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The renovated Painted Woods Bar & Grill is open to the public and serves Friday "Steak Night" featuring steak, tempura shrimp and a specialty menu item in the off-season.

GEARING UP FOR GOLF: Painted Woods Golf Course

BY PATRICIA STOCKDILL

It might be folklore.

Perhaps it's history.

Or maybe it's a little of both. It might depend on one's perspective exactly how Painted Woods Creek in southern McLean County earned its name.

A 2020 Prairie Public Broadcasting Company "Dakota Datebook" regaled its audience with a story attributing the creek's name to an encounter between the Mandan and Yanktonai Sioux tribes. Both claimed the area, the story continued, and each declared "to meet here was to fight here."

In today's world, Painted Woods Creek continues to

wind through Burleigh County, originating from New Johns Lake, then into McLean County before flowing into the Missouri River south of Washburn.

It's also part of the N.D. Game and Fish Department's Painted Woods Wildlife Management Area, providing diverse outdoor activities, ranging from kayaking and canoe access to birding to hunting and fishing.

Plus, it's the namesake of the Painted Woods Golf Course and Painted Woods Bar & Grill nestled above its winding path among the rolling hills.

Nowadays, "to meet here" takes on an entirely different meaning – the gathering of family and friends

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for enjoyment, recreation and dining.

The nonprofit golf course grew from the vision of a group of Washburn and Wilton area residents for a local nine-hole course, which was completed in 1979. Their passion and vision for the course, a putting green, practice range and its clubhouse facilities continued to grow.

The dream of expanding to 18 holes was realized in 2014. Painted Woods Golf Course General Manager Cassie Leidholm credits the ongoing support of its members and the surrounding communities of Washburn and Wilton for its completion and resulting success.

But that vision didn't simply end in 2014, Leidholm described.

"We made some huge renovations to the clubhouse in 2025 and we now offer a full-service bar and grill," she described.

In addition, the course itself continues to enjoy enhancements on a regular annual basis.

"With the help of our member volunteers and donations, we were able to reconstruct our No. 16 tee box at the end of the 2025 season," she added.

McLean Electric Cooperative (MEC) provides electric service to the facility, which is open year-round, including serving irrigation pumps on a weir dam on Painted Woods Creek that provides vital water for the course.

"Last summer, we had a power outage during a course tournament," Leidholm described. MEC's lineworkers



Cassie Leidholm, Painted Woods Golf Course general manager, and Painted Woods Head Golf Professional **Michael Herzog** oversee the course. Herzog is also a PGA member who offers lessons at the course.

About Painted Woods Golf Course

- Original nine holes constructed in 1979 and expanded to 18 holes in 2014.
- Five sets of tees allowing play from 3,800 yards to 7,000 yards for golfers of all skill levels.
- Longest distance playing from black tees: No. 14 at 565 yards.
- Shortest distance playing from blue tees: No. 8 at 105 yards.
- Five par 3, nine par 4 and four par 5 holes.
- Two fairway bunkers (No. 3 and No. 14) with Painted Woods Creek meandering along 11 of the course's 18 holes makes it a challenge as well as an opportunity to test a player's skill level, described Painted Woods Golf Course Head Golf Professional Michael Herzog.
- Youth, men's, women's and senior golf lessons are available from Herzog, a PGA member and owner of Michael Herzog Golf Academy.
- Golf club and cart rentals available.
- Daily green fees, including the special Tee-riffic Tuesday discount on regular green fees (including golf cart rental), along with a wide range of annual memberships available, including single, couples, family, senior and out-of-area memberships.
- More information and optional online tee time bookings are available on the Painted Woods website, paintedwoodsgolf.com. The course app is also available for download and can be scanned from a QR code.
- Special events: Couples League, a nine-hole scramble taking place one Thursday each month during the season at 6 p.m., Wednesday Game Day, and Men's and Women's BIG Cup tournament scrambles.
- Tournaments open for public entry include two- and four-person scrambles, the BIG Cup and Season Long Match Play. The course can also host private tournaments.



The rolling hills of Painted Woods Golf Course rise above Painted Woods Creek at McLean County's only 18-hole golf course south of Washburn. The course started with nine holes, expanding to 18 in 2014.

quickly responded so the tournament was back on track in a short time, she added.

