperative, is using new technologies and forward-looking projects to make sure electricity stays reliable and affordable, even as demand grows and weather becomes more unpredictable. These tools help spot potential problems sooner, respond faster and make smarter use of the system North Itasca Electric already supports.

Seeing power lines in real time

One way that GRE is strengthening reliability is by using smart monitoring technology on its transmission system, which is the high-voltage lines that move electricity long distances. Through a project with Heimdall Power, Great River Energy is using sphere-shaped, advanced sensors attached to existing transmission lines to continuously measure real-world conditions, such as temperature and movement.

Why does that matter? Power lines don't always operate the same way in cool, windy weather as they do on hot, still days. By understanding actual conditions in real time, operators can safely increase or reduce how much electricity flows through the system. This helps prevent congestion on the grid, reduces costs and improves reliability without needing to build new lines. The result is a more flexible system that works smarter, not harder.

Monitoring for weather and other threats

GRE is also partnering with Prisma Photonics on a project that uses existing fiber-optic cables to continuously monitor transmission lines for potential problems. Instead of placing sensors directly on the line, this technology turns fiber cables that are already in place into sensitive listeners that detect and notify operators of events on GRE 's power lines.

This system can alert operators to issues such as icing, high winds, wildfire threats and physical damage, such as downed power lines. That early warning gives crews a head start, allowing them to respond more quickly and reduce the length and impact of outages. Ultimately, that means better service for electric cooperatives across Minnesota.

Building for the future with PowerOn Midwest

Innovation is also about thoughtful planning. That's why GRE is proud to be one of four utility partners developing PowerOn Midwest, a series of new electric transmission projects anchored by a 765 kilovolt (kV) backbone transmission line. The projects will connect eastern South Dakota, southern



The dynamic line one time. The one year rating project uses a assessment, covered Heimdall Power line in the September sensor "neuron" (shown 2025 WATTS News, above on line) to measure estimated the equipment parameters about the would save GRE \$3.175 line and its environment million over five years to maximize the current in avoided congestion that can be carried at any costs.

Minnesota and the broader region, enhancing grid reliability in the Upper Midwest to meet growing and evolving energy needs in the coming decades. This will be the first 765 kV transmission line in the Upper Midwest.

PowerOn Midwest is being designed to support reliability as electricity use grows, while also helping transport energy from a wide range of sources, including renewables. This modern infrastructure helps ensure that power is available when and where it's needed, no matter the time of day or season.

Working smarter, together

Reliability is knowing the power is there for our homes, businesses and communities when we need it. That's why it's reassuring to see GRE using innovative tools to spot issues sooner, respond faster and get more from the system we've built together.



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Go farther, ride easier:
The growing appeal of e-bikes

E-bikes are becoming a go-to option for people who want a little more freedom in how they get around since they can be used as a tool for running errands, commuting or exploring new places. At their most basic, e bikes are bicycles with a small electric motor that helps you pedal. It doesn't do the work for you; it just makes riding easier.

And that's the appeal: E-bikes aren't just for people who need assistance. They're for anyone who wants to ride farther, carry more or make biking a more practical part of their everyday life.

A flexible way to ride

One of the biggest advantages of e-bikes is their versatility. You can use them like a car for short trips like heading to the grocery store, commuting to work or running errands around town. For many people, especially those looking to cut back on driving, an e-bike can replace a number of everyday trips.

They're also helpful for hauling cargo. From backpacks to groceries (even kids), e-bikes make it easier to carry heavier loads without feeling like you've taken on a workout.

In rural areas, where public transportation options can sometimes be limited, e-bikes make a real difference by offering a more affordable alternative to owning a car. They can also handle longer distances and varied terrain thanks to the electric assist.

That boost is especially important for older adults or people with physical limitations, making it possible to travel farther and more comfortably. Plus, e-bikes are easy to charge and don't require any special infrastructure to get started. Just plug them into a standard outlet.

In Minnesota, riders 15 and older can use e-bikes, and they're typically allowed wherever traditional bikes are permitted, though some trails may have restrictions.

A simple way to reduce emissions

E-bikes aren't just convenient, they're also good for the environment. The average car emits about 0.89 pounds of carbon dioxide per mile. That means every mile you ride instead of

drive adds up.

For example, riding 1,000 miles on an e-bike can prevent roughly 886 pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere. Even swapping out short trips can make a meaningful difference in reducing emissions and improving air quality.

Go farther and see more

The most fun benefit of an e-bike may be how it changes what's possible. Hills feel easier, long distances feel

manageable and routes you might have skipped before feel within reach.

That means more opportunities to explore on scenic trails, quiet rural roads or a new part of the state you've never experienced. With an e-bike, the journey becomes a little easier.

E-BIKE CLASSIFICATIONS

CLASS 1

PEDAL ASSIST ONLY

MAX SPEED 20 MPH

CLASS 2

PEDAL ASSIST OR THROTTLE

MAX SPEED 20 MPH

CLASS 3

PEDAL ASSIST ONLY

MAX SPEED 28 MPH

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

Running multiple major appliances at the same time—like your dishwasher, laundry machines and oven—can spike energy demand and strain the electric grid, especially during peak hours (typically late afternoon to early evening). Instead of stacking appliance use, spread it out throughout the day or shift chores to off-peak hours when energy demand is lower. This not only helps improve overall efficiency but can also reduce your energy costs. A simple habit change, like doing laundry in the morning and running the dishwasher overnight, can make a meaningful difference for both your wallet and energy reliability.

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Shift Timing >>> Shift Savings

As we settle into the heat of July, our homes naturally use more electricity. Air conditioners run longer, refrigerators work harder and daily routines—from cooking dinner to doing laundry—often overlap during the warmest parts of the day. That's also when the demand for electricity across our community is at its highest.

