



NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

WATTS NEWS

VOL. 29 NO. 9

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

SEPTEMBER 2026

CEO Report

Good afternoon,

It is a stunning day today. I just enjoyed a weekend fishing with my college roommate Brad, and buddies Mark and Tom. Fishing wasn't fast and furious, but the stories were great and the time together was relaxing.

We took a little water tour to explore Turtle Portage on Lake of the Woods. I couldn't imagine the efforts to build that wonder that has been in service since the 1960s. It reminds me of the system our communities built for our benefit over many generations.

Over the past few months, I have written about data centers. I am not alone in seeking more information

about these loads, and efforts are underway across Minnesota to answer community questions.

I was able to team with four individuals willing to share information with us and help to answer questions we may have. I plan to host a community event October 14th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Marcell Family Center.



Brad Dolinski, CEO

CEO to p.2>

Member Services Update

by Drew Francisco

Hello again everyone! What a summer it has been so far. Wonderful weather and a lot of outdoor experiences for the family and me.

It's safe to say that I have now been demoted from fisherman to deckhand. Baiting hooks and handling the fish is about all I'm needed for anymore with these kids of mine: All good things.

So far this summer the

load control switch out has been taking up most of my time. But we have also been working on some other exciting projects, one

being a Revolving Loan Fund. If you haven't heard of it before, I'll take a moment to explain. A revolving loan fund is designed to assist the communities we serve with funds to

ensure community safety, business retention and start up, and potential expansion. The funding for this program starts off with a combination of a

Member to p.2>

Save the date!

Data Centers

Panel discussion and Q/A

Wednesday, October 14
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Marcell Family Center



Fall Round Up grant application deadline Oct.1

Thanks to the generosity of nearly 85% of the Members of North Itasca Electric Co-op., the Board of Trustees for Operation Round-Up will have approximately \$8,600 to distribute to various communities and organizations in the area. The deadline for grant applications is Thursday, Oct. 1 at 4:30 p.m.. Application forms along with instructions can be obtained:

- by e-mail to andrewf@nieci.com
- online at www.northitascaelectric.com
- contacting your North Itasca Electric Co-op. Inc., Director or by contacting one of the Trust Board Members listed on page 5.

The Trust Board will meet in early October at the cooperative's office in Round-Up to p.5>



Spotlight on Unique Places:

Collections of Clyde Lowe

by Sally Sedgwick

It's hidden in plain sight – a place life horse, restored vintage tractors, railroad advertising posters in the of the “most enchanted, unusual and unique collections.” Collections to page 6>

A short drive on Lake Street in Northome however, and you will notice Clyde Lowe's building at once. Outside the unassuming structure are giant vintage gas station signs: Midland, Mobilgas, Phillips 66, Sinclair ... with Dino on top.

But it's the inside of the building that will surprise and delight.

Logging and car emblem artifacts line the walls, sharing space with a model of the USS Constitution, a Hobart Reitan/Terry Boquist carved larger-than-



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Fair photos**

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Office Hours

Mon. - Thurs.
6 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
(218) 743-3131

CEO Report, continued

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I have been asked; why would you want to host a meeting like this? I want to hear from my Member-Owners. I want to hear your concerns or support for this type of load well before anyone knocks on our door. I have said before, I would love to serve one of these loads if we can do so responsibly.

The benefits for your cooperative would be substantial should the right partner come to talk.

I recently sent out some back of the napkin math to our directors. These data storage facilities run at a very constant load factor. Estimating the usage and revenues can be fairly accurate. If we were to secure a one-

megawatt load there could be roughly \$650,000 financial benefit to the bottom line at North Itasca. We can serve roughly thirty megawatts without any construction on the transmission system. Yes, there is power available to serve this load at North Itasca Electric.

I want to give a big shout out to Dan and Andrew in our office. They both serve as volunteers in the Bigfork Fire Department.

They have been working closely with Dan Cooper from Great River Energy. Mr. Cooper is helping secure a grant and loan to purchase equipment needed for the fire department. The additional benefit to

this work is that we will establish a revolving loan fund for economic development in our communities as the fire department repays their loan.

We are rolling into fall suddenly. Roxanne shared information about water heaters this month. Fall is a fine time to connect the hose to the bottom of your water heater. Run some hot water for a couple of minutes. Open the valve on the bottom of your water heater and flush the sediment out of the tank. This helps keep your water heater running at its optimal level.

By your side! Miigwech

Brad

Member Services

>from p.1

loan and grant funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Once a project that qualifies the initial program guidelines and stipulations is selected, the entity will begin to make payments back to the revolving loan fund. These payments are offered with little to no interest. When enough payments have been made, another project can be funded. We are currently in the beginning stages of this program, but with the help of Dan, Brad and Great River Energy's Economic Development Strategists, I believe the potential for this program could become reality.

To me this is very exciting on a multitude of levels: revitalization and retention of existing small business, potential for start up funds for new business, replacement of



Drew Francisco

outdated equipment and PPE for the volunteer Fire Departments and the list goes on and on.

Being a part of these communities has shown me that we need help. Help to accomplish all these things I've listed above. This program may not be the ultimate solution to all our problems, but I believe it will point us in the right direction.

I won't take up anymore of your time with black and white, but I hope all of you have enjoyed the last month as much as I did. As always, please reach out if you have any questions or needs over the next few weeks!

*Until next time,
Drew*

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



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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

Highlights from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
July 23, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on July 23, 2026

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

Directors Present via Zoom: J. White.