MEC General Manager/CEO Mark Doyle also recognizes and appreciates the importance of recreational amenities available to its member-owners, visitors and other residents.

Those benefits extend beyond the benefit of another electric service load generating revenue for the

cooperative. It's about keeping, maintaining and growing the quality of the rural lifestyle.

"We appreciate all the lifestyle-enhancing opportunities we have here in McLean Electric Cooperative's service territory. Without a good quality of life, rural areas will struggle. Painted Woods Golf Course is one of the true gems," he said. ■

- Open year-round, their in-season (April through October) course hours range from sunrise to sunset.
- In-season Painted Woods Bar & Grill restaurant hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. The restaurant has a full menu and is open to the public. Children are welcome with space for the public along with special parties and events, Leidholm added.
- "Steak Night" in the off-season is a popular Friday winter evening event, Painted Woods Golf Course General Manager Leidholm described, and also features other menu specials.
- More Painted Woods Golf Course and Bar & Grill details are available on the website, paintedwoodsgolf.com, by calling 701-462-8480 or emailing gm@paintedwoodsgolf.com for additional information, such as booking private and semi-private events or tournaments.
- Catering is also available. ■



Lineworker Appreciation Day

**April
13**

Rain or shine, McLean Electric Cooperative (MEC) crews are ready to answer the call, day or night, to safely restore power and keep our communities moving forward. They take pride in powering the places we call home. Today and every day, we thank lineworkers for their service and commitment.



*Our Turtle Lake crew, left to right, includes **Trevor Thomas**, **Brian O'Shea** and **Travis Voth**.*



*Our Garrison crew, left to right, includes **Lucas Dusek**, **Loren Desjardins**, **Nathan Ruud**, **Jesse Carter** and **Conner Moe**.*



Two McLean Electric Cooperative Director Seats Up for Election

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING A DIRECTOR?

This year, the two districts up for election are:

District 2, which is a three-year term, includes the townships of Douglas, Blue Hill, Gate, Roseglen, 149-86, 149-85, Saint Mary, 148-86, Blackwater, 147-88, 147-87, 147-86. Clarence Behles currently serves District 2. Clarence Behles is not seeking re-election.

District 7, which is a three-year term, includes the townships of Mercer, 146-80, 145-80, 145-84, 145-79, 144-80, 144-81, 144-82, 144-83, 144-84, 143-81, 143-80. Larry Gessele currently serves District 7. Larry Gessele is seeking re-election.

Pick up a petition at the McLean Electric Cooperative headquarters in Garrison and secure 15 signatures of members from within your district. You can start circulating the petition right away, but it must be filed not less than 60 days before the annual meeting. Petitions for the 2026 director elections must be filed with McLean Electric Cooperative by April 13, 2026, by 5:00 p.m.

According to the bylaws, any member of McLean Electric Cooperative who is a member of this cooperative as a bona fide resident of the district they represent and is in no way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise can become a candidate for the board of directors. Directors shall be elected by the members at large at the MEC annual meeting on June 16, 2026, in Garrison.

Directors have a fiduciary responsibility to the cooperative. They exercise care, time, and responsibility in reviewing cooperative matters. Directors treat cooperative business as if it were their own. Directors devote a certain amount of time to the cooperative. At a minimum, a director attends each monthly board meeting. Directors learn about the industry as a whole by reading other materials and by attending state and national meetings. An understanding of the industry's issues is vital. To help directors with their responsibilities, training is offered through the electric cooperative's statewide organization. Courses cover director duties and liabilities, understanding the electric business, board roles and relationships, strategic planning, and financial decision-making. Directors currently serving on the cooperative's board find the duty extremely rewarding.

SMALL CHANGE THAT CHANGES LIVES

DEADLINE
APRIL 30



<https://mcleanelectric.com/operation-roundup-program>

MEC will be closed

Good
Friday

APRIL 3, 2026



Have a Blessed Easter

Call before you dig!

Did you know North Dakota law requires anyone planning an excavation to notify North Dakota One Call at 811 before starting the work? Safe Digging Month is observed in April, but safe digging should be a priority year-round.

