

The North Itasca Electric Board recently visited legislators at the Capitol in St. Paul. (l to r, front) Chair Larry Salmela, CEO Brad Dolinski. (l to r, second row) Roy Bain, Wes Waller, Jeff Kilian, Lloyd Kongsjord, James White and Todd Christensen.



CEO Report

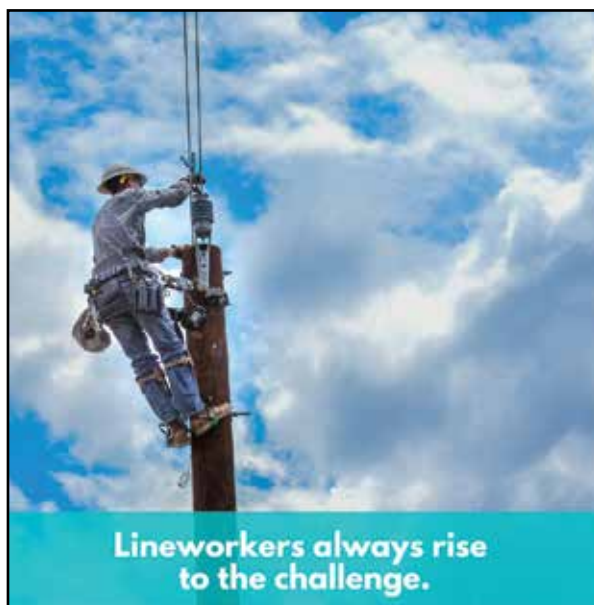
Good afternoon North Itasca,

We have some bittersweet news to talk about today. Our friend Jerry Pula is retiring after over 21 years at the cooperative. Jerry has spent years serving the members of North Itasca with a soft-spoken hard-working can-do attitude.

Jerry truly cares about the cooperative and his coworkers. He was not afraid to make a life-long friend when a new face showed up. He was so very kind to me when I walked through the doors, dripping wet behind the ears, Jerry immediately made a new friend. Years later, after I explained my two cents to the group on some discussion, Jerry came with his typical sense of humor and handed me two pennies. “Here Brad, there’s my two-cents.” I have those two pennies taped to the desk behind my chair. During those hard decisions in

CEO to p.2>

LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY FRIDAY, APRIL 8



Thank you!
to the Line Department of
North Itasca Electric Co-op

**Bruce Carlson
Cody Eischens
Josh Hubbard
Chris Larson
Dick Lind
Charles Peck
Daryl Pederson
John Rahier
Cole Serfling
Calvin Wolf
Jerry Pula, retired**

Home ventilation

by Jerry Loney

As people need good air to breathe, so does your home. Not that the components within the home need good air, but the occupants within do.

All winter long our windows are locked tight to keep the heat in and keep our furnaces from running any more than they need, to save heating costs. With this, the air inside our homes becomes impure with contamination from cooking,

combustion from heating systems and even excessive moisture from bathing, creating an unhealthy environment for its occupants. We find ourselves faced with a dilemma, do we keep the stale air trapped inside, or sacrifice the heat lost for some fresh air for a healthier environment.

My guess would be a healthier environment.

Good indoor air

quality and comfort can be achieved with a good ventilation system without breaking the bank. Believe it or not, even your heating system needs proper ventilation to run efficiently.

Ventilation to p.4>

Co-op releases new phone app

by Kim Giesen

North Itasca Electric Coop released a new phone app as of April 1, 2022. The phone app is available in the Apple App Store and Google Play. Before downloading our new app you should delete the existing app that you may have on your phone. The existing app will no longer work after June 15, 2022.

The new app will have so much more

information available to the user.

Your existing User name and Password will still work with the new app. If you don’t have a User Name and Password set up, you will be able to do that from the very first screen.

Register a New User – enter the preferred user name, email address, display name (name as it would appear

App to p.5>

Board nominations open for Districts 7, 8 and 9

The nominating committee will meet in the office of the cooperative, Bigfork, Minn. on May 4, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

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

- District 7 – Incumbent Bruce Leino – 3 year term
- District 8 – Incumbent Jeff Kilian – 3 year term
- District 9 – Incumbent Roy Bain – 3 year term

If you are interested in becoming a director nominee, please contact a nominating committee delegate or alternate. The nominating committee members appointed by the board at its meeting on March 24, 2022 is shown on page 2. All candidates selected should be qualified by the nominating committee person prior to the meeting to ensure that if elected, he/she could serve in the capacity of director for a period of three years. Each candidate must be a Member of the cooperative and a

Nominating to p.2>

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

Excess material sale

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St. Urho’s Day

page 9

Costs to run EVs

page 7

Hours

Monday - Friday
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

CEO Report (continued)



Brad Dolinski, CEO

>from p.1
the office, I reflect, what would Jerry do? Hats off buddy! Enjoy your retirement, you deserve it, and you will be greatly missed at North Itasca Electric!

Your directors and I just got back from visiting our legislators down at the Capitol. Senator Tom Bakk explained the importance of being there to have these discussions face to face. Making these personal connections matters when you need the attention of our legislators. We had a great trip and I expect we were heard from our

friends that represent us. The highlights of the meetings are as follows.

Load receivers that we use in our homes to control heat loads for the off-peak programs are vital to the success of these programs. Many cooperatives across the state are changing these receivers out, updating to new hardware and technology. The problem: the Department of Labor is requiring us to file for an electrical inspection on every device we touch. This has not been required in the past, this is cooperative owned equipment and we have trained professionals to work on said equipment. The cost of filing for inspection is a minimum of \$30 per device plus the time of our employees to file. This adds a significant cost to this vital equipment changeout, costs we would have to pass onto our Member-Owners. We believe we

Nominating committee

>from p.1
bona fide resident of the district having director elections.

There may be situations where the spouse of a Member wishes to become a director nominee. In accordance with the bylaws of the cooperative, a spouse is not automatically a Member unless the membership is a joint membership with both spouse's signatures on file. If you are uncertain about being a qualified director nominee, please contact the office at (218) 743-3131 and we will check our records. A copy of the Cooperative's Bylaws regarding Qualifications for Eligibility to serve on the Board of Directors is available from any nominating committee person or at the Cooperative Headquarters in Bigfork.

have a potential fix if we can get all parties to agree. More on this in future articles.