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

- Pledge of allegiance was recited.
- Motion to adopt the agenda. Second; motion carried. A motion was made to consent agenda. Second; motion carried.
- Drew & Dan presented the Safety Discussion. Drew spoke about air quality with all the smoke from the wildfires and showed the board an air quality graph he found online that shows all fires burning in the US and Canada. Dan talked about the extreme heat and to be aware of the symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke.
- Dan presented the Operating Report. Moved to close WO #24732 & WO #24733. Second; motion carried. Motion to approve Dan's report. Second; motion carried.
- Board Policy: Andy reviewed Policy 300.20 – Service Standards. Motion to show the policy 300.20 was reviewed on 7/23/26. Second; motion carried. Discussion was held on Policy 300.40 – Energy Management and Efficiency. Motion to show Policy 300.40 was reviewed on 7/23/26. Second; motion carried.
- Daryl presented the Line Department report. MREA was on site for crew observations. Rachel was on site for Work Order Inspections. Crews have completed 9 new services.
- Drew presented the Member Services report. He met with the Squaw Lake City Council about purchasing a generator for the community center and fire hall.
- Dan presented the Office Report. The RUS audit is continuing, and we have provided additional information as requests are being sent. 990 was submitted to Brady Martz. We have an office intern, Sam Rahier, with us for July and August.
- Brad presented the CEO report. He toured a data center in Duluth on 7/1 and also attended the GR Chamber event about data centers with Drew on 7/20. Larry, Lloyd & Tom will attend the NRECA Region 5 & 6 Meeting.
- Wes gave the MREA report.
- Lloyd presented the GRE report.
- Round Table discussion was held. Motion to adjourn. Second; motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Capital credits: Your share of the cooperative advantage

It's important to give credit where credit is due. Whether someone has volunteered their time or talent, pitched in to organize a large event or contributed to an overall team effort, recognition matters. As a member-owner of North Itasca Electric Cooperative, you play an important role in the cooperative's success, and capital credits are one way the co-op recognizes — and credits — your contribution.

North Itasca doesn't operate to generate profits for outside shareholders. Instead, we operate on an at-cost basis. This means the revenue collected from you, our members, is used to help provide reliable electric service, maintain infrastructure and support daily operations.

At the end of each year, if our operating revenue exceeds those expenses, the remaining amount is proportionally allocated to members as capital credits based on how much electricity they purchased

HOW CAPITAL CREDITS WORK

Electric co-ops are not-for-profit and operate at cost. Capital credits are a financial benefit of co-op membership.

1. Members pay their electric bills, and we track their business with us each month.
2. The co-op pays operating expenses throughout the year and allocates any leftover operating revenue as capital credits.
3. When financial conditions permit, the co-op board votes to retire (pay) capital credits to the members.
4. We send members their share of capital credits as a bill credit or check.

during that year.

Rather than being paid out immediately, the funds are invested in the cooperative as a source of financing for major investments, such as power lines, transformers, trucks, equipment, inventory and system improvements. This process reduces the need for additional borrowing and supports the co-op's mission to provide reliable,

affordable service.

When financial conditions allow, the co-op's board of directors then determines how much of those previously allocated capital credits can be retired (or returned) to members. Current members typically receive this as a bill credit, while former members receive a check by mail.

Capital credits are one of the unique benefits of

cooperative membership and serve as a key difference between our business model and others. We return excess margins to the people who support us and helped create them: you, the members.

Since 1985, North Itasca Electric has returned \$7,566,297.92 in capital credits to our members.

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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.

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Round-Up applications due Oct. 1

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Bigfork to review grant requests and make awards. Electric service area is eligible to apply for a grant from the trust. Examples of grants would be funding for fire department equipment, youth and school programs, arts and education, senior citizen groups and other community programs and projects. Grants will generally be made to nonprofit,

civic or community-based organizations that demonstrate a commitment to enhance the quality of life in the region. When completing the grant application, please read and follow the directions closely. Make sure the application is completed and includes a complete and accurate mailing address. Make sure your IRS tax-exempt letter if appropriate is attached. Not following

directions or leaving parts of the application blank or incomplete could cause the application to be denied. Applications received after deadline stated above will also be disallowed. If you have any questions on completing the application, please contact Drew Francisco at North Itasca Electric cooperative, (218) 743-1313, or one of the Trust Board members listed.

North Itasca Electric Community Trust Board			
District	Trust board member	Area represented	Phone #
1	Linda Dreher	Mizpah	218-897-5086
2	Meredie Rounds	Bigfork	218-743-3312
3	Bruce Steege	Effie	218-743-2649
4	Greg Anselmo	Bigfork	218-244-4648
5	Gary Chapman	Marcell	217-402-3745
6	Stacy Swedberg	Northome	218-239-0220
7	Lisa Peterson	Squaw Lake/Inger	218-659-4266
8	Kevin Grenson	Marcell	952-292-7414
9	Lisa Polchow	Deer River	218-246-9680

Resources perform reliably during July heat wave

A July heat wave brought consecutive days of extreme temperatures throughout the region and, with it, elevated electricity demand and rapidly changing market conditions across the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) footprint.

For Great River Energy, the heat wave reinforced the importance of maintaining a diverse portfolio of resources capable of responding when members need power most.

As temperatures and humidity increased, GRE’s generation and transmission assets performed reliably as air conditioning use and electricity demand intensified across the region.

All available GRE peaking plants were dispatched during the period, helping maintain reliability and protect members from high wholesale market prices. These plants also provided additional value when not operating by remaining available to start quickly and offer ancillary services that support grid operations.

The heat wave also highlighted the complementary nature of the cooperative’s power supply portfolio. While wind facilities remained available, lower-than-normal wind speeds limited production during portions of the heat wave. Solar production across the region was also reduced by wildfire smoke. At the same time, energy hedge products provided fixed-price energy that helped reduce exposure to volatile market prices.

Another key factor was GRE’ and its members’ extensive load modifying resources program, one of the largest of its kind in the country. These programs reduce electricity use during peak pricing or reliability events, helping support both the grid and cooperative members during periods of high demand.