Are you planting a tree? Digging a hole for a mailbox? Installing a fence? Remember to dial 811.

Numerous utility lines may be buried on your property,

ranging from electric and telephone lines to water and sewer infrastructure, but North Dakota One Call will help you locate these lines before your project begins.

The first step to any project is safety. Damaging an underground facility can cause injury or even death.

Contact North Dakota One Call, and utility line owners will locate and mark their lines. It's free, it's simple and it's the law.

PRIVATE FACILITIES: WHAT DOES NOT GET MARKED?

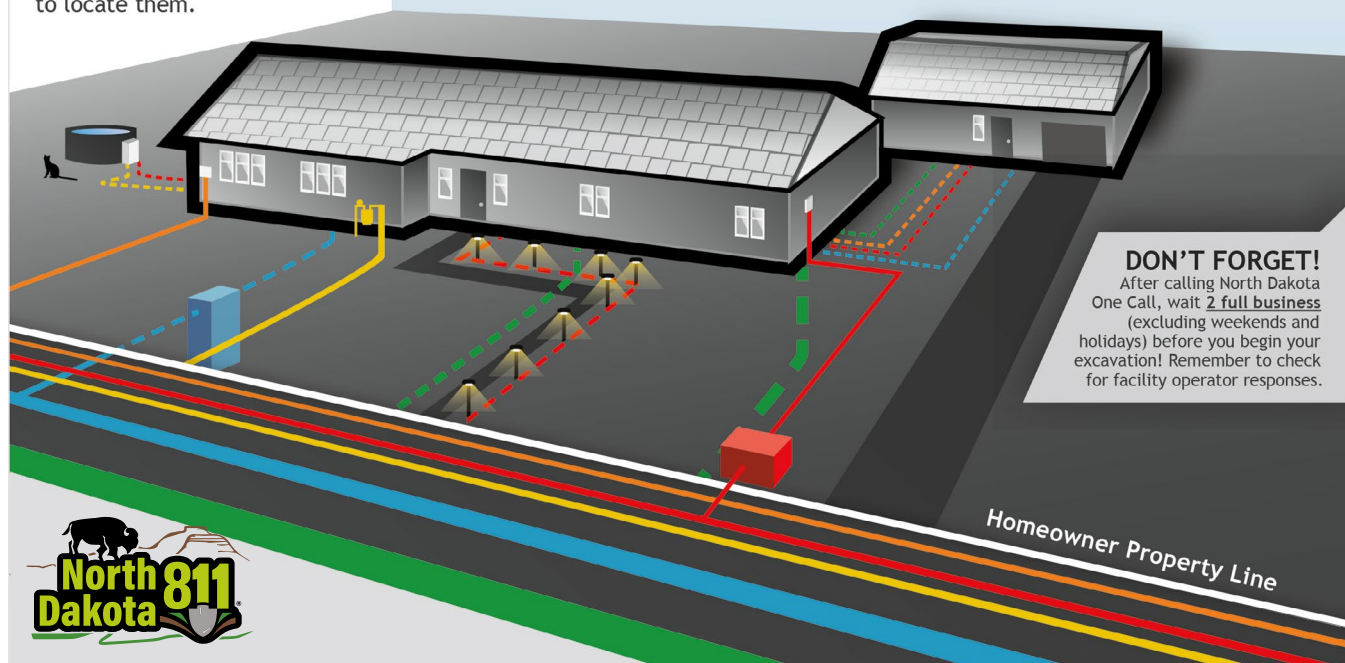
Private underground facilities, such as private utility lines and private distribution networks, do not get marked by facility operators. When a property owner or tenant has any type of private underground facility, they are responsible to locate those facilities or hire someone to locate them.



Customer-owned lines usually include any that serve outbuildings, hot tubs, security lighting, pools, and natural gas grills.

The free locating service available through North Dakota One Call (NDOC) applies **ONLY** to public facility operators. The diagram below shows a variety of utilities, some owned by the utility and some by the homeowner.

Those utilities marked by dotted lines are typically owned by the property owner. Those lines will **NOT** be marked by contacting NDOC. Private locating services will mark these for a fee.