At North Itasca Electric, our top priority is delivering safe, reliable and affordable power whenever you need it. But during peak energy hours, there's added pressure on the grid as homes and businesses require larger amounts of electricity, all at the same time. On the hottest days, that strain can be significant.

The good news is that small changes at home can make a meaningful difference.

Think of our electric grid like a highway system. During rush hour, traffic is heavy, congestion builds and everything slows down. But when drivers adjust their schedules, even slightly, it helps ease the bottleneck. The same principle applies to energy use.

By shifting some of your high-energy activities to off-peak hours—like doing laundry later in the evening, running

the dishwasher before you go to bed or cooking meals earlier in the day—you're helping spread out demand. That reduces pressure on the grid during those critical peak hours.

Here are a few simple steps you can take to lower energy use during peak hours.

- Smart technology can be a valuable partner in saving energy. A programmable or smart thermostat can automatically adjust your home's temperature when demand is highest, helping you stay comfortable while using energy more efficiently. Even a small adjustment of a few degrees during peak hours can make a difference.

- In the kitchen, simple swaps can help, too. Using a slow cooker, air fryer or outdoor grill instead of the oven keeps your home more comfortable and reduces the need for additional cooling during the warmer parts of the day. And when it comes to laundry, air-drying clothes or spacing out loads can cut down on both energy use and indoor heat.

- Don't overlook the power of ceiling fans, either. They can help you feel several degrees cooler, allowing

Same Energy. Different Impact.

The demand for electricity is typically highest in the late afternoon during peak energy hours. You can help lower demand by shifting when energy-intensive activities happen.



Shift appliance use to off-peak hours.

- Run the dishwasher before you go to bed.
- Use the oven earlier or later (during off-peak hours.)
- Space out use of major appliances.



Use a programmable or smart thermostat.

- Automatically adjust the temp setting during peak hours.
- Schedule home cooling cycles for efficiency.



Opt for low-energy alternatives during peak hours.

- Use small appliances like slow cookers or air fryers—or fire up the grill—instead of the oven.
- Air-dry clothes instead of using the dryer.
- Use ceiling fans for additional cooling.

you to raise your thermostat setting without sacrificing comfort.

These actions may seem small on their own, but together, they add up. When many members make mindful choices about when and how they use electricity, it helps reduce peak demand, eases strain on the grid and supports more stable energy costs for our local communities.

That's the cooperative difference. As a member, you're not just a customer—you're part of a community working together to power our future.

Every effort you make contributes to a stronger, more resilient system.

This summer, I encourage you to take a closer look at your daily routines. A few simple shifts can go a long way in keeping your home comfortable, your energy use efficient and our grid running smoothly—no matter how high the temperatures climb.

Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing nearly 900 local electric cooperatives.

Call before you dig
800-252-1166 or 811

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



Isabella and Abby.

Young falcons receive ID bands

The two peregrine falcons that spend part of the year in the nest box on Great River Energy's Elk River campus have grown their family by four wings. Brooklyn and Breezy successfully hatched two eyasses (young falcons) during the first week of May.

Representatives from the Raptor Resource Project recently banded and examined the young falcons. The two female eyasses were deemed healthy. One falcon was named Isabella after a Great River Energy employee's daughter and assigned band 67/AD. The other was assigned band 68/AD and named Abby after an employee.

The band numbers are recorded in the Midwest Peregrine Society database, used for tracking and future nesting information. The young falcons will remain in the nesting box, relying on the adults for food, until they begin to fledge in mid-June. Since 2006, 61 young falcons have fledged from the site. Abby and Isabella will bring that total to 63.

The falcon family can be observed via Great River Energy's peregrine falcon cam, greatriverenergy.com/environmental/peregrine-falcon-birdcam/.

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Annual Meeting
flower winners



North Itasca Electric Board Chair Larry Salmela presented flower baskets to lucky winners at the annual meeting (above, clockwise) Julie King on behalf of Wanagan LLC, Gary Orwig, and Connie Remmers. Not shown. Lawrence Paulsen. (right) Board member Lloyd Kongsjord presents a winning basket to Mom Diane Kongsjord.



"Call Before You Dig!" It's a phrase that we all know well. But do we stop and think before plantiong a tree in the yard?

811 is for residents, contractors and communities, and it serves to protect people from harm as well as service disruption or environmental damage as a result from severing utility lines. It's a free service as well as being required by law (MN Statute 216D).

"Whether the project is large or small," according to gopherstateonecall.corgom, "if you are using machine-powered equipment or just a shovel and rake to plant a garden, contacting GSOC in advance helps everyone dig safely while avoiding costly damage to underground facilities."

For locations in Greater Minnesota, call 811 or (800) 252-1166, or go online at gopherstateonecall.org. You will need specific location information and at least two full working days (starting at midnight the day you make the call) not counting weekends or holidays before you plan to dig.

White markings (stakes, paint, flags, etc.) are required to show the proposed area of excavation (black markings in snow conditions). Ever wonder what the other colors on flags mean? Here is the guide:

RED	Electric power lines, cables, conduit and lighting cables
YELLOW	Gas, oil, steam, petroleum or gaseous materials
ORANGE	Communication, alarm or signal lines, cables or conduit
BLUE	Potable water
GREEN	Sanitary sewers and drain lines
PURPLE	Reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines
PINK	Temporary survey markings
WHITE	Proposed excavation

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Roxanne's Repair Tips

Washer not spinning?

1. Make sure the door is shut all the way: If it is, then look to make sure the strike on the lock isn't broken. If the strike is broken you will need to replace the strike.