One of the biggest challenges during the heat wave was increased volatility across the MISO system. Rapid changes in load, generation availability and hourly energy

prices created a dynamic operating environment for grid operators. Despite these challenges, the power supply portfolio performed as intended and helped position GRE’ to meet members’ needs.

Editor's note: An interesting webpage at www.misoenergy.org provides real-time grid condition, generation mix, and supply and demand information. MISO stretches across the middle of the country from Canada to the Gulf of America.

Keep us up-to-date

Please keep your contact information current with our office. Please notify North Itasca Electric of any changes in property ownership, mailing addresses, phone numbers and email addresses.

You can send in a change of address using the form below.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

September kicks off the fall shoulder season, when cooler mornings and milder evenings often mean you can give your heating and cooling system a break. Open windows, use ceiling fans and enjoy the fresh air whenever temperatures allow. It's also the perfect time to schedule annual HVAC maintenance before colder weather arrives. Because demand is typically lower during the fall, heating and cooling professionals often have greater availability, making it easier to book an appointment. Regular maintenance can improve your system's efficiency, help prevent unexpected breakdowns and keep your home comfortable all year long.

Source: Department of Energy

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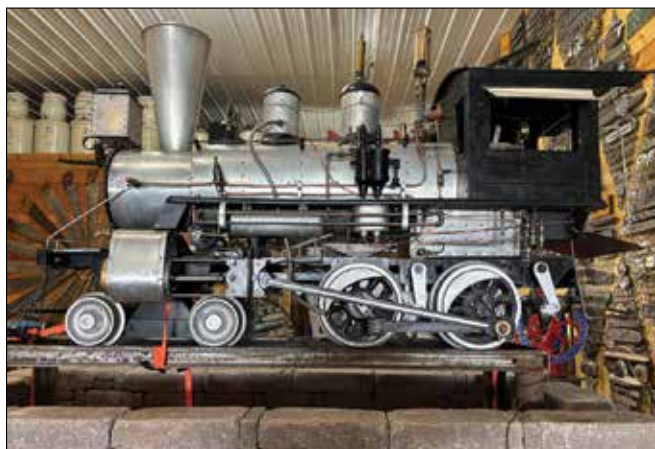
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(Photos, from above, clockwise) New train replica just being moved in (photo by Richard Lacher), outside of building, wall display including longest commercial two-man saw, Gabriel horn and photo of cook using it, axe emblems, pedal tractors, gasoline brand, Mountain Dew sign, disolay horse carved by Hobart Reitan and Terry Boquist.

Enchanted, unusual & unique collections of Clyde Lowe

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art deco style and more, much more.

Directly in front as you enter is a brand new arrival, a replica working steam engine that used to be displayed in a store on Howard St. in Hibbing. About six feet long, it is scaled from the steam engines used in the mining industry; this one has lights, wheels that turn and a steam whistle.

For many visitors, it will be the history of the lumberjack from the Pacific coast to the Minnesota northwoods that is most fascinating. When land was first cut over, trees were much larger: one display of commercial two-man saws features the largest in the world at 24 feet, 1 inch. All logs from one camp were marked by a unique symbol hammered into it with an iron hammer head. When the camp broke up, the iron heads were discarded and can still be found in the woods. Some hammers had unique brands for the logger; both can be found on the walls of the museum along with axes, picaroons, crocks, photographs and a Gabriel horn.

The Gabriel horn called the loggers into meals, and – depending on lung power – could be heard for up to a mile away.

Whether it is a logging camp coffee grinder or antique glass gas pump, each exhibit is fully restored, dust- and rust-free and looks brand new. Lowe credits local craftsmen like



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Dave Moyer, Clarence Ferdig, Nikki Besser and Bob Hamilton (Pine River) among those who helped put the final touches on his collections after he has done the rough installation.

Born on a cattle ranch in western South Dakota, Lowe's family moved to the Northome area in the late 1960s. He went on to a 42 year career on the BNSF railroad, traveling much of the country. He first started collecting in 1990 with toy pedal tractors and has several hundred now of all brands.

Some of the exhibits come from miles away: Lowe has friends that alert him to interesting things from Alaska to the Carolinas. What is next on his horizon? Well, he said, there are some life-sized dinosaurs being made in Texas...

Although the collections are not open to the public, Lowe said he would be glad to share them by appointment by calling (218) 553-0684.



Roxanne's Repair Tips

by Roxanne Prather, Member Services Representative

How can I figure out why I have hot water in the morning, but it cools off during the day?

- **Check to make sure that the thermostat is set right.**

Your thermostat should be set to at least 120°F – 140°F. If it is set below or the thermostat is malfunctioning, the tank would only heat partially, therefore depleting your hot water faster.

- **Faulty heating element**

Upper element: Fires first after a cold start to quickly heat the top of the tank, giving you hot water fast. It also re-engages when cold water rises to the top during heavy use.

Lower element: Takes over once the upper zone reaches temperature, heating the bulk of the water to maintain a steady supply

No hot water at all: Often means the upper element is bad, because its thermostat also controls the lower element's power.

Slow to heat up or runs out of hot water quickly: Usually points to a lower element issue, as it's the main "workhorse" for maintaining temperature.

Only hot water at the top: Suggests the lower element is not working, so the bulk of the tank stays cold.

Cold water at the bottom: May mean the upper element is not heating the top zone, so cold water can rise and mix in. Use a multimeter to test the elements: If the element has continuity, it's good; if it's open (no continuity), it's bad.

- **To test the elements**

Make sure power is shut off.