All of us enjoy paying taxes, right? North Itasca and MN Cooperatives pay \$10/Member-Owner in lieu of property tax on our plant. This includes poles, hardware, wire and the like. This legislation has been on the books for 80 years with clear understanding by all parties. Recently the Department of Revenue revisited this legislation, their new interpretation excludes things like security lights and meters. This change would be a substantial cost to our

Member-Owners and frankly unjustified. We have been working under the same law for 80 years, why the change now? We are trying to work with the Department of Revenue prior to seeking clarification from our legislators. Once again, I will report back on this. Cooperation among Cooperatives is one of our seven principles I enjoy the most. Even though North Itasca may not be installing high speed internet, we support those that are. We would like to see successful projects in our service territory,

providing internet to all that want it. We try to team and share costs with our local providers any chance we get. We also explained to our legislators the true costs it takes to get fiber to the home in the middle and last miles of an installation. I expect this will drive further developments when it comes to funding broadband and internet to rural Minnesota. Those are the highlights from our visit down south. We have many changes coming politically in November following the redistricting

along with several retirements. Senators Bakk and Tomassoni have decided not to run again. These gentlemen have been very supportive of Northeastern Minnesota. I thank them both for leadership and support through the good times and bad. Remember, if you see Jerry Pula around town with a bigger than normal smile on his face, please congratulate him on his service to the Members-Owners of North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc.

By your side! Miigwech
Brad

2022 Nominating Committee

Del/Alt	District	Delegate		Address/ Phone
Delegate 1		Myron Albrecht	Mizpah	56660 218-897-5048
Delegate 2		Dale Quandt	Wirt	56688 218-659-2601
Delegate 3		Marcie Lindgren	Effie	56639 218-743-3261
Delegate 4		Tim Neuschwander	Bigfork	56628 218-245-3792
Delegate 5		Eric Handyside	Bigfork	56628 218-766-6312
Delegate 6		Karen Christensen	Squaw Lake	56681 218-659-2186
Delegate 7		Lisa Peterson	Squaw Lake	56681 218-659-4266
Alternate		Tom Kallioi	Squaw Lake	56681 218-244-1297
Delegate 8		Leslie Jensen	Marcell	56657 218-832-3410
Alternate		Eric Elhardt	Marcell	56657 218-832-3300
Delegate 9		John (Jack) H. Shultz	Deer River	56636 218-832-3784
Alternate		Dusty Snyder	Deer River	56636 218-244-4294

The candidates selected by the nominating committee for Districts 7, 8 or 9 will be placed on the ballot and voted on by the Members within that district. Your district is listed directly below the portion of your bill that lists your Name, Account Number and Statement Date.

The Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, June 15, 2022 at the North Itasca Electric Headquarters in Bigfork beginning at 2 p.m. Watch the WATTS News for further information.



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(218) 743-3131 or (800) 762-4048

Web site: www.NorthItascaElectric.com

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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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North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Board of Directors

Chairman: Larry Salmela, District 3
Vice-Chair: Wes Waller, District 2
Secretary: Lloyd Kongsjord, District 5
Treasurer: Roy Bain, District 9
Rep. to GRE Board: Lloyd Kongsjord, District 5
James White, District 1 Mary Rahier, District 4
Todd Christensen, District 6 Bruce Leino, District 7
Jeff Kilian, District 8

Highlights from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD
MEETING
February 24, 2022

Start time: 10:00 a.m.

End time: 2:15 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on February 24, 2022.

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

Also Present: CEO Brad Dolinski, Andy Shaw, Daryl Pederson, Jerry Loney, Tina Danielson and Kim Giesen.

o A Motion was made to go to Executive Session, seconded, motion carried at 10:00 a.m.

o Executive Session adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Start Regular Board Meeting: 10:15 a.m.

o Pledge of allegiance was recited.

o A motion was made to adopt agenda, seconded, motion carried. A motion was made to consent agenda, seconded, motion carried.

o B. Dolinski held the safety discussion which highlighted Cybersecurity.

o T. Danielson reviewed the operating reports. Motion was made to accept the operating reports, seconded, motion carried.

o PCA discussion was led by B. Dolinski. Going forward he would like the PCA charges collected over the year (12 months) to go into a payable / receivable to be collected or paid back to the Members in the next year. A motion to accept this plan was made, seconded, motion carried.

o A. Shaw – Legal update

o Board policy 500.20 Capital Credits. Capital credit bylaw provision was reviewed. A. Shaw gave detailed definition of the Capital Credit system. Motion was made to approve the policy without any changes, seconded, motion was carried.

o D. Pederson gave the Line Department Report. MREA will be on site March 3 for First Aid and CPR training.

o J. Loney gave the Member Service Report.

o A motion was made to nominate Lloyd Kongsjord as the GRE representative, seconded, the motion carried.

o B. Dolinski gave the CEO report. Covid 19 protocol changes: if you are sick – stay home. Tests are available for the employees who are sick. Building HVAC construction has begun. Jerry Pula will be retiring on February 28, 2022.

o B. Dolinski gave the Northland Connect report.

o W. Waller gave the MREA report.

o B. Leino gave the GRE report.

THE FUTURE of ENERGY STORAGE

IRON-AIR BATTERIES

Great River Energy is partnering with Form Energy on a first-of-its-kind multi-day energy storage pilot project in Cambridge, Minnesota, capable of providing the critical multi-day storage needed for adoption of renewable energy sources.

STORAGE DURATION

Lithium batteries: 4-8 HOURS
Iron-air batteries: 15-20x the duration of high-cost lithium batteries

100 HOURS
1.5MW can power 400 HOMES for 100 hours.

Multi-day storage is critical to the adoption and expansion of renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar.

POWER GRID RELIABILITY
Reliable clean energy even during extreme weather

READILY AVAILABLE RESOURCES
Iron is one of the safest, cheapest and most abundant minerals

O₂ + Fe + H₂O → IRON-AIR BATTERY

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.

o A Motion was made to adjourn, seconded, motion carried at 2:15 p.m.

Regular board meetings are generally held the fourth Thursday of every month. If you wish to speak with the board or have an item that you would like to have placed on the agenda, please contact CEO Brad Dolinski at least two weeks in advance to be included on the agenda.

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Scholarship applications due April 22

High school seniors who are children of North Itasca Electric Members are eligible to apply for a college scholarship through the Northome High School scholarship committee. Applications are available in the offices of North Itasca Electric. Children of families who live out of the area but are Members of the cooperative (i.e. lake cabins) are eligible to apply. The deadline for application is April 22.

Understanding Power Surges and Blinks

Have you ever noticed your lights blink during a thunderstorm? Or perhaps you've noticed a blinking microwave clock when you arrive home. When this happens, you've likely experienced a brief disruption to your electric service, which could result from a power surge or blink. While the symptoms of surges and blinks can appear similar, what's happening behind the scenes can be quite different.

What's a power surge?

Power surges are brief overvoltage spikes or disturbances of a power waveform that can damage, degrade or destroy electronic equipment within your home or business. Most electronics are designed to handle small variations in voltage; however, power surges can reach amplitudes of tens of thousands of volts—this can be extremely damaging to your electronic equipment.