2. Washer tub may be overloaded / unbalanced load: Sometimes when you mix heavy items with light items it will throw the tub off balance when it spins.

3. Water inlet valve might be bad: First check the water pressure to determine that is adequate. Clean the screens inside the water inlet valve hose connection ports. If this doesn't fix the problem, replace the water inlet valve.

4. Power surge: sometimes after a power surge or outage, washer operation can be temporarily affected. To reset the power, unplug the washer for a couple of minutes and plug it back in.

Less common

5. Rotor Assembly: The rotor interacts with the stator to create a strong electromagnetic field, which rotates the tub in either direction. If the magnets on the rotor are damaged, or any part of the rotor is defective, the washer may not spin or agitate. To determine if the rotor is defective, inspect the rotor for damage. If the rotor is damaged, replace it.

6. Shift Actuator: A shift actuator is the component used on top-load washers to change the tub rotation from agitate to spin. If the tub is not spinning at all, a broken shift actuator may be responsible. You should inspect the component for damage and replace it if necessary.

7. Drain Pump: The drain pump assists in removing the water from the tub by forcing the water through a drain hose to a laundry tub or drainpipe. Since water may be drained from the tub multiple times during a wash cycle, a defective drain pump may interrupt operation and prevent the tub from spinning during the spin cycle. If there is still water in the tub after the washer stops, inspect the drain pump for any obstruction. You can also use a multimeter to test the drain pump for electrical continuity to see if the pump is functioning or not.



TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Scammers are increasingly using "smishing" — fake text messages designed to look like they're from legitimate businesses, including your electric utility. These texts may claim your bill is overdue, your service will be disconnected or you're owed a refund. They often include a link that directs you to a fake payment site or asks for personal information. Never click suspicious links or respond to unexpected texts, even if the message appears urgent. Instead, log in to your utility account through the official website or mobile app to verify any claims. We will never ask for sensitive information like passwords or banking details through text messages.



Roxanne's Sales Talk

Good morning!

I've got Annual Meeting on my mind today as I'm writing this. Just got the banners hung up and the garage cleaning starts today. There's lots to get done before Thursday.

Once the garage is ready the rest all comes together nicely. It is always nice to see all of you who take time out of your busy schedule to come join us, thank you! I love visiting with you and it's always very informational to hear what is going on in the Co-op world.

I have some new Crosley washers in; they are very sharp looking in a flat black color with a great price.

by Roxanne Prather, Member Services Representative

Stop in and see all the appliances we have on the floor, we have a great selection.

We have made some changes in pricing so you will notice a lower price on the appliances but because of the new lower prices we will be changing our bundling deals. I will still be doing a sale a month, so watch the WATTS News or our website for the sales.

The bundling deal will be: If you buy 3 or more you will get 8% off everything. As a cooperative we do our best to offer you the best deals we can. Financing is available to those who qualify.. Stop in and check us out!



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July Freezer and Microwave Sale

Freezer Sale

Prices are good through July on in-stock items!

CF50W \$259.06 SALE \$238.34

5 c.f. Crosley chest freezer

EFRF9003 \$359.64 SALE \$330.87

9 c.f. Crosley chest freezer

FFUE0725AW \$404.41 SALE \$372.06

7 c.f. Frigidaire chest freezer

FFC11542A \$662.86 SALE \$609.83

15 c.f. chest freezer

FFU16F2VW \$651.68 SALE \$599.55

16 c.f. upright freezer



Call Roxanne with any questions – (218) 743-3132
or email roxannep@nieci.com

Microwave Sale

MMO17S5AWW \$204.96 SALE \$188.56

1.7 c.f. Midea over-the-range microwave oven.
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FMOS18468S \$355.58 SALE \$327.13

1.8 c.f. Frigidaire over-the-range microwave oven.
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...speedqueen.com

Only one eligible machine is permitted. Limit one rebate per household. Rebate must be redeemed for residential use only. Rebates are via an online prepaid MasterCard and must be submitted online before August 26 for dryers purchased between June 22 and July 26.

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Edge Gallery

Craig Blacklock

SUPERIOR:
A 50-Year Photographic Journey
from Craig Blacklock

Bigfork's Edge Art Gallery July 2 – August 1

Gallery Hours:
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Thurs., Fri., and Sat.

Artist Reception/Presentation (free appetizers):
July 2, 5-7 p.m.

with special theatre presentation at 5:45 p.m.

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by Tina Appleby

Can you imagine the “the stillness and absolute silence of paddling through fog on a calm day, miles from shore”? ... the “vibration in your chest as towering waves crash against Superior’s cliffs”? ... “the unearthly sense of untethering from reality, watching the aurora dance overhead”?

These are some of the emotional and visceral responses that award-winning photographer Craig Blacklock recounted over a lifetime of seeking, connecting, and capturing our North Shore in all its majesty and splendor. His solo wilderness travel --- often fraught with danger! --- allowed this artist and outdoor enthusiast the freedom to pause ... to take in all, just as he wished ... to appreciate gifts of intricate detail from Mother Nature, easy to miss when traveling with a companion. And yet, at the same time,



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Image by Craig Blacklock

Mr. Blacklock yearned to share these extraordinary moments. That is what all his work, this exhibit, and his new book of the same title is all about --- and this show is your chance to be included.

Craig Blacklock’s photography has been shown in over three dozen solo exhibitions, including at the Phipps Center for the Arts, Mill City Museum, Minnesota Marine Art Museum, Minnesota Center for Photography, Palm Beach Photographic Centre, and Tweed Museum of Art. He was the 2018 recipient of the George Morrison Artist Award. His 20 books have won numerous awards, including three gold awards from Independent Publishers, in worldwide competition. His just-released book, “SUPERIOR: A 50-Year Photographic Journey,” is a gathering of favorite landscape images from past publications together with many new images, “notably, several done from the perspective of a drone.”