Access the elements: most have an upper and a lower element. Remove the metal cover and any insulation covering the end of the elements. Disconnect the element wires from the thermostat and label them to avoid any confusion when hooking them back up. Set the multimeter to the resistance (ohms, Ω) setting.

Test each element: place the multimeter probes on the two exposed terminals of the element. A good element will show a reading in the hundreds of ohms (often 30–100 Ω for standard 240V elements).

If the reading is infinite (OL) or zero, the element is open or shorted

- **Faulty thermostat**

Upper thermostat failure: No hot water at all, lukewarm water, or both elements not heating. The upper thermostat is the master control — if it fails, it won't send power to the lower element

Lower thermostat failure: Limited hot water or water that never gets fully hot, but the upper element may still work

Both failing: No hot water.

- **Test the upper thermostat**
Make sure power is shut off

Set the upper thermostat to the highest setting and the lower thermostat to the lowest setting. Disconnect the wires from the upper thermostat terminals. With the water temperature below the set point, use a multimeter in ohms/continuity mode to check for a near zero reading when the terminals should be closed. If there's no continuity when it should be closed, the upper thermostat is bad. Also check the high limit reset button: if it trips and won't reset, the upper thermostat may be allowing overheating

Test the lower thermostat: make sure power is shut off

Disconnect the wires from the lower thermostat terminals. With the water temperature below the set point, check for continuity. If there's no continuity when it should be closed, the lower thermostat is bad. If you have hot water but it's not fully hot, measure voltage at the lower element: no voltage means the lower thermostat is faulty.

- **Sediment buildup and scaling-over time**

Minerals and hard water accumulate as sediment at the bottom of the tank, this acts as an insulating layer that impedes heat transfer causing longer heat times and cooler water at the taps. This is more common when the tank is older if you have hard water. Regular flushing the tank in these situations can prevent this build up.

- **Water heater size and demand**

Make sure you have the right size water heater for your family size.

Quick sizing guidelines to ensure adequate hot water supply for daily use:

- 30-gallon tank : 1-2 people
- 40-gallon tank : 2-3 people
- 50-gallon tank : 3-4 people
- 50-60 gallon tank : 3-4 people with teenagers
- 60-80 gallon tank : 4-5 people-high peak demand
- 80-105 gallon tank : 5+ people- off peak programs

- **Check the dip tube:**

If you notice cold water after replacing the heater or after a long time this may be the cause.

Gopher State One Call

Whenever you plan to dig over 12 inches deep, 2 days before you start, call Gopher One at 811 or (800) 252-1166. Gopher One will contact all area utilities to determine the locations of utility owned underground cables, lines and pipes. It's required by Minnesota state law and it is a free service.

Keep in mind that only utility owned lines will be



marked, so customers need to be cautious of any customer-owned underground electric or gas lines that may be located between their meter pole and house.

When you call, be sure to have available your township name and legal description (township, range and section numbers).

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September Refrigerator Sale

GRFC2353AF Regular \$2032.15 Sale \$1869.58

Frigidaire 22.6 c.f. counter depth, French door refrigerator with ice/water dispenser, LED lighting, power failure alarm. Stainless.



SJG2254FS Regular \$1818.13 Sale \$1672.68

Sharp 22 c.f. 36" wide Counter depth French door refrigerator with ice & water dispenser. Triple cooling, fingerprint resistant. Stainless.



LRDCS2603S Regular \$1794.65 Sale \$1651.08

LG 26 c.f. bottom mount refrigerator, door cooling, 33" wide. Stainless.



FRSS2623AW \$1062.77 SALE \$977.75

Frigidaire 25.6 c.f. 36" wide S X S refrigerator with ice & water dispenser. Door alarm.



FRN2813AF Regular \$1648.79 Sale \$1516.89

Frigidaire 28.8 c.f. 36" wide French door refrigerator with even temp cooling. Stainless.



FRT1936AW \$719.74 SALE \$662.17

Frigidaire 19 c.f. top mount Refrigerator 29 7/10" wide. White.



MRF29D3AST Regular \$1615 (-\$175 dent)=\$1440 Sale \$1324.80

Midea 29.3 c.f. 36" wide jumbo capacity French door refrigerator with Ice & water. One touch autofill, dual ice maker. Stainless.



CRTE2044VB \$657.01 SALE \$604.45

Crosley 20 c.f. top mount refrigerator. Optional ice maker.



If you don't see what you're looking for call me and I will be happy to help you! Roxanne

(218) 743-3132 or
roxannep@nieci.com

CBMH1873AB Regular \$858 Sale \$789.36
Crosley 18.7 c.f. bottom freezer refrigerator.



CRMH203ASA Regular \$726 Sale \$667.92
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BVCF Golf Fundraiser winners

The Bigfork Valley Community Foundation recently held its annual golf tournament at Golf on the Edge in Bigfork. A portion of the proceeds from the event will be used to benefit community grants for the foundation’s giving area.

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

(right) 1st Place: Craig Stickfort, Mark Meyer, Lynn Schoeberl, Clint Snow

(below) 2nd Place: Brady Thomas, Don Lewis, Eythan Stangland, Sam Stangland



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Edge Gallery

(RE)COLLECT



September 3-26
(RE)COLLECT
offered by Susanna Gaunt

Artists' Reception (free appetizers):
Thursday, Sep. 3, 5-7 p.m.

Gallery hours:
Thursday-Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

by Tina Appleby
Collection. Connection. Collection through Connection --- and Connection through Collection.

Artist Susanna Gaunt is an award-winning installation artist and instructor living in Duluth. Her creations are inspired by historic curiosity cabinets, natural history museums, and natural specimen collections of her own. The two and three dimensional works in mediums of paper, embroidery, photography and collage are interactive, and sometimes even participatory for the viewer. Gallery guests for this show may be invited to open drawers,



turn on light boxes ... answer prompts ... flip over seed-like sculptures...