Surges can be caused by internal sources, like HVAC systems with variable frequency drives, or external sources, like lightning and damage to power lines and transformers.

North Itasca Electric encourages all members to install surge protective devices (such as surge protector power strips) to safeguard your sensitive electronics. If you're experiencing frequent surges in your home or business

and you believe the cause is internal, contact a qualified electrician to inspect your electrical system.

What's a power blink?

Power blinks are also brief service interruptions, but they're typically caused by a fault (short circuit) on a power line or a protective device that's working in reaction to the fault.

Faults can occur through a variety of instances like squirrels, birds or other small animals contacting an energized power line; tree branches touching a power line; or lightning and other similar events. In fact, when it comes to power disruptions caused by critters, squirrels reign supreme. In 2019 alone, squirrels were responsible for more than 1,200 outages.

Any of the events noted above can cause your power to blink, but you may also experience a brief interruption when protective devices that act like circuit breakers are working to detect the fault. Believe it or not, these brief power blinks caused by protective devices are actually good because that means the equipment is working as it should to prevent a prolonged outage.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

New phone app to access your account

>from p.1
on your screens) password and confirm your password. – Submit – follow the prompts to tie your account to your new user. The best Registration Method is going to be the Meter. Your meter number can be found on your statement in the description column (ex: ELECTRIC #123456).

Here is a list of the tabs that take you to the information you may be looking for:

Account Summary – shows the account number and the name associated with the account, the account balances, both current and overdue along with the due date. The member will see what payment options they are enrolled in. It also shows the current mailing address that is on file for the account.

Make a Payment – screens will take you through the payment process with ease.

Statement History – you will see the past 13 statements. Clicking on each will show you the Previous Balance, Bill Type, Statement Date, Due Date, Payments, Current Charges and Total Due. Eventually we hope to be able to show a complete statement for each month (this is still in the programing stages).

Payment History – you will see the past 13 payments. Clicking on each shows an actual receipt for the payment.

Usage History – Location has a drop down arrow for accounts with multiple locations. Each location has a Service drop down which gives you each of the meters at that location. The Register defaults to KWH. Detailed Level drop down will give you a choice of billed or metered. If you are looking for usage on a specific day you will be able to see that here. After making all your selections you click the View tab and you are shown a bar graph of the usage for the given meter and detail.

Notification History – will show you the email history.

View Outage Map – this map will show outages that have been put into our outage reporting system. If the location is grey, a truck has not been dispatched yet. If the location is yellow, a truck has been dispatched.

Notification Setup – you will be able to sign up for paperless billing and change the email address that you want the notifications to be sent to.

Contact Info – here you will find the information necessary to contact the North Itasca Electric Cooperative offices.

There are also quick links to the pages at the bottom of your screen.

If you have any questions or problems while setting up a new user, please give us a call at 218-743-3131.

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Heat pumps now built for colder weather

Advancements in Minnesota air source heat pump (ASHP) technology for colder climates have led to increased adoption of these systems in recent years.

"Now that air source heat pump technology can effectively heat in subzero temperatures, we are seeing more interest. It really started gaining momentum," said Jeff Haase, manager of member services and end-use strategy at Great River Energy, North Itasca Electric's wholesale power provider.

Great River Energy serves members across

Minnesota and is part of the Minnesota ASHP Collaborative, a joint effort that also includes the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE), Minnesota Power, Missouri River Energy Services, Ottertail Power Company and Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency.

ASHPs are very energy efficient technologies with the potential to meet member heating and cooling needs at reduced energy costs. As the technology has advanced in recent years, variable-speed heat pumps have emerged as an even higher-efficiency option

for heating and cooling homes in all climates. Cold-climate heat pump technology can operate efficiently below 20 degrees Fahrenheit and can save homeowners 30-55 percent on home heating costs.

As an added incentive for cold-climate ASHPs, participating electric cooperatives offer increased rebates during promotional periods. North Itasca Electric is offering rebates for both Central and Ductless ASHPs. Depending on your installation, these rebates range from \$400 to \$1,000.

With increased awareness and incentives available, ASHPs are becoming more common.

"We believe that trend will continue as the technology continues to evolve and consumer

awareness increases," Haase said.

Homeowners may learn about ASHPs from their electric cooperative, through advertising or by word of mouth, but need to find a trained and knowledgeable contractor in order to install the technology. Doing some research and getting multiple quotes can help ensure a good fit.

"Even with the learning curve that comes with new technology, it is encouraging that members, contractors and utilities are satisfied with the progress being made with cold climate ASHPs, especially in a climate like Minnesota," Haase said.

Visit <https://www.energywisemn.com/air-heat-pumps> to learn more about ASHPs.

Planning engineers anticipate more high-voltage power lines

Great River Energy, wholesale power provider to North Itasca Electric and 27 other member-owner distribution cooperatives in Minnesota, continuously studies the electric power grid to ensure the high-voltage power line system that delivers electricity to local cooperatives is always reliable, and ready to keep the power flowing and the lights on.

The addition of renewable energy, along with the retirement of coal plants and the increasing need for resilience to extreme weather, is spurring the need for power grid upgrades to maintain future reliability. Utilities across the region are significantly increasing the amount of renewable energy they provide to their customers. Great River Energy alone will nearly triple the amount of renewable energy, primarily wind energy, in its portfolio by 2025.

"Building the right high-voltage power lines in the right locations at the right time will enable us to affordably connect more renewable energy to the system and maintain the high level of reliability that cooperative members expect," said Gordon Pietsch, Great River Energy's Director of Transmission Planning and Compliance.

"In the 2000s, Minnesota utilities worked with area transmission planners and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, our region's grid operator, to develop a plan to expand and upgrade the region's electric grid," Pietsch said.

Together Minnesota utilities built more than 600 miles of high-voltage transmission lines, creating new pathways for renewable energy and bolstering reliability.

"Those transmission lines continue to deliver what they were intended to, and now we are seeing the need for another expansion as our fleet of power generation sources transitions," Pietsch said.

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) seeks input from the utilities in the region during its planning process. Priti Patel, Great River Energy Vice President and Chief Transmission Officer said Great River Energy takes its role in that process seriously to "engage and collaborate with other transmission owners and MISO to build a vision for the future of the region's electric grid."

"We have been working with MISO for years in their long-range transmission planning process and offer input into the projects they approve for our region," Patel said. "We know our members and our system better than anyone. We are always advocating for what is best for our members."

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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When streaming content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25% to 30% less energy than standard equipment.

Source: Dept. of Energy



ENERGY WISE

for your Home



ELECTRIC VEHICLES

How much does it cost to drive an EV?