We at The Edge Art Gallery are thrilled to present these breathtaking works. Many will be for sale there, along with the new book, (a great gift for anyone to peruse and an inspiring work for the outdoor photographer.)

“SUPERIOR: A 50-Year Photographic Journey,” runs from July 2-August 1. Artist reception on July 2 from 5-7 p.m., with special theatre presentation by Craig at 5:45 p.m. Craig will also be at The Edge Gallery on Saturday, August 1 from 3:30-5 p.m. and available for discussion. The Edge Gallery is open to the public Thursday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Come to enjoy this special exhibit and/or perhaps take a bit of beauty home with you via his prints or books. Just do not let the opportunity to enjoy this show slip by!

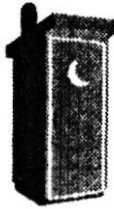
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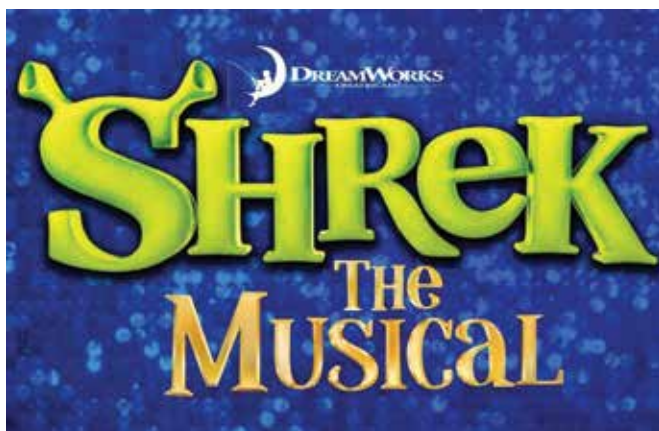
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This high-energy, family-friendly production by Stages Theatre Company proves that when we open our hearts, we create bonds that can overcome even the biggest challenges.

Three performances on stage: Friday and Saturday, July 17 and 18 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, July 19 at 2 p.m. Tickets available at edgecenterarts.org/events or at the door. Adults \$10, Youth \$5.

Based on the DreamWorks Animation Motion Picture and the book by William Steig. Book and Lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire. Music by Jeanine Tesori. Originally produced on Broadway by DreamWorks Theatricals and Neal Street Productions. Original production Directed by Jason Moore and Rob Ashford. Directed by Sandy Boren-Barrett.

Calhoun receives Arvig scholarship

Arvig has awarded the Royale B & Eleanor M Arvig Memorial Scholarship to 36 area high school seniors from the class of 2026 including Noah Calhoun of Bigfork High School.

Each student will receive a \$3,000 scholarship to their chosen college, university or vocational school. Students were selected based on achievements or interests in mathematics, engineering, accounting, computer science, telecommunications or any physical sciences.

Arvig established the scholarship fund to emphasize the importance of higher education and encourage civic leadership in honor of founders Royale and Eleanor Arvig, who began offering telephone service to the Perham area in 1950.

Arvig awards more than \$100,000 in scholarship funding annually to high school students in the Arvig service area. For more information about scholarships, visit arvig.com/community-impact.

Sketches of Minnesota - Edge of the Wilderness returns to The Edge

Join the Minnesota Humanities Center, Danger Boat Productions, and Edge Center for the Arts for a special return visit of the Sketches of Minnesota civic improv comedy tour on Saturday, August 1!

Registration required by July 26. Register at edgecenterarts.org/Events.

This free event will use laughter and comedy to celebrate Minnesota communities, promote dialogue, and bridge divides. This year, we will also be celebrating the 250th anniversary of our nation and diving into what that means for the Edge of the Wilderness.

We're excited to welcome back the Sketches of Minnesota to the Edge of the Wilderness and reconnect the community. Beginning with a free meal

catered by the Timberwolf, these gatherings invite audience members to share what makes their town great, what they think people get wrong about it, what local divisions concern them, and what future they imagine. An improv comedy troupe listens in on the conversations, takes everything they heard from residents, and brings it to life on stage through entirely unscripted improv comedy theatre.

5:00–6:00 p.m.: Doors open/Community Hour

6:00–7:15 p.m.: Dinner by the Timberwolf

7:15–8:00 p.m.: Improv show

8:00–8:30 p.m.: Talkback

Special Opportunity for Early Arrivals:

The Edge Art Gallery is featuring the work of renowned photographer Craig Blacklock, who will be at the Gallery beginning at 3:30 p.m. on this day. Mr. Blacklock is the recipient of numerous awards and accolades, and recently completed a new book, "SUPERIOR: A 50-Year Photographic Journey." He looks forward to your comments and questions, and copies of the new book will be available for sale.

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Sun. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

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Itasca Waters Webinars

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

July 9: Septic Compliance

Presenter: Katie Benes is the director of Environmental Services for Itasca County, administering the county’s planning and zoning regulations, solid waste program, septic program, shoreland program, and more.

Topic Summary: An overview of how septic systems are regulated, what standards and inspections are required, and how compliance helps protect public health, groundwater, and nearby lakes and streams.

August 6: Volunteer Conservation: What You Can and Can't Do to Your Lakeshore

Presenter: Austin Steere, projects director at Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Topic Summary: Austin Steere will discuss a variety of voluntary conservation practices and resources that landowners can use to protect their shoreline and improve overall lake health.

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.