"Aiming to blur the lines between observer and the observed, I impose unexpected connections between humans and non-humans to create works that invite curiosity and reflection," Gaunt explains. ".... The human condition (is analyzed) through a scientific and philosophical lens."

The manifestation of Susanna Gaunt's collections and connections have recently expanded to include community stories and sharing of experiences. For instance, when you visit the Edge Gallery in Bigfork to see her show, you will have an opportunity to respond to a question on a postcard which will then be randomly mailed to another participant. We may also provide an opportunity for the public to share their own collections!

Workshop offered

Last but not least, Susanna Gaunt will conduct a 3D Collage Workshop on Sat., Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for people age 15 or older, (or 12-14 years if mature and/or accompanied by an adult.) Many/most supplies will be included, though students may want to bring their own box,



along with a bag lunch for the lunchbreak. A fee will be charged.

Registration and more info can be obtained by contacting the Edge at (218) 743-6670 on or after Sept. 1.

Susanna Gaunt holds a BFA in Painting, Drawing and Printmaking from the U of M, Duluth and a BA in Philosophy from Boston College. She has had solo shows around the region including Great Lakes Aquarium, Watermark Art Center, Douglas Historical Society, UW Superior's Kruk Gallery, MacRostie Art Center and the Duluth Art Institute.

Gaunt has received multiple grants from multiple entities for her artwork and teaching, and specifically wishes to credit the activity associated with the Edge show to the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

North Itasca Electric is on Facebook!

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WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO ME

BY HEIDI SCHRECK

**Saturday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m. and
Sunday, Sept. 13, 2 p.m.
at the Edge Center in Bigfork**

When Patty Feld read the play, *What the Constitution Means to Me* by Heidi Schreck, she knew she would love to act in or direct it. But then she came across the play already in production, and so she is bringing it to the Edge of the Wilderness community!

Directed by Kendra Carlson, and featuring Cheryl Skafte as Heidi Schreck, Chris Nollet as Danny, and Aspen Herbert as a teenage debater, *What the Constitution Means to Me* brings the audience along Schreck's teenage journey across the country participating in and winning debates to pay for college. Schreck diverts from a re-enactment of a debate, inserting personal anecdotes and family history, relating how our founding document has shaped the lives of her and those around her.

As her character evolves, Schreck connects the audience with her growing awareness of the Constitution and its impact on laws and individuals, eventually bringing Schreck back as an adult to debate against a teenager on whether the Constitution should be abolished. Will she argue for or against? You may be surprised!

What the Constitution Means to Me will conclude with participation from the audience through questions submitted for the actors to pose on stage. A thought-provoking, hilarious, and hope-bringing performance!

Performances to be held Saturday, September 12 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, September 13 at 2 p.m. Tickets at the door: Pay what you like, suggested \$10. Some adult language, see www.edgecenterarts.org for more details.

Classic Movie Series

by Jack Nachbar

This political season, as everyone knows, is an unusually intense one. That's why the first movie in a new season of the Classic Movie Series in Bigfork seems relevant, even though the time of the story in the film is set in the late 1930s.

Charlie Chaplin wrote, directed and stars in the comedy *The Great Dictator* (1940), a smash hit at a time in the USA when WWII had broken out in Europe and, in the United States, seemed increasingly possible.

Charlie plays "Adenoid Hynkel," a parody of Adolph Hitler, and comedian Jack Oakie struts around as "Benzino Hapaloni," who is a much overplayed imitation of Mussolini.

The movie is great fun. Chaplin gives speeches in whacko gibberish. Paulette Goddard bops Nazi-like soldiers with a frying pan. Chaplin, also playing a little Jewish barber in a country, like Germany,

persecuting Jews, is mistaken for Hynkel.

The Great Dictator was much honored then and now. It was nominated for five Oscars and in 1927 was named to the National Film Registry.

The Great Dictator will be shown at 6:30 p.m. at the Edge Center Theater in Bigfork on Thursday, Sept. 10. FREE! and all are invited.

Special Bonus: A short parody of Nazis starring the immortal 3 Stooges, *You Nazty Spy*, also 1940, will also be shown.

OCTOBER CLASSIC MOVIE: Randolph Scott stars in one of the best Westerns of the 1950s, *Ride Lonesome* (1959). Thursday, October 8 at 6:30 p.m. at The Edge.

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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>

September 10: Native Mussels

Presenter: Dr. Bernard Sietman is a malacologist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources’ Center for Aquatic Mollusk Programs in Lake City,.

Topic Summary: Explore freshwater mussels; their unique life cycles, their role in filtering and improving water quality, and what their presence reveals about ecosystem health.

October 1: Groundwater, Springs and Effects on Lakes

Presenter: Dr. Crystal Ng, Associate Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the U of Minn., focussing on shallow groundwater systems.

Topic Summary: Explore why connections between ground and surface water matter for water quantity and quality in lakes and aquifers.

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 .

Sept. 9

Find out about DNR work in enhancing habitat on shallow lakes and wetland management programs with Nicole Hansel-Welch, DNR shallow lakes program supervisor, and Josh Kavanagh, DNR wetland program supervisor,

Sept. 23

Join Paul Burr, Minnesota DNR deer coordinator, to discuss regulation changes, update on chronic wasting disease and an outlook for the deer season..

Discovery Center fall hours

The Edge of Wilderness Discovery Center just north of Marcell on Highway 38 will be open ,10 a.m to 6 p.m. one Friday, Saturday and Sunday starting Sept. 8 and will close for the season on Oct. 4 until May 2027. Visit the center for interpretive displays and a gift shop. There are indoor and outdoor educational venues, trail, pier and naturalist programs. You can also rent a kayak for a day on the water! Located at 49554 State Highway 38. Call for more information: (218) 832-3161.