On average, EVs get 3 miles per kilowatt-hour (kWh), which is equivalent to 100 miles per gallon (mpg) in a gas-powered car. This means if you drive 1,000 miles per month (12,000 miles a year), you use about 333 kWh of electricity. The average electricity cost in the U.S. is \$0.12/kWh (about the same in Minnesota, too) so your electricity costs for driving are about \$40 a month. If you enroll in your cooperative's off-peak program, you could cut that cost in half.

Type of vehicle	Mileage/month	Cost/gallon of gas Cost/kWh of electricity	MPG miles per gallon/ Miles per kWh	Gallons/month kWhs/month	Monthly costs
Internal Combustion	1,000	\$2.50	25/mpg	40 gallons	\$100
Internal Combustion	1,000	\$2.50	10/mpg	100 gallons	\$250
Electric Vehicle	1,000	\$0.12/kWh	3/miles per kWh	333 kWh	\$40
Electric Vehicle (charged off peak)	1,000	\$0.07/kWh	3/miles per kWh	333 kWh	\$24

Maintenance savings

You will also see savings on the maintenance side. Since EVs, especially battery electric vehicles, have less wearing parts they also have lower maintenance costs. Even plug-in hybrids, which still have an internal combustion engine, have lower maintenance costs than traditional gas cars because the internal combustion engine will be running less. All EVs also have regenerative braking where the electric motors turn into generators and store a majority of the deceleration energy back to the battery to be used in the next acceleration. This increases the overall efficiency, but it also reduces the traditional brake wear since electric motors do the heavy lifting.

How about the battery replacement costs?

There has been a lot of discussion about battery replacement costs. People know that their cellphone batteries last an average of three to four years, so they are concerned with the same degradation on EV batteries. Fortunately, that is not the case. All manufacturers provide eight years and a minimum of 100,000 miles as a warranty on EV traction batteries. Present-day EVs have been on the market since 2011 so we are starting to see data on how batteries perform over time. Batteries have improved since 2011, too, and data from multiple sources suggests EV batteries will last 12-15 years with normal use. Batteries do lose their capacity slowly over time and, if the battery has 70% of the capacity left after 12 years of service, it might be time to upgrade to a new battery. Current EV batteries cost between \$6,000 and \$12,000, but the good news is that since battery technology keeps advancing, battery costs are expected to be much lower than what they are today. And what happens to those old batteries? They are still very valuable energy storage units and will get a second life as the stationary storage units for a home or grid. Our estimate is that EV batteries will easily have at least a 30-year life before they need to be recycled.

Visit energywisemn.com/electric-vehicles to learn more about EVs.

Your cooperative offers upfront rebates on Level 2 EV chargers.
Learn more at energywisemnstore.com

We ♥ Trees, Too.

We know everyone in our community enjoys the beauty and shade trees provide. But trees and power lines can be a dangerous mix without regular trimming during the growing season.

If you see us out in the community trimming, remember the many benefits it brings:

- Keeps power lines clear of tree limbs
- Helps us restore power outages more quickly
- Keeps crews and members of our community safe
- Reduces unexpected costs for repairs

Trimming improves service reliability for you, the members we serve.



Greta Nelson
Bold North Agent



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North Itasca Electric at (218) 743-3131.

Help Wanted!
AIS Boat Inspectors!

Boat landing AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) inspectors needed for Turtle Lake public water access. Full or part-time. Seasonal.

Administered through Itasca County AIS program. Must be 18 or older. If interested, email Scott Braiedy, scottbraiedy@outlook.com

Falcon Cam

Brooklyn and Breezy are back!
The pair are nesting at a box set up on its Elk River, Minn. location. It's near the Mississippi River and a migratory flyway.

The nesting box was set up in 2006, and has resulted in 46 falcons fledged. The Raptor Resource project bands the young birds, but otherwise viewers are able to watch the birds hatch and raise their young undisturbed.

In 2020 the nest was relocated due to the demolition of the Elk River plant.

The bird cam is at greatriverenergy.com, search for peregrin falcon cam.



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Native Plant Sale

by Sally Sedgwick

April 22 is the deadline for ordering from this year's native plant sale through the Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District. Order from the SWCD website at itascaswcd.org or stop by the offices at 1895 W Highway 2 in Grand Rapids. Pick-up will be May 19-20 at the SWCD offices on Highway 2 west in Grand Rapids. Early orders are encouraged as quantities are limited.

The annual sale is an opportunity to find native varieties of wildflowers, grasses, shrubs (including fruits) and trees for beautification, erosion control, windbreaks and re-establishing native landscapes. The sale also includes several browse prevention items and seed mixes for lakeshore and

Energy tip: About 30 percent of a home's heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weatherstrip all windows to seal air leaks.

When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible.

Source: Dept. of Energy



St. Urho's Day parade

Reportedly the Iron Range was the source for the legend of St Urho, the patron saint of Ireland who chased all the grasshoppers out of the country. That was before the Ice Age, of course, when Ireland had a climate that was perfect for vineyards.

The legend spread across

northern Minnesota and there are still places that celebrate the saving of the grape harvest on St. Urho's Day, March 16. Bruce Leino brought the legend back to The Hill in Squaw Lake and today it is hosted by Leino's Pub and Restaurant.

This year the parade crossed the bridge on Highway 46, escorted by the Squaw Lake Fire Department and complete with purple and green themes and a crowd of revelers cheering them on.



Bigfork considers SCADA for water system

by Sally Sedgwick

At its March 8 meeting, the Bigfork City Council heard a proposal to add SCADA technology and security to the sewer and water system. Quotes were received from In Control for \$3,616.00 and Minnesota Pump Works for \$12,924.50 for the parts of the system. A SCADA system would allow staff to monitor system data remotely and capture data required for state reports but would also come with ongoing subscription cost. SCADA technology would be purchased using remaining American Rescue Plan funds of

about \$72,500 which need to be allocated by 2023 and spent by 2024. A note was made that council preference was that \$50,000 be reserved toward the water tower for a decision with full council attendance in April.

The council reviewed the part time public works position job description and approved it for posting with some changes.

In other business:

- Approved Feb. 18 and March 4 payrolls, and claims paid and claims for payment (less an invoice for video licensing to be taken up at a future time)

totaling \$79,915.91.

- Heard that Mayor for a Day student essay contest winners had been selected.

- Heard that a CliftonLarsonAllen employee had been onsite

to begin the 2021 audit.

The next regular meeting of the Bigfork City Council will be on Tuesday, April 12 at 5:30 p.m. in the city hall.

Excerpted from a story in the Scenic Range NewsForum

How much will you need to retire? Let's talk.