Defensive Driving

Retired Minnesota State Patrol Trooper Mike Flatley offers a defensive driving class by Zoom for ages 55 and older. A class is scheduled for Mon., July 20, 5-9 p.m. Cost is \$15. Preregister at (218) 750-3189 or by email at mnflats@hotmail.com. Early registration is suggested. See mndefensivedriving.blogspot.com for more information.

Squaw Lake Fire Department

2026 Schedule of Events

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



To stay up to date, follow us on Facebook

Visit your co-op at www.NorthItascaElectric.com

Edge Gallery seeks art for 250th

The 250th Anniversary of the Nation exhibit at the Edge Gallery during October will honor the creation of an independent nation based on the principles of liberty, equality, Natural Rights, and government by consent. Along the way, this young nation has experienced transformative events, shifts in cultural perspectives, rapid industrial and technological advancement, periods of peace and war, and great prosperity, all in pursuit of a more perfect union.

The Edge Gallery invites the submission of 2D and 3D artwork supporting this theme, in any artistic medium, to be considered for the exhibit.

A People’s Choice award will be given based on votes cast by the public during the Opening Reception, October 1, 2026.

For entry information, visit edgecenterarts.org/gallery. Entry deadline is August 15, 2026.

DNR Outdoor Skills and Stewardship Series

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 .

July 1 – Surveying boundary waters fish

July 15 – Rare and threatened fish

July 29 – Minnesota moose research

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.

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.

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

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

Northome Library

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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

Edge of the Wilderness Discovery Center

2026 Naturalist Programs

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

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Marcell, MN 56657

218-832-3161



The Wild Edge	Saturday, July 4	11 am
The Bald Eagle	Tuesday, July 7	11 am
Wild Flowers	Saturday, July 11	11 am
Minnesota's Pollinators (Bees and Butterflies)	Tuesday, July 14	11 am
Aquatic Adventures (Fish and Mammals)	Saturday, July 18	11 am
Interesting Insects	Tuesday, July 21	11 am
Minnesota's Forests	Saturday, July 25	11 am
Wildlife 101	Tuesday, July 28	11 am
Outstanding Owls	Saturday, August 1	11 am
Undercover Critters (Camouflage and Mimicry)	Tuesday, August 4	11 am
Smokey Bear's Birthday	Saturday, August 8	11 am
Talking with Turtles	Tuesday, August 11	11 am
Nocturnal Neighbors	Saturday, August 15	11 am
Beavers (Builders of the Wild)	Tuesday, August 18	11 am
Leave No Trace	Saturday, August 22	11 am
Being a Black Bear	Tuesday, August 25	11 am
Splendid Spiders	Saturday, August 29	11 am
Bats of the Northwoods	Saturday, September 5	11 am

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




Effie Adult Softball Schedule

at the Effie Ballfield

Week 5: July 1 Power House vs. Swamp Donkeys

July 2 Effie vs. Old School

Week 6: July 8 Power House vs. High School

July 9 Swamp Donkeys vs. Effie

Week 7: July 15 Swamp Donkeys vs. High School

July 16 Old School vs. Power House

Week 8: July 22 Swamp Donkeys vs. Old School

July 23 Effie vs. High School

Week 9: July30 High School vs. Old School

July 31 Effie vs. Power House

Week 10: Aug. 5 Swamp Donkeys vs. High School

End of year League Tourney: Sat., Aug. 8

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.

area bookmobile stops

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

Mondays: July 6, 27; Aug. 17

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

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

Tuesdays: July 7, 28; Aug. 18

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: July 9, 30; Aug. 20

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

Rodeo Weekend in Effie

Reserve the last full weekend in July, July 24-26, for the 71st year of the North Star Stampede, “Minnesota’s largest open rodeo” where a contestant could be your neighbor or a well-known competitor.

The rodeo opens with a parade at 5 p.m. on Friday and 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Gate prices are \$20, children ages 6-13, \$10. A 3-day pass is available. Entries open July 13 at 7 a.m. For more information, call (218) 743- 6463.

All the traditional events will be held: Saddle Bronc and Ranch Bronc Riding; Bareback Riding; Dally Calf and Team Roping; Steer Wrestling and Bull Riding; Cowgirls Barrel Racing. There also will be Novice Bareback Riding, Junior Bull Riding, Wild Cow Milking (with a 3-man team) and Women's Breakaway.

Of course, there are also cowboy wearables, vendors and food trucks at the rodeo, and primitive camping on the ranch is available with a weekend pass.

Rodeo Daze

During the North Star Stampede, July 25-26, the city of Effie will host vendors, food, children's games and the Boot Hunt.

The Neighborhood Bar will sponsor the Boot Hunt: clues will be posted starting on Saturday morning. There will be children's games and a sawdust pile at the Community Center starting at 10 a.m. The Pie Social at the Fredheim Lutheran Church will begin at 2 p.m. and the parade line up is at 6:30 p.m. To become a vendor or for more information call Lil at (218) 743-3836.