The 811 process:

1. Notify

Notify the North Dakota One Call Center online at ndonecall.com or by calling 811 or 800-795-0555 at least 48 hours before work begins, excluding weekends and holidays. You can help by white lining your dig site.

These locates do not include any lines you may have installed to your private facilities, such as gas grills, detached garages, wells or yard lights.

2. Wait and confirm

Wait the required amount of time for affected utility operators to respond to your request, then confirm they all have responded to your request and marked underground utilities.

3. Respect

Respect the marks. The marks provided by the affected utilities are your guide for the duration of the project. The marks are valid for 21 calendar days. If you are unable to maintain the marks during your project or the project will continue past your request's expiration date, call 811 to ask for a re-mark.

4. Dig carefully

Dig carefully around the marks. No mechanical excavating can take place within 24 inches on either side of the marked location of the underground facility. If you plan on digging within that 4-foot-wide area, hand digging is allowed, but dig carefully and cautiously. ■



Tractor technology doesn't always equal safety

As farmers use more equipment with auto-guidance systems, less focus is needed on steering. However, even while using a GPS with auto-steering, farmers need to keep safety in mind and stay focused on their surroundings.

North Dakota's electric cooperatives have had accident reports from farmers who are trusting their auto-guidance systems blindly and hitting power poles and other infrastructure.

Putting safety first requires alertness, focus and knowledge of potential hazards and safety steps. Varying pass-to-pass accuracy levels and potential issues, such as power poles not being correctly plotted in the system, reinforce the need for drivers to stay focused on the location of the farm equipment while in the field and to be ready to take action if necessary.

Regardless of the technology used on the farm, remember the following electrical safety tips from McLean Electric Cooperative:

Be aware

- **Farmers and their equipment should always be 10 feet away from power lines on all sides.**

Field cultivators and sprayers can often reach as high as 12 feet in the air. Practice extreme caution and use a spotter to make sure you stay far away from power lines when using tall equipment. Make sure you, your family and employees know the location of overhead power lines, and use routes to avoid the lines when moving equipment.

- **If you have purchased new equipment, be aware of antennas or other attachments that may pose new hazards.** A newer, bigger piece of equipment may no longer clear a line. In addition, shifting soil may also affect whether or not machinery avoids power lines from year to year.
- **Power lines also may sag over the years.** If power lines on your property are sagging, contact your electric cooperative to repair the lines. Never try to move a power line on your own.
- **Overhead power lines are not the only electric hazard on the farm.** Pole guy wires, used to stabilize utility poles, are grounded. However, when one of the guy wires is broken, it can become charged with electricity. If you break a guy wire, call the cooperative to fix it. Don't do it yourself. ■

McLean County community calendar: Events and activities to see and do

McLean County area food pantry April distribution and donation thrift store dates, times and locations:

- **Garrison – Garrison Area Resource Center & Food Pantry:** Noon-2 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. April 23.
- **Makoti, Marshall, Plaza, Roseglen, Ryder, White Shield and others in need – Community Food Pantry:** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. April 25, 181 Ellsworth St., Makoti. Community Thrift Store: 3-6 p.m. Tuesday, 4-7 p.m. Thursday and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, except holidays, 181 Ellsworth St., Makoti.
- **Max – Our Savior Lord's Food Pantry:** Noon-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. April 20, Max City Hall, 215 Main St.
- **Turtle Lake – The Lord's Pantry:** 2-4 p.m. April 9 and 10 a.m.-noon April 25, Trinity Lutheran Church, 515 Kundert St.
- **Turtle Lake – Free Community Clothing Share & Exchange Store:** Noon-6 p.m. every Thursday, 221 Main St.
- **Underwood – Community Cupboard of Underwood food distribution:** 10 a.m.-noon April 11 and 4-6 p.m. April 23 (Easter ham basket), 208 Lincoln Ave. Like on Facebook (Community Cupboard of Underwood) for distribution dates and thrift store updates.
- **Underwood – Community Cupboard of Underwood Thrift Store:** 1-5 p.m. every Tuesday.
- **Washburn – McLean Family Resource Center:** McLean County residents can contact the center, 701-462-8643, for an appointment to pick up baskets along with more information or assistance through the center's services, 205 Seventh St.
- **Washburn – McLean Family Resource Center Clothing Outlet:** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 205 Seventh St.
- **Wilton – Wilton Food Pantry mini distributions:** 11:30 a.m. until gone every Friday. Full food distribution 4-6 p.m. April 16, Wilton Senior Citizens Center, 42 Dakota Ave.
- **Wilton – The (free) Clothes Closet:** 3-5 p.m. April 16, First Presbyterian Church, 401 Dakota Ave.