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Arts on the Edge

by Val Conner

Just as a bear emerges from hibernation in the spring, hungry and ready for action, the Edge Center for the Arts is coming out of two years of COVID-induced hibernation, hungry for action and a return to providing a variety of art experiences to the area. The gallery committee is looking forward to its first exhibition; the events committee is booking some performances for this summer; the EdgeWild Players are preparing for an early summer play.

To that end, in December and January we held script readings for actors to get a feel for characterization. In February

we had tech training for lights and sound. Now we are ready to begin production.

The first step is AUDITIONS. We will have auditions at the Edge Center on Saturday, April 9. Come anytime between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. If you can't make it that date call one of the producers: Val Conner, (218) 259-4490, or Michaela Raymond, (218) 259-4456 before the 9th. Once we know who wants to participate, we can select and cast a play. We plan to begin rehearsals after Easter with summer performances.

With spring comes energy and renewed life. Help us put new life in the activities at the Edge!



Congratulations to Caden Kallinen, senior at Bigfork School. He will be attending Luther College in Iowa to play Football and Track and Field.

Pictured (l to r) ; Peter Johnson, head Track and Field coach; Heather Lovdahl, BHS Athletic Director; Caden Kallinen; Stephanie Kallinen; and Thor Johnson 2021 head Football coach.

Classic movie series in Bigfork

by Jack Nachbar

What was the top box-office movie of 1977? Right! Star Wars. But I bet you couldn't guess what movie was number two. It was none other than our Classic Movie for April, the movie with a truckload of laughs, *Smokey and the Bandit*. Now, who was the top box-office star of 1977? Burt Reynolds, the star of *Smokey*.

This comedy has got it all. An entertaining romance between Reynolds and Sally Field, at the time, the real deal. A hilarious bad guy, southern sheriff Rufus T. Justice by name, played with wonderful overstatement by Jackie Gleason. All this plus amusing CB radio chatter, terrific country music by Reynolds's adventure pal, Jerry Reed,

and even a cute doggy. And so the chase is on. Will Bandit (Reynolds), Field, and Reed be able to speed through half of the south to deliver 400 illegal cases of Coors beer to Atlanta? Or will Gleason and about a million cops be able to stop them?

Smokey and the Bandit will be shown at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 14 at the Edge Center Theater in Bigfork. FREE!

As of the moment of this writing, masks and social distancing are still required at the Edge.

Go "East Bound and Down" with Burt and the gang. "What we are dealing with here is a complete lack of respect for the law."

You're going to love it.

"The Lost Forty" performs at the Edge Center

by Paul Kraska

For the first program in a new season of entertainment this year, the Edge Center for the Performing Arts will present an upper Midwest talent treat by the name of "The Lost Forty." The performance is on May 1 at 2 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults and children free. Social distancing and masks are required in the theatre.

The Lost Forty performs the fascinating folk music that once rang out across the Great Lakes region in the days when pine was king. Their arrangements celebrate two centuries of Irish musical influence on the under-explored musical traditions of the northwoods. The show includes rich regional history, colorful stories with beautifully interwoven accompaniment on bouzouki and guitar.

The Lost Forty is comprised of Bemidji native Brian Miller and Wisconsinite

Randy Gosa. Miller (vocals, bouzouki, guitar) and Gosa (mandola, guitar) are both renowned in the Irish traditional music world for their work with artists (including Bua and Myserk) in the US and Ireland. Miller is a recipient of the Parsons Fund Award from the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress and has been awarded several grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board for his revival of regional folk music. Randy's versatile musicianship has been described as "driving, percussive..."

They have performed at the University of Chicago Folk Festival, Milwaukee Irish Fest, and over 100 venues across Minnesota. Their second album, "The Lonesome Hours of Winter," came out in 2019.

Visit the Edge at www.edgecenterarts.org email info@theedgecenterarts.org or call us at (218) 743-6670.

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Zero COVID cases in Bigfork nursing home residents

In its March meeting, the Bigfork Valley Hospital board heard that January operating revenues were positive at \$1,615 with total net income at \$36,985. The hospital is currently paying back the Medicare accelerated payments that were put in place during the pandemic to help hospitals with cash flow.

The hospital was recognized recently because there was not a single case of COVID among residents during the pandemic.

A new \$135,000 capital purchase of a C-Arm imaging machine was confirmed as a COVID-eligible expense.

Closing documents for the

bond refinancing were approved. Expected closing date was in March, and the final interest rate will not be known until then. As of March 1, that rate was quoted at 2.83%.

The board reviewed the four strategies of the three year strategic plan and leadership staff's proposals to address them. Strategies centered on external finances and communication, and internal efficiencies, patient access and staffing. There was discussion on the need for more marketing. Saude said he was receptive to ideas from district residents who may contact him directly at (218)

743-3177.

A new service is planned starting this summer to ages 55+ using Senior Life Solutions, providing an intensive outpatient mental health program.

Peer awards for excellence were approved for Tanya Hemphill and Boyd Penn. At the February meeting peer awards were approved for Rhonda Hauck, Toni Cleath, James Parks, Dr. Eric Scrivner and Laura Vaneps.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, April 5 at 9 a.m. in the Board Room at the hospital and is open to the public.

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Litter Lifespan

What is the most frequent roadside litter in the United States? Cigarette butts, says Keep America Beautiful (KAB). That trend continues even with the good news that in 2020, litter was 54 percent less than in 2009.

Cigarette butts are fewer, from 18.6 billion to 5.7 billion. Plastic films, such as candy wrappers and snack bags, follow them in frequency. Containers from alcoholic beverages exceed the number from nonalcoholic drinks. KAB's 2020 survey reports an average of 2,857 litter pieces per mile of U.S. roadway.

Adopt a Highway volunteer teams are assigned about 2 miles to clean—potentially, more than 5,000 pieces of litter. In 2019, these helpers collected more than 40,000 bags of litter, with a benefit to Minnesota taxpayer greater than \$7 million.

Litter doesn't simply disappear. It can stay far longer than a person's lifespan. Moisture, air oxygen levels, bacteria, and sunlight, among other factors, affect the rate of breakdown. Check out this list of common litter and its longevity.

Cigarette butts, 1-5 years
Glass bottle, unknown
Plastic bag, 10-20 years
Plastic films, 5 years
Aluminum can, 200-500 years
Tin can, 80-100 years
Plastic 6-pack cover, 450 years
Banana or orange peel, 2-5 weeks
Rubber boot sole, 50-80 years
Cotton cloth, 1-5 months
Nylon fabric, 30-40 years

Source: California Waste Management Bulletin. Posted on the Keep America Beautiful website. Accessed 2/25/22.

For more information: Keep America Beautiful 2020 National Litter Study at https://kab.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Litter-Study-Summary-Report-May-2021_final_05172021.pdf. Accessed 2/25/22.