~ July Calendar ~

- 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_ettl@msn.com.
- 2 Edge Center Gallery hosts “SUPERIOR: A 50-Year Photographic Journey” by Craig Blacklock through Aug. 2. Artist's Reception July 2, 5-7 p.m. The gallery is open Thursday-Saturday, 1-4 p.m. More information, call (218) 743-6670.
- 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.
- 3 Northome Farmers Market, each Friday, 3-6 p.m. at the Fairgrounds.
- 4 Independence Day
- 5 Music & Art Festival at Spring Lake Store, 48501 Co. Rd. 4, 1:30-4 p.m.
- 9 Practical Water Wisdom online programs over the lunch hour with Itasca Waters. Topic: "Septic Compliance" with Katie Benes, director of Environmental Services in Itasca County. Register at itascawaters.org.
- 10-12 Wild Rice Festival in Deer River. Live music, events, food, Midway, parade and fireworks. For full schedule, visit wilddricefestival.com.
- 11 Grand Rapids Players present "Sir Valourant & The Dragon" at Golf on the Edge in Bigfork, 6 p.m. For all ages. Outdoors, bring seating. Free. Edge Center will be backup location in case of inclement weather.
- 13 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 13 ISD 317 School Board meets at Deer River HS, 6 p.m. Public forum 5:45 p.m.
- 13 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m. .
- 14 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.
- 16 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.
- 17-19 Shrek: The Musical (Theatre for Young Audiences Version) is presented by Stages Theatre Company at the Edge Center in Bigfork. July 17-18, 7 p.m. and July 19, 2 p.m. Tickets online or at the door; \$10 adults, \$5 children.
- 20 Blackduck ISD 32 School Board meets, 6 p.m. in the Media Center.
- 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.
- 21 Jessie Lake & Suomi Lutheran free community meal, 45834 Co. Rd. 4 in Talmoon, 4-6 p.m. Chicken stir fry, rice and egg rolls. Takeout available.
- 23 Community Music Jam at Marcell Family Center, 5-8 p.m. Everyone welcome.
- 24 North Star Stampede rodeo July 24-26 at the rodeo grounds on Co. Rd. 5 north of Effie, 5 p.m. on Friday and 2 p.m. on Sunday, rain or shine. Minnesota's largest open rodeo. Admission \$20, 14 and up, \$10 ages 6-13. Weekend passes and camping are available. Rodeo Daze during the weekend in Effie.

- 25 42nd annual Blackduck Woodcarvers Festival at Blackduck Wayside Rest, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., rain or shine. Concessions, music, prizes.
- 25-26 Rodeo Daze in Effie with vendors. Events on Saturday; boot hunt, bake sale at 10 a.m. and pie social at 2 p.m. The parade will start at 6:30 p.m. For information on vendor sites (\$20), call Lil at (218) 743-3638.
- 26 Deadlne for registering for Sketches of Minnesota (see Aug. 1)
- 27 Women of the Woods meet 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson (218) 659-2157.
- 28 Bigfork Valley Hospital board meets in public meeting, 9 a.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 Last day to file for city, township, school district and hospital district offices for Nov. 3 elections.

AUG

- 1 Sketches of Minnesota, Edge of the Wilderness comes to the Edge Center. Free catered community dinner, discussion, improv comedy performance. Must register online by July 26.



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

.....

Alvwood Community Church Sun 10:00a

58712 Co. Rd. 131

Blackduck 56630

218-659-4681

Balsam Bible Chapel Sun 10:00a

41516 Scenic Hwy 7

Bovey 55709

218-245-1960

Bear River Lutheran Church Sun 10:00a

11141 Hwy 22

Cook 55723

218-376-1012

Bethany Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a

35297 State Highway 6

Deer River, MN 56636

218-246-8398

Bethesda Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a

Mizpah 56660

218-897-5654

Bowstring Chapel Sun 10:15a

45114 Co Rd 133

Deer River 56636

218-832-3171

Calvary Covenant Sun 10:30a

54764 Co. Rd. 31

Northome 56661

218-897-5684

Centennial Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a

Hwy 46

Squaw Lake 56681

218-259-0115

Clara Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a

41447 Little Clara Drive

Deer River 56636

218-360-1503

Deer River Bible Church Sun 10:00a

33276 State Highway 6

Deer River 56636

218-246-9570

Dora Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a

59329 Co Rd 145

Northome 56661

218-659-4551

Effie Fredheim Lutheran Church (ELCA) Sun 8:30a

Hwy 1

Effie 56639

218-743-3368

First Presbyterian Church, BF Sun 10:15a

109 Ash St.

Bigfork 56628

218-743-3783

Gemmel Community Church Sun 10:00a

10609 Town Rd 34

Gemmel 56660

218-897-5966

Good Hope Church - Bigfork Sun 10:00a

101 Golf Course Ln.

Bigfork, MN 56628

218-556-9856

Grace Community Church (ELCA) Sun 10:15a

401 State Hwy 38 N

Bigfork 56628

218-743-3368

Hope Lutheran Church Sun 10:30 a.m.

12234 Third St.

Northome 56661

218-897-5654

Jehovah's Witnesses Tu 7:00p., Sun 10:00a

Hwy 38

Bigfork 56628

218-743-3275

Jesse Lake Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a

45834 Co. Rd. 4

Talmoon 56637

218-832-3883

Marcell Community Church Sun 10:30a

49103 State Hwy 38

Marcell 56657

218-832-3200

Northome Community Church Sun 10:00a

12071 Bartlett St.

Northome 56661

218-556-8640

Northwoods Chapel Sun 9:00a

50539 Mushgee Rd. (corner of Co. Rd. 622)

Deer River 56636

218-659-2784

Old Scenic Community Church Sun 9:30a

25747 Co. Rd. 340

Bigfork 56628

218-743-3953

Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church Sun 9:00a

Mass also Tu, W, 9:00a.