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.

Bigfork sets preliminary budget/levy at a 9% increase

by Sally Sedgwick

At its August 11 meeting the Bigfork City Council agreed to work with Karvako, an engineering firm from Bemidji, on airport planning and discussed the budget and payable 2027 levy.

The preliminary budget was discussed. The increase over last year was partially due to increased cost of street lighting, said David. The preliminary levy request will be \$220,977, or an increase of about 9% over last year. The final levy request is due in December and can be reduced but not increased. The levy has been constant since 2021 when it was increased by 30%.

The 2025 audit has been completed and was submitted in time for the city to qualify for state Local Government Aid of about \$120,000, according to Clerk/Treasurer Melissa David. The Scenic Estates TIF has now been decertified, she said.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum

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.

Squaw Lake

Fire Department

2026 Schedule of Events

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



To stay up to date, follow us on Facebook

Defensive Driving

Retired Minnesota State Patrol Trooper Mike Flatley offers a defensive driving class by Zoom for ages 55 and older. Two classes are scheduled in Sepotember for Tuesday, Sept. 15, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.. and Monday, Sept. 21 from 5 to 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.

area bookmobile stops

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

Mondays: Sept. 28; Oct. 19

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

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

Tuesdays: Sept. 8, 29; Oct. 20

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: Sept. 10; Oct. 1 & 22

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

Effie asked to move welcome sign

by Sally Sedgwick

At its July 13 and August 10 meetings, the Effie City Council heard that the Bigfork Volunteer Fire Department had rejected an offer on the two lots from the old post office and plans to demolish the current building and place a water holding tank on the property.

The council discussed a request from the Minnesota Department of Transportation to move the “Welcome to Effie” sign on State Highway 1 on the east side of the city away from the road.

Two councilor seats and the mayoral position will be on the Nov. 3 election ballot.

In other business, the council:

- Heard that Powell Excavating donated sand for the kid’s games at Rodeo Daze.
- Discussed cleanup of the property across from the church. Lacking bids from the tax forfeit process, the property will now go to auction.
- Heard that the kitchen oven needs replacement.

The next regular meetings are scheduled for Monday, September 14 and Monday, October 12 at 6 p.m. in the Community Center.

Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum

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.

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 (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

Community News

.....

Bigfork

Join in on the first annual POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony 18 hole golf tournament at Golf on the Edge, Bigfork, on Saturday, Sept. 19. Best ball, 2-putt max. Tee off at 10 a.m., registration begins at 9 a.m. and Empty Chair ceremony at 9:30 a.m. Four person co-ed teams, limit 18 teams. Prizes for closest to pin, longest putt, most patriotic team. Raffles, split the pot, silent auction and cash beer cart. \$75 per person.

Marcell

Boot Scootin' in the Woods! The Bigfork Valley Community Foundation presents its 19th Annual Dinner fundraiser at the Wilderness Barn in Bigfork on Sunday, Sept. 13 from 4 to 7 p.m. It's a festive evening with music by Sam Miltich & the Clearwater Hot Club, dinner catered by Ron Carpenter and dessert catered by the Timberwolf Inn. Guests also have a chance to bid on a wide selection of themed baskets. Tickets are \$50 at the Discovery Center north of Marcell, the Gift Nest at Bigfork Valley or by phone at (218) 743-4116. This year a portion of proceeds will benefit Bigfork Valley Emergency Medical Services: advanced life support ambulance services.

Edge of the Wilderness

It's time for the annual Bargains Are Great on Highway 38 garage sales! Super bargains to be found from Effie to Grand Rapids along Highway 38 on the third weekend in September, Sept. 18-20. Sale times may vary; for more information: (800) 754-0011.



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Thurs., Fri: 5-7 p.m.
Sat: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

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6 a.m.-10 p.m., 7 days a week

Area Church Directory

.....

Alvwood Community Church Sun 10:00a 58712 Co. Rd. 131 Blackduck 56630 218-659-4681	Effie Fredheim Lutheran Church (ELCA) Sun 8:30a Hwy 1 Effie 56639 218-743-3368	Northome Community Church Sun 10:00a 12071 Bartlett St. Northome 56661 218-556-8640
Balsam Bible Chapel Sun 10:30a 41516 Scenic Hwy 7 Bovey 55709 218-245-1960	First Presbyterian Church, BF Sun 10:15a 109 Ash St. Bigfork 56628 218-743-3783	Northwoods Chapel Sun 9:00a 50539 Mushgee Rd. (corner of Co. Rd. 622) Deer River 56636 218-659-2784
Bear River Lutheran Church Sun 10:00a 11141 Hwy 22 Cook 55723 218-376-1012	Gemmel Community Church Sun 10:00a 10609 Town Rd 34 Gemmel 56660 218-897-5966	Old Scenic Community Church Sun 9:30a 25747 Co. Rd. 340 Bigfork 56628 218-743-3953
Bethany Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a 35297 State Highway 6 Deer River, MN 56636 218-246-8398	Good Hope Church - Bigfork Sun 10:00a 101 Golf Course Ln. Bigfork, MN 56628 218-556-9856	Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church Sun 9:00a Mass also Tu, W, 9:00a. 320 Golf Course Ln Bigfork 56628 218-743-3255
Bethesda Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a Mizpah 56660 218-897-5654	Grace Community Church (ELCA) Sun 10:15a 401 State Hwy 38 N Bigfork 56628 218-743-3368	Sand Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a 55581 Co. Rd 4 Spring Lake 56680 218-659-2872 Church website: www.sandlakealliancechurch.org
Bowstring Chapel Sun 10:15a 45114 Co Rd 133 Deer River 56636 218-832-3171	Hope Lutheran Church Sun 10:30 a.m. 12234 Third St. Northome 56661 218-897-5654	St. Catherine's Catholic Church Sat 4:00p 52265 State Hwy 46 Squaw Lake 56681 218-743-3255
Centennial Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a Hwy 46 Squaw Lake 56681 218-259-0115	Jehovah's Witnesses Tu 7:00p., Sun 10:00a Hwy 38 Bigfork 56628 218-743-3275	St. Michael Catholic Church Sat 7:00p 12026 Lake St Northome 56661 218-743-3255
Clara Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a 41447 Little Clara Drive Deer River 56636 218-360-1503	Jesse Lake Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a 45834 Co. Rd. 4 Talmoon 56637 218-832-3883	Suomi Evangelical Lutheran Church Sun 10:30a 42935 Co. Rd. 48 Deer River 56636 218-832-3883
Deer River Bible Church Sun 10:00a 33276 State Highway 6 Deer River 56636 218-246-9570	Marcell Community Church Sun 10:30a 49103 State Hwy 38 Marcell 56657 218-832-3200	True Life Church Sun 10:00a 45976 Terry Talmoon 56637 218-244-7089
Dora Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a 59329 Co Rd 145 Northome 56661 218-659-4551	Church directory sponsored by North Itasca Electric Cooperative, send changes to editor, sedgwick@paulbunyan.net	