LIFE in the ditches

by Colleen M. Sauber

Each spring, a fleet of volunteer litter collectors drops into roadside ditches to pick up items tossed from vehicles over the past months. Some items likely bounced out of truck beds or trailers. Most is harmless, but volunteers are not to touch hazardous waste if they find it.

These volunteers are the yellow-vested corps of Minnesota Adopt a Highway. They are the ones who put the yellow bags along Highway 38, the Edge of the Wilderness National Scenic Byway. They dress to protect hands, arms, legs, and ankles. The helpers are families, friends, businesses, schools, 4Hers, and clubs. They have a unified objective: Clean the ditch land, preserve roadside beauty, and ultimately help plants, birds, and animals living in the woods, lakes, and wetlands.

Before each cleanup day, volunteers feel the anticipation. What will we find this time? Do we have enough bags? Will all the usual litter be there? The cigarette butts, beverage cans, bottles, 5-gallon paint tubs, food packaging, and maybe a damaged trailer bumper or the scattered pieces of an auto or two?

Highway 38 presents its challenges for litter pickup. Ditches can be deep and steep or low and soggy. Its shoulders are minimal. Few pull-over places or driveways are available to park a volunteer's car. Semitrailers, logging trucks, and dump trucks travel the scenic byway.

The volunteers' heroes are drivers who are able and willing to move toward the middle of the road to give them space. Twice, the tires hum as they cross the middle rumble strip. Some drivers wave in solidarity.

As helpers walk the ditches, they have time to think. Do

people really like those 2 light beers that are on top of my beverage can list? Or is it just that 2 drivers who regularly travel 38 drink those brands and toss the cans? The trailer must have been moving fast when the rectangular mirror dropped into the ditch. Poor snapping turtle, sigh. The construction worker probably didn't see the level and metal T square fly out of the truck bed around this curve. What did that Volvo hit hard enough to shatter its grill but not damage the logo? Did they have to throw out the dirty diaper? Ew! Took a good arm to throw the bottle that far into the woods. Here's hoping I can reach the chips bag in the cattails. The to-go pizza from the Frontier seems a hit, judging by the tossed cartons. What do you know, people eat healthy yogurt too. Poor bald eagle! That brand leads the cigarette box department. The 54th cigarette butt today; smokers must think butts are organic. Maybe more people are smoking during the pandemic?

With their full trash bags lining the highway, a volunteer calls the Adopt a Highway coordinator, who notifies the Minnesota Department of Transportation fleet. Bags and trash will be picked up soon.

When all is said and all is done, the volunteers have a great feeling of accomplishment. Ditches are pristine. Woods and marsh lands are cleaner, which means better habitat. This is why they do what they do: satisfaction of a job well done and of helping protect nature, keeping our Edge of the Wilderness National Scenic Byway scenic.

For more information: Minnesota Adopt a Highway, <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/adopt/>

Calling All Actors for auditions at the Edge!

Who: Experienced or aspiring actors

When: April 9, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Where: Edge Center, Bigfork

Who else: Interested in behind the scene participation? Come or call.

Questions: Call Val Conner, (218) 259-4490 or Michaela Raymond, (218) 259-4456.

Audition material will be provided.

The play will be presented this summer.

This activity made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council.



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SUPERHERO READING NIGHT
Date: Thurs., April 21
Time: 5 p.m.
Location: Elementary School
Cost: free
Crafts and hands-on reading and writing. Take home a free book.

Defensive Driving Courses

For drivers age 55 and older who have already completed the beginner's course. Pre-register for classes by calling (218) 750-3189 or e-mailing mnflats@hotmail.com. For more information visit mndefensivedriving.blogspot.com.

ZOOM (early registration required)
Date: Wednesday, April 13
Time: 5-9 p.m.
Cost: \$14.00
In-person
Date: Friday, April 15
Time: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Location: Board Room, Itasca County Courthouse
Cost: \$12.00

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.

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- **Koochiching County** - Curt Collier (218) 966-5070
- **Beltrami, Clearwater counties** - Davis Smid (507) 227-2772

area bookmobile stops

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

Tuesdays: April 5, 26; May 17
10:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m. Bowstring Store
12:00-1:00 p.m. Spring Lake Store
3:00-4:30 p.m. Effie: Effie Cafe
5:00-6:30 p.m. Bigfork: City Hall

Thursdays: April 7, 28; May 19
11:45-12:45 Togo: Junction Bar & Grill

Mondays: April 4, 25; May 16
12:30 -1:00 p.m. Gemmel; Comm.Church
1:45 - 2:30 p.m. Northome; Apartments
3:15 - 4:15 p.m. Alvwood; Hoot-n-Holler
4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Squaw Lake; Community Ctr

Bookmobile or Mail-a-Book information: call Arrowhead Library System at (218) 741-3840

Bigfork: Register for classes at (218) 743-3444, online at getlearning.org.

HIKING WITH YOUR HOUND
Date: Sat., April 23
Time: 9:30 a.m.-noon
Location: School parking lot
Cost: \$15 per dog, at least one adult per dog
Ages 10 to adult. Each dog will get a travel water bottle/dispenser.

Northome: Call for more information at (218) 897-5275, Ext. 116

STENCILED SIGNS
Date: Tues., April 19
Time: 6 p.m.
Location: Northome High School Art Room
Cost: \$30 per sign
No experience necessary.

START A HANGING BASKET
Date: Sat., April 2
Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m. (Tues.) or 2-3 p.m. (Sat.)
Location: Mizpah Local Roots Greenhouse
Cost: \$30
Plant five plants, in a 12" basket or pot, just the way you want them. Pick up in May.

Blackduck Call for more information at (218) 835-5206. Register online blackduck.k12.mn.us/CE.

MONTHLY KIDS CRAFT CLASS
Date: Thurs., April 28
Time: 4-5:30 p.m.
Location: King School Media Center
Cost: \$5
2 sections: grades PreK-1st and 2-6.
MONTHLY KIDS ART NIGHT
Date: Thurs., April 7
Time: 4-5:30 p.m.
Location: Elementary School
Cost: \$5
2 sections: grades K-2 and 3-6. Focus on Picasso.

<p>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.</p>	<p>Northern Itasca Emergency Food Shelf 200 Main, Bigfork Thursdays 12:30-3 p.m. 3rd Thursday 4-5:30 p.m. (218) 743-3381</p>
<p>Blackduck Community Library: (218) 835-6600 Tues: 1-6 p.m.. Wed: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Thurs: 1-7 p.m. Fri: 1-6 p.m. Sat.: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.</p>	<p>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 - 3 p.m. Fri: 9 a.m.- noon</p>
<p>Resource Centers:</p>	
<p>Blackduck: (218) 835-5768</p>	<p>Northome: (218) 897-5952</p>

Community News

Email editor at sedgwick@paulbunyan.net,
put Community News in the subject line

.....