320 Golf Course Ln

Bigfork 56628

218-743-3255

Sand Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a

55581 Co. Rd 4

Spring Lake 56680

218-659-2872

Church website: www.sandlakealliancechurch.org

St. Catherine's Catholic Church Sat 4:00p

52265 State Hwy 46

Squaw Lake 56681

218-743-3255

St. Michael Catholic Church Sat 7:00p

12026 Lake St

Northome 56661

218-743-3255

Suomi Evangelical Lutheran Church Sun 10:30a

42935 Co. Rd. 48

Deer River 56636

218-832-3883

True Life Church Sun 10:00a

45976 Terry

Talmoon 56637

218-244-7089

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



Old Scenic Community Church

Way back in the mid-1940s, a postal delivery worker and a Presbyterian pastor from Bigfork realized something important: Though there were many children living in the rural township, they lacked somewhere to meet on Sundays. This observation led the men to encourage local residents Les and Merry Dostal to open their home for Sunday worship. As attendance grew, a permanent building became necessary, and in August 1955, Old Scenic Community Church was dedicated. It has undergone two additions since its founding 80 years ago.

In 2023, Old Scenic Community Church began partnering with Village Missions to continue to serve as “A Light in the Forest” for the greater rural community. To honor this tradition of community outreach, the church will be hosting a Vacation Bible School from July 20 - 22 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.. We are located at 25747 County Road 340, Bigfork, MN 56628. Snacks will be provided. Open to all children preschool (potty-trained only) through junior high.

You can contact us at: (218) 743-3953.

...submitted by Cheyenne Thurman



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Marcell Mn 56657



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Jason Ritter-Agent 218-244-4711
Lisa Ritter-Agent 218-259-4249

218-832-3121



Sat., July 4 • 1 p.m.
Free outdoor concert

Bigfork Valley Boys
Harold Boege, Terry Price, Jerry Hagen
will perform for the
5th annual Fourth of July
free outdoor concert at the
Spring Lake Store
Saturday, July 4th at 1:30 p.m.

Bring a chair.



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

Chicken-Apricot-Broccoli Salad

Thank you to Janet Kogler for this July recipe!

- 3 cups diced chicken
2 stalks celery
1 head broccoli
1/4 cup dried apricots, quartered
1/2 cup whole almonds (not salted)
1 cup dry penne pasta, cooked

Dressing: Pat on.

- 2 Tablespoons salad oil
2 Tablespoons orange juic
2 Tablespoons vinegar
1/4 teaspoon sugar
dash marjoram

Add: one hour after dressing

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise



Curried Chicken Salad

Thank you to Janet Kogler for this July recipe!

- 1/2 cup sweet flaked coconut, toasted at 400°, 4-5 minutes
2 cups cubed cooked chicken breast
1/2 cup Granny Smith apple, thinly sliced
1/4 cup red grapes or cherries
1/4 cup raisins
2 green onions
2 Tablespoons chopped parsley
- Toss with the following dressing: (half the dressing is plenty, depending on your taste)
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
1/4 cup chopped parsley
1-2 Tablespoons curry powder
1 Tablespoons honey
1/2 lemon, juiced (about 2 Tablespoons)
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon black pepper

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.

AD DEADLINE

for the August issue: Thursday, July 16

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Gus David

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-FOR SALE-

For sale: 42" Huskavarna tractor mower, 1,100 hrs. 2014. Nice shape, 15 hp Kawasaki motor. \$895. Call (218) 743-3933 8/26

For sale: 2018 Cub Cadet, zero turn, 48" welded deck, 21.5 hp Kawasaki motor. Very nice share, recently serviced. New blades (435 hrs.) \$2150. Call (218) 743-3933 8/26

For sale: Campbell Hausefield spray painter, \$175. Smoker Grill \$25. Call (218) 832-3050 8/26

For sale: Invacare Reliant body lift, hydraulic. Electric. Call (218) 832-3050. 8/26

For sale: Redfield Widefield classic 2x7 rifle scope in perfect condition. \$ 200. Call (218) 659-2797

For sale: Three used mower blades with center hole for 60 inch Cub Cadet zero-turn mower \$30 obo. Call (218) 835-8720, leave message, will call back. 8/26

For sale: Window air conditioner, \$50; smaller chest freezer, \$20; electric pressure washer, \$50. Call (218)910-9750 or (218) 966-2052 8/26

For sale: Building? Remodeling? Need a nice bathtub? Call (218) 259-4456 to talk. 7/26

CLASSIFIEDS

-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

For sale: Old Town canoe, used very little. Red "Guide" series, approx. 14'6". \$400 firm. Call (218) 831-8656 7/26

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

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

FILING NOTICE WIRT TOWNSHIP

Affidavits of Candidacy may be filed with the Town Clerk of Wirt at her home: 52026 Co. Rd. 31 in Wirt, starting Tuesday, July 14, 2026 through 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday July 28, 2026. Please call first: 218-659-2734.

Supervisor A – 4 Year Term

Supervisor C – 4 Year Term

Clerk – 4 Year Term

Filing Fee: \$2.00

Cheryl A. Carrigan, Clerk

Wirt Township

FILING NOTICE Oteneagen Township

Affidavits of Candidacy are being accepted by the Township Clerk from Tuesday, July 14, 2026 through July 28, 2026. Filing fee is \$2.00 for the following two positions:

Supervisor A – 4 Year Term

Clerk – 4 Year Term

To be elected in the November 3, 2026 General Election. To file or if you have any questions, contact Sharon Isaacs, Clerk at 218-246-8119.