~ September Calendar ~

- 1 First day of school, Bigfork, Deer River, Blackduck.
- 2 “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.
- 3 Jesse Lake Lutheran hosts a Grief Support Group at 10 a.m. on Thursday mornings. For more information, call Marion at (320) 293-5741.
- 3-26 Edge Center Gallery hosts Susanna Gaunt with (RE)COLLECT, an interactive mixed media exhibit.
- 4 Northome Farmers Market, each Friday, 3-6 p.m. at the Fairgrounds. More info, see Facebook.
- 4 No school, Bigfork, Deer River, Blackduck
- 5 Spring Lake Store celebrates its 110th birthday with treats and music at the store, 1-3 p.m.
- 5 Last Naturalist program of the season at Edge of the Wilderness Discovery Center just north of Marcell on State Highway 38, 11 a.m., "Bats of the Northwoods."
- 7 Labor Day. **North Itasca Electric offices CLOSED.** No school, all schools.
- 8 First day of school, Northome School.
- 8 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.
- 8 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.
- 8 Bigfork City Council meets at City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 10 Practical Water Wisdom online programs over the lunch hour with Itasca Waters. Topic: "Native Mussels" with Dr. Bernard Sietman, DNR malacologist. Register at itascawaters.org.
- 10 Classic Movies kicks off the 2026-2027 season with *The Great Dictator* (1940) starring Charlie Chaplin and Jack Oakie. Showing at 6:30 p.m. at the Edge Center. Free. Special bonus short: *You Nasty Spy* with the 3 Stooges.
- 12 Squaw Lake Fire Department holds a Hog Roast fundraiser, 5-7 p.m. at the Squaw Lake Community Center.
- 12-13 The Edge Center Theatre brings the award-winning play *What the Constitution Means to Me* to the stage on Saturday at 7 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m. Free will donation, \$10 suggested. See p. 11.
- 13 “Boot Scootin’ in the Woods,” 19th annual fundraiser for the Bigfork Valley Community Foundation, Wilderness Barn, Bigfork, 4-7 p.m. Tickets \$50, call (218) 743-4116 or purchase at Discovery Center, Marcell or Gift Nest, Bigfork Valley Hospital.
- 14 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 14 ISD 317 School Board meets at Deer River HS, 6 p.m. Public forum 5:45 p.m.
- 14 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m. .
- 14 Blackduck ISD 32 School Board meets, 6 p.m. in the Media Center.
- 15 Jessie Lake & Suomi Lutheran free community meal, 45834 Co. Rd. 4 in Talmoon, 4-6 p.m. Takeout available.
- 16 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m., Northome School
- 17 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.
- 18-20 Bargains Are Great on Highway 38 Garage Sales, Grand Rapids to Effie. More information, call (218) 832-3161 or see Facebook.
- 19 American Legion first annual POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony golf tournament at Golf on the Edge, Bigfork. Tee off at 10 a.m., registration begins at 9 a.m. Four person co-ed teams.
- 21 ISD 318 School Board meeting, **Edge Center, Bigfork**, 6:30 p.m., open forum 6 p.m. Livestream at watchictv.org.
- 22 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.
- 24 Community Music Jam at Marcell Family Center, 5-8 p.m. 4th Thurs. Everyone welcome.
- 25 No school, Deer River, Bigfork, teacher workshop.
- 28 Women of the Woods meet 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson (218) 659-2157.
- 29 Bigfork Valley Hospital board meets in public meeting, 9 a.m.
- OCT
- 1 Fall **Round-Up applications due**, 4:30 p.m. at the headquarters building in Bigfork.



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Highway 6 bridge replacement on schedule

Things are moving along well on the Highway 6 bridge replacement, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Currently crews are pouring the concrete piers. then the embankments and bridge approaches will be worked on before setting the piers.

Construction is still expected to continue through October.

The original bridge was built in 1965, but the 2005 bridge inspection showed that the pier caps and the ends of the beams were in poor condition, resulting in a weight restriction.



August. (lower right) Bridge pier work in late July. Photos courtesy of MNDOT District 1.



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

Garlic Dip/Dressing

Thank you to Richard Lacher for this September recipe!

- 2 cups sour cream
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon A-1 Steak Sauce®
- 3/4 teaspoon lemon juice
- 3/4 teaspoon red wine vinegar
- 3/4 teaspoon oil
- 1 teaspoon whole mustard seed
- 1 teaspoon Accent®
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder

Especially good as a dressing for cabbage and lettuce salad or as a dip for vegetables!