Northwest Itasca County

Interested in a spring garage sale? The annual *Treasures Are Fine on 6, 4 and 29* garage sales in northwest Itasca County are returning on Saturday, May 7, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

This is a community event run by volunteers. The published route is on or near Highways 6, 4 or 29 going through Bowstring, Talmoon, Spring Lake, Sand Lake, Squaw Lake, Wirt, Dora Lake and Alvwood.

Getting your sale on the map is free. Print off a registration form from the Facebook page @Treasures6429 or pick one up at a local store. To be included, the registration needs to be received by April 15.

If you are a business, help the Treasures sales with a donation of \$30 toward printing cost and receive listing on all publicity. Paul Bunyan Communications is the major sponsor for 2022.

Turtle Lake

The Turtle Lake Association will have a position(s) for someone 18 or older available for a seasonal job inspecting boats coming into the lake via the public access for aquartic invasive species. For more information, email Scott Braiedy at sbraiedy@gmail.com.



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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.

Fitness Walking at the Marcell Family Center 4-7 p.m. Free, register at getlearning.org.

~ April Calendar ~

- 4 ISD318 School Board meeting at Admin Board Room in Grand Rapids or at watchictv.org, 6:30 p.m. Public Forum, 6 p.m. Contact for information: jrasmussen@isd318.org or call (218) 327-5704.
- 5 Bigfork Valley Hospital Board meets, 9 a.m. Contact (218) 743-1772 for telephone or virtual attendance information.
- 8-9 Multifamily garage sale at Bowstring Town Hall, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
- 10 The Edge Center in Bigfork hosts the Classic Movies series with *Smokey and the Bandit* (1977) starring Burt Reynolds and Jackie Gleason. 6:30 p.m. Free. Masks and social distancing are required as of this writing. This is the last classic film of the season.
- 11 Blackduck ISD32 School Board, 5 p.m. in the Media Center. Note changed time.
- 11 ISD317 School Board meets, 6 p.m., public forum 5:45 p.m.
- 11 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 11 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 12 Stop & Stitch meets at the Marcell Family Center the 2nd Tuesday of every month, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. For more information, call Judy at (218) 832-3237.
- 12 Bigfork City Council meets at City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 13 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 14 Blood Drive at Northome School, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sign up at mbc.org or email Kristen at kflow@northome.k12.mn.us.
- 14-18 No school, Bigfork, Deer River schools.
- 15-18 No school, Blackduck (school in session Monday, April 11), Northome schools.
- 17 Easter
- 19 ISD318 School Board meeting at Admin Board Room in Grand Rapids or at watchictv.org, 6:30 p.m. Public Forum, 6 p.m. Contact for information: jrasmussen@isd318.org or call (218) 327-5704.
- 22 Applications due for the North Itasca Electric scholarships. See article p.5.
- 22 Last day to order from Itasca SWCD Native Plant sale.
- 25 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- MAY
- 1 The Lost Forty performs at the Edge Center in Bigfork, 2 p.m.
- 6-8 Effie holds a Clean-Up Day for Effie City residents, 8 a.m.-6 p.m at the Community Center. No household garbage.
- 7 Treasures Are Fine garage sales -northwest Itasca County

Area Church Directory

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Alvwood Evangelical Free Church Sun 10:00a
58712 Co. Rd. 131
Blackduck 56630 659-4681

Balsam Bible Chapel Sun 10:00a
41516 Scenic Hwy 7
Bovey 55709 245-1960

Bear River Lutheran Church Sun 10:00a
11141 Hwy 22
Cook 55723 376-1012

Bethesda Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a
Mizpah 56660 897-5654

Bigfork Assembly of God Sun 9:30a
101 Golf Course Ln
Bigfork 56628 743-3500

Bowstring Chapel Sun 10:15a
45114 Co Rd 133
Deer River 56636 832-3171

Calvary Covenant Sun 10:30a
54764 Co. Rd. 31
Northome 56661 897-5684

Centennial Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a
Hwy 46
Squaw Lake 56681 259-0115

Deer River Bible Church Sun 10:00a
33276 State Highway 6
Deer River 56636 246-9570

Dora Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a
59329 Co Rd 145
Northome 56661 659-4551

Effie Fredheim Lutheran Church (ELCA) Sun 8:30a
Hwy 1
Effie 56639 743-3368

First Presbyterian Church, BF Sun 10:15a
109 Ash St.
Bigfork 56628 743-3783

Gemmel Community Church Sun 10:00a
10609 Town Rd 34
Gemmel 56660 897-5966

Grace Community Church (ELCA) Sun 10:15a
401 State Hwy 38 N
Bigfork 56628 743-3368

Hope Lutheran Church Sun 10:30 a.m.
12234 Third St.
Northome 56661 897-5654

Jehovah's Witnesses Tu 7:00p., Sun 10:00a
Hwy 38
Bigfork 56628 743-3275

Jesse Lake Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a
45834 Co. Rd. 4
Talmoon 56637 832-3883

Marcell Community Church Sun 10:30a
49103 State Hwy 38
Marcell 56657 832-3200

Northome Community Church Sun 10:00a
12071 Bartlett St.
Northome 56661 897-5040

Northwoods Chapel Sun 9:00a
50539 Mushgee Rd. (corner of Co. Rd. 622)
Deer River 56636 659-2784

Old Scenic Community Church Sun 10:30a
25747 Co. Rd. 340
Bigfork 56628 659-2727

Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church Sun 9:00a Mass also W, Th, F 9:00a.
320 Golf Course Ln
Bigfork 56628 743-3255

Sand Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a
55581 Co. Rd 4
Spring Lake 56680 659-2872
Church website: www.sandlakealliancechurch.org

St. Catherine's Catholic Church Sat 4:00p
52265 State Hwy 46
Squaw Lake 56681 743-3255

St. Michael Catholic Church Sat 7:00p; Tu 6:00a
12026 Lake St
Northome 56661 743-3255

Seventh Day Adventist Sun 11:30a
12352 Hwy 46
Northome 56661 897-5723

Suomi Evangelical Lutheran Church Sun 10:30a
42935 Co. Rd. 48
Deer River 56636 832-3883

True Life Church Sun 10:00a
45976 Terry
Talmoon 56637 244-7089

*Church directory sponsored by
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sedgwick@paulbunyan.net*

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Contact the editor by one of the ways in the coupon at the bottom of page 15 or bring your ad into the office.

Classified ads are free to members, \$5 per insertion to non-members or businesses. as service classifieds (text only). Ads are boxed and may be limited in size.

CWD detected in a wild deer in Grand Rapids

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is updating its chronic wasting disease response plan after the discovery of a wild white-tailed deer infected with CWD within the city of Grand Rapids. The response plan update will better reflect a statewide approach to disease surveillance, management, control and education.

This is the first time CWD has been detected in wild deer in this deer permit area, so the DNR is also taking immediate steps to understand the prevalence of the disease in wild deer in the Grand Rapids area. The agency will work with local road authorities to collect samples

from road-killed deer and is exploring opportunities for targeted culling where it can be performed safely.

While the surveillance outlined in the DNR's current response plan made this detection possible, the finding of CWD in Grand Rapids highlights the need for an enhanced statewide sampling approach which will include.

- Updating the DNR's CWD response plan this spring
- Investigating options for hunters to use a self-mailing kit for free testing statewide
- Expanding the taxidermist network (Partner Sampling Program) statewide
- Upgrading and

improving current design for
self-service stations

The DNR will seek public input as it explores options for enhanced statewide surveillance.

There now are eight areas spread across Minnesota where CWD has been found in wild or farmed deer. Despite these detections, the disease remains rare in Minnesota. Fewer than 1 percent of deer have tested positive for CWD in areas where the disease has consistently been detected during the past five years.

Since 2002, DNR has tested 106,000 deer statewide and 153 have tested positive. Most of those cases occurred in southeastern Minnesota.

The DNR received confirmation of the Grand Rapids CWD infection on March 15. A Grand Rapids resident reported to the DNR in mid-February that an adult doe had died in his backyard. DNR staff collected the carcass and submitted a lymph node

sample for CWD testing.

Results of a full necropsy showed the deer died from a collision with a vehicle, not CWD. The deer showed no clinical signs of the disease but final test results confirmed the infection.

Active surveillance for CWD has not occurred in the location where the infected deer was found (deer permit area 179) since 2004. The DNR conducted CWD surveillance to the west and north of Grand Rapids in fall 2021 in DPAs 197, 169, 184 and 110 in response to captive deer infected with CWD on a Beltrami County farm. More than 1,800 samples were tested and CWD was not detected. To the west and south of Grand Rapids, a CWD management zone exists in DPA 604. Surveillance has been ongoing in this area since 2017. Two wild deer detections have been found in the 6,300 deer tested since surveillance began.

More information about CWD and what the DNR is doing to limit disease spread is available on the DNR website (mndnr.gov/CWD).

Take & Write poetry workbook kits

The Arrowhead Library System (ALS) will be providing Take & Write poetry workbook kits to member public libraries and the bookmobile to distribute April 1-20. Celebrate National Poetry Month with the Poet's Workbook designed by COMPAS Teaching Artist and Minnesota Poet May Lee-Yang!

Inside your booklet, there are several poetry writing exercises designed specifically for new poets. Each writing exercise will include an example poem, some directions on how you can write your own poem, and space to write! Kits will be distributed at member libraries, the bookmobile and Mail-a-Book.

This is an all-ages program (Kindergarteners and 1st graders may need extra assistance). Please note each location has a limited number of kits.

This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, see our calendar at www.alslib.info or like us on Facebook.



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The annual recipe booklet with all the Member holiday cookie and candy recipes can be picked up at Co-op's lobby in Bigfork, or email roxanne@nieci.com.

Southern Banana Pudding

Thank you to Joe Ann Powell for this April recipe!

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 4 large eggs | 1/2 teaspoon salt |
| 3/4 cup sugar | 2 cups whole milk |
| 3 Tablespoons flour | 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract |
| 30-40 vanilla wafers | |


Separate yolks from whites of 3 eggs. Set aside the whites. Add the remaining whole egg to the yolks.

In saucepan whisk together 1/2 cup sugar, flour and salt. Stir in the whole egg and 3 yolks. Then stir in milk. Cook uncovered, stirring often until mixture thickens or about 10 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla.

Preheat oven to 425° F. Spread a thin layer of the pudding in a quart casserole dish. Arrange a layer of vanilla wafers on top of the pudding. Slice bananas about 1/8 inch thick and arrange over the wafers. Spread 1/3 of pudding over bananas and continue layering wafers, bananas and pudding.

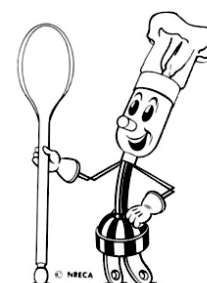
To make meringue beat reserved egg whites until stiff. May add a small pinch of salt if desired. Gradually beat in the remaining 1/4 cup sugar and beat until very stiff. Spread over pudding and bake until lightly brown or about 5 minutes.

Basic Chili

- 1 to 1 1/2 lb ground beef, browned and drained
- 1 29 oz can crushed tomatoes
- 1 29 oz can diced tomatoes
- 3 15 oz cans kidney beans, light or dark, drained and rinsed
or mix with great northern beans
- chili powder to taste - 1 1/2 teaspoons makes a mild chili
Mix into a small amount of hot water before adding.
- 1 large green or mild red pepper, diced
- 1 teaspoon (or to taste) dry minced or clove of fresh minced garlic
- 2 teaspoons (or to taste) dry minced or 1 medium diced onion
- 1 Tablespoon (or to taste) oregano
- 1 teaspoon (or to taste) basil
- pinch sugar
- 

Mix and simmer for at least 2 hours on medium/medium low heat.

Add other ingredients your family likes, such as sauted chopped mushrooms. Top with shredded cheese when serving.



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for MAY – Fri., April 15

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tires, good condition. Call
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Emails will be
answered; if no
reply, please resend.

NOTICE

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments This may affect your 2023 property taxes.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for **Wirt Township** shall meet on **April 14, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.** at the **Wirt Town Hall**. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

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

Cheryl Carrigan, clerk

ASSESSMENT NOTICE SAND LAKE TOWNSHIP

Important Information Regarding Assessments for 2023 Property Taxes

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Sand Lake Township will meet on April 14, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at the Sand Lake Community Center. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

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

The Regular Meeting of the Sand Lake Board of Supervisors will be held immediately following the Board of Appeal meeting.

Elaine L Rasmussen, Clerk of Sand Lake Township

NOTICE

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments This may affect your 2023 property taxes.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for **Ardenhurst Township** shall meet on **April 12, 2022 1:00 PM at Ardenhurst Town Hall (Old Island Lake School)**. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

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

Employment Opportunity

The City of Squaw Lake is looking for a Clerk/Treasurer. Candidate should be familiar with general office procedures, have some accounting background and the ability to operate office equipment. This position is part time and offers a flexible schedule.

If you have these skills and enjoy helping to build a great community, send your resume today! City of Squaw Lake, PO Box 382, Squaw