Sharon Isaacs, Clerk

Oteneagen Township

-FISHING- BOATS, GEAR

For sale: 1973 14' Crestliner fishing boat with 3 swivel boat seats and carpeted floor, 1997 HMDE boat trailer, and 1963 4 hp Johnson outboard motor. \$600. Call (218) 910-9750 or (218) 966-2052 8/26

-POWER SPORTS- ACCESSORIES

For sale: Rear window (tinted) for Polaris Ranger, new in box \$50. Call (218) 835-8720. Leave message, will call back 7/26

-FARM-

For sale: ATV pull behind disc 30 inches wide, good condition. \$ 50. Located on Sand lake, Call (218) 659-2797 8/26

For sale: Side delivery hay rake. \$500. Call (218) 832-3050 8/26

Town of Carpenter Itasca County Notice of Annual Meeting

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Carpenter Township, County of Itasca, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Town Meeting will reconvene on Tuesday July 14, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Carpenter Town Hall, address 18286 State Highway 1, Togo, MN 55723. The Annual Town Meeting will conduct all business regarding the future of ownership/ maintenance of the RollerCoaster Road. All permanent and seasonal residents of Carpenter Township are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Cheryl Steege

Carpenter Township Clerk

Town of Carpenter - Itasca County Notice of Election

Notice is hereby given of the general election on November 3, 2026, for federal, state and local offices. Voting for all offices and other issues will be conducted by mail ballot. No local polling place will exist. The following township positions will be elected:

Supervisor B – 4-year term

Supervisor C – 4-year term

Notice of filing period

The filing period for the offices listed above shall begin on Tuesday July 14, 2026, and end on July 28, 2026, at 5:00 pm. A qualified resident of the Town of Carpenter with proof of residency and interested in becoming a supervisor should contact Cheryl Steege, the Town Clerk, to file for office. She can be reached by email carpentertownclerk@outlook.com or by phone at 218-743-2649. The Clerk will keep open hours at the Carpenter Town Hall for filing on July 28, 2026, from 1:00 pm through 5:00 pm.

Submitted by: Cheryl Steege, Town of Carpenter Clerk

Filing Notice Marcell Township

Notice is hereby given to qualified voters of the Township of Marcell, County of Itasca, State of Minnesota, that filing for township office will be held for a two-week period beginning Tuesday, July 14, 2026, and ending Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at 5:00 PM.

Affidavits of Candidacy and \$2.00 filing fee may be filed, by appointment, with the Township Clerk, 48705 Town Hall Road, Marcell, MN. Please call 218-832-3965 to make an appointment.

Offices to be filled at the November 2026 General Election are:

Supervisor (A) – Four Year Term

Supervisor (A) – Four Year Term

Treasurer – Four Year Term

Submitted by

Marcell Township Clerk

FILING NOTICE POMROY TOWNSHIP

Affidavits of Candidacy may be filed with the Town Clerk of Pomroy at her home, starting Tuesday, July 14, 2026 through 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday July 28, 2026. Please call first: 218-897-5060

Supervisor A – 4 Year Term

Supervisor B – 4 Year Term

Treasurer – 4 Year Term

Filing Fee: \$2.00

Cheryl Jackson, Clerk

Pomroy Township

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Put WATTS AD in subject line.

If no response, please resend.

Visit your co-op at

www.NorthItascaElectric.com

get updates on Facebook!

'In the Stix in 2026' Bigfork Wilderness Days July 17-19

Plan a trip into Bigfork for the Bigfork Wilderness Days celebration - with games, contests, food - lots of food - music and vendors! Festivities start at noon on Friday with a swap meet, BBQ contest and Youth Dance. Other events include a golf tournament, band/open mic, car show, Escape Room, duckie race, kids' movies, street dance, 5k and open trap shoot. In fact, there is something for almost everyone!

Selected events are shown here - for more information, visit the Facebook page for Bigfork MN Wilderness Days.

Friday, July 17

12 noon - Wilderness Days begin with vendors and a Swap Meet

Afternoon - BBQ contest starts cookin' with public tasting at 5 p.m. in Kocian's parking lot, winners announced at 6:30 p.m.

6 - 8 p.m. PTA Youth Dance upstairs City Hall

7 p.m. Stages Theatre brings Shrek The Musical to the Edge Center. Tickets online at edgecenterarts.org/events or at the door: adults \$10, youth \$5.



Salad Luncheon

Jesse Lake Lutheran Church
45834 Co. Rd. 4, Talmoon

Thursday, July 16 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Free Will donation for meal.
Tickets for raffles available.

North Itasca Electric is on Facebook!



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Saturday, July 18

8:30 a.m. Bloody Mary Contest at Golf on the Edge, followed at 10 a.m. with a golf tournament (registration starts at 9 a.m.)

9 a.m. B.I.G. serves up caramel rolls at the BIG community center building on Main Street

10 a.m. Medallion Hunt begins at the Information Booth

Starting at 10 a.m. - Band/Open Mic on the Main Stage next to the B.I.G. building, Kids Zone and Petting Zoo next to the Vet's office, Car Show in Kocian's parking lot, Swap Meet in AG parking lot, Sawdust Pile and Foam Party at ice rink.

Starting at 11 a.m. - Escape Room, upstairs at City Hall and Bingo at BIG building.

1 p.m. Live propane burn demo at Fire Hall

2 p.m. Bean Bag Tourney at Wilderness Bar

2:30 p.m. Kiddie Parade (lineup at 2:15 p.m., Phil's Autobody)

4 p.m. Main Parade (line up at 3:30 p.m. trailer park road). No entry fee, but register at <https://form.jotform.com/260625145865>

6 p.m. Duckie Races at Hwy 38 bridge

6:30 - 10 p.m. Kids' movies upstairs City Hall

7 p.m. Shrek The Musical at the Edge Center

10 p.m. Street dance at Wilderness Bar



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Sunday, July 19

8 a.m. - 5k run starts at Phil's Autobody. Registration 7:30 a.m.

8 a.m. - noon Breakfast pancakes and fly-in at airport

1 - 5 p.m. Open Trap Shoot fundraiser for trap team at gun range

2 p.m. Shrek The Musical at the Edge Center

2 p.m. Bean Bag Tourney at Wilderness Bar



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