Mint Jelly

- Finely chop 1-1/2 cups firmly packed mint leaves and stems in processor with steel blade.
- Add 3-1/4 cups water and bring to boil quickly. Remove from heat and let stand covered for 10 minutes. Strain through a damp cheese cloth.
- Add green food coloring to desired color.
- Pour 3 cups of the mint infusion into a 6- or 8-quart saucepot. Measure 7 cups sugar and set aside.
- Stir 2-1/2 oz. package powdered fruit pectin into mint liquid. Bring to a full rolling boil and add sugar all at once. Boil hard for 1 minute, stirring.
- Remove from heat, skim foam off top and pour into scalded jars. Seal with paraffin or water bath.
- Makes 4 1/3 cups.

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 October issue: **Thursday, Sept. 17**

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-FOR SALE-

For sale: Brand new Varon portable oxygen machine. Purchase price was \$479. Oxygen levels 1-6, attachment for use in car also. Includes new battery. \$250. Text or call (320) 493-2699 10/26

For sale: Bookshelf headboard for queen bed. \$10. Call (218) 966-2052 or (218) 910-9750 10/26

For sale: Patio chair cushions, new. 2 sets: light blue, Large: seat: 24"w x 24" x 6"h; back 24"w x 20" x 6"h. \$75. Two oak wood quilt racks. \$25 each. two oak wood entryway storage benches with lift-up lids. \$75 each. Fabric patio door vertical shade for 6 foot patio door. 78"W x 84"L. White. Never used. \$25. Antique trunk. 21"W x 38"L x 12" H, \$25. Please call (218) 910-9750 or 218-966-2052 10/26

For sale: Three sets of ATV tire chains, all in great condition. Will consider reasonable offers. Located on Sand lake N/Deer River. Call (218) 659-2797 10/26

For sale: 2000 Caterpillar D3C Series III LGP crawler dozer. 6 way blade, hydrostatic drive, CAT 3046 diesel 6 cylinder engine, 3300 hours, 200 hours on new undercarriage. Located in Marcell. \$25,000 OBO. Call Jerry (630) 399-0250, brknlenn@gmail.com with questions 10/26

For sale: Scaffolding. 6 steel pump jacks, 6 roof brackets, 3 guard rail brackets and 7 - 90" roof brackets, palletized. \$250. Call (612) 300-7705, Sand Lake 10/26

-FOR SALE-

For sale: DR wood chipper, 4 inch capacity. 16 hp motor, electric start, extended chute, extra blades. \$2000. Call (612) 298-0797 9/26

For sale: Wood stove insert. Has 6" stainless stove pipe. \$1,975. American Energy Systems wood stove. Blower and induced draft. \$475. Call (218) 245-0112 10/26

For sale: ATV tire chains. 1 pair like new. Same chains that L&M is asking \$205 plus tax. Will sell for \$95. Located 25 miles north of Deer River on Sand Lake. Call (218) 659-2797 9/26

For sale: Steffes Electric room heating unit, Model 2104, 240 Volt AC. New cost is over \$2500. Perfect condition. \$500. Call (651) 764-1786 10/26

For sale: Queen size hide-a-bed in excellent cond. \$100. Located on Sand Lake. Call (218) 659-2797 10/26

For sale: ATV tire chains. One pair like new. Same chains that L&M is asking \$ 205 plus tax. Will sell for \$ 95. Located 25 miles north of Deer River on Sand Lake. Call (218) 659-2797 9/26

For sale: Desk model Singer sewing machine in good condition. Price \$45. Located 25 mi. north of Deer River on Sand Lake. Call (218) 659-2797 9/26

For sale: Welder - Heliarc 250 HF plus Square Wave L TEC Welding & Cutting System (TIG needs repair), \$400. Call (763) 233-1013 10/26

-FOR SALE-

For sale: Birch firewood, cut, split and piled in March. \$240 per cord. \$80 per one third cord. Delivery is possible. In Talmoon. (218) 259-1940 11/26

For sale: 3 new replacement filters FXHSC for GE high flow household filtration system. \$21 obo. Call (218) 835-8720 leave message, will call back 10/26

For sale: Field hunting waterfowl gear. Many full body (Bigfoots & Fully Flocked GHG). Honker decoys, mallards & layout blinds. Lots of good water type duck & some goose decoys. Text (218) 404-0209 9/26

-FISHING- BOATS, GEAR

For sale: Two 12' Dagger Black Water Kayaks. New \$1100 each. Will sell for \$450 each or both for \$800. Call Mark (612) 597-5710 10/26

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

To Place a Classified:
Contact the editor by one of the ways in the coupon on page 12 or bring your ad into the office.

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TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Your smart thermostat, security camera, video doorbell and other connected devices make life more convenient—but they can also be targets for cybercriminals if they're not properly secured. Change default usernames and passwords, use strong, unique passwords for each device and enable multi-factor authentication when available. Keep your devices up to date by installing software and firmware updates, which often include important security fixes. Secure your home Wi-Fi network with a strong password and modern encryption. A few simple steps can help keep your personal information and smart devices safe from scammers.

Source: CISA



Koochiching Fair Days



(from top left. l to r)
American Legion; Veggie
Creature entry; honor guard
leads parade; American
Legion Auxiliary handed out
flags; VFW; Grand Marshals
Lady Mustangs Basketball
Team; banner thanking
Veterans; Class of 1976;
(continued below)



(from above)
spinning demonstration;
vintage car and restored
tractor; Mizpah
community events in
2027 include Easter Egg
Hunt (3/21), trick or Treat
(10/24) and Hometown
Christmas (12/12); local
author signs memoir
"These Old Boots"; 100
year old truck.





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