Area food pantries often experience high needs for the following items: baked beans, pork and beans, canned fruit, tuna, chicken, vegetables, cereal, oatmeal, granola and breakfast bars, juice, macaroni and cheese, hamburger and tuna helper, pancake mix, syrup, pasta, spaghetti, Alfredo and pasta sauce, peanut butter, jelly, rice side dishes, soups and chili, and household items, such as body wash and soap, dish soap, laundry detergent, shampoo and conditioner, toilet paper, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Contact local food pantries for drop-off locations, information or a list of additional needs in your community.

- **Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Free Monthly Victim Support Group meetings:** 11 a.m.-noon April 2, McLean Family Resource Center, 205 Seventh St., Washburn, 5:30-6:30 p.m. April 8, Northland Health Center, 55 First Ave. E., Turtle Lake.

April and early May events:

- **April 4:** Annual Easter Egg Hunt (free), 10:30 a.m., Poolside Park, weather permitting, or the Underwood school gym, Underwood.
- **April 4:** Children's Easter Bunny Day, movie with the Easter Bunny at Kota Theater, Easter egg hunt and carnival on Main Street, Garrison, sponsored by Garrison Chamber of Commerce, St. Paul Lutheran Church and Garrison Archery Team.
- **April 8-12:** Camp of the Cross Ministries Crafting Retreat. Visit campofthecross.com for details.
- **April 11:** Taste of Washburn 250th Birthday America Barbecue Block Party, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Washburn Memorial Hall, 805 Main Ave. Features food served by local businesses and organizations and sponsored by Washburn Life, \$5 per person or \$20 family.
- **April 11:** Painted Woods Pheasants Forever chapter annual banquet and fundraiser, 5 p.m., Wilton Memorial Hall.
- **April 11-12:** Maple Sugaring Day, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. April 11 and noon-3 p.m. April 12, Fort Stevenson State Park, Garrison. Sugaring a tree for syrup, its history, the tools and dine on pancakes with fresh syrup. Live entertainment by Peyton Lily on April 12. Contact the park, 701-337-5576, for additional details.
- **April 12:** 5K Sap Run, Fort Stevenson State Park, Garrison. 5K trail run, jog or walk. Registration is required. Go to runsignup.com/Race/ND/Garrison/FortStevensonStateParkSapRun5k for registration and more details.
- **April 13:** National Lineworker Appreciation Day.
- **April 17-18:** Camp of the Cross Spring Bash for students in grades 4 through 12. Visit campofthecross.com for details.
- **April 30:** Operation Round Up application deadline. Visit McLean Electric Cooperative's website, mcleanelectric.com, click "Grants & Scholarships" on the homepage or contact MEC Communications Manager Sonja Moe, 701-463-6700 or 800-263-4922, for details.
- **May 8-9:** Evening Hike Series: Full Flower Moon Fairy Hike, 9:30 p.m., Fort Stevenson State Park, Garrison.

Nonprofit organizations and communities throughout McLean County can contact Patricia Stockdill at stockdill.patricia@gmail.com or 701-337-5462 to submit community events. ■

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

James Odermann, president
701-743-4415
District 1, Marshall

Darcy Klain, vice president
701-448-2408
District 4, Ruso

Rod Stockdill, secretary-treasurer
701-337-5462
District 3, Garrison

Clarence Behles,
asst. secretary-treasurer
701-337-5362
District 2, Garrison

Troy Presser, director
701-447-2855
District 5, Turtle Lake

Karen Hanson, director
701-448-2636
District 6, Washburn

Larry Gessele, director
701-447-2461
District 7, Mercer

STAFF:

Mark Doyle, General Manager/CEO
Keith Thelen, Operations Manager
Lucas Schaaf, Engineering Manager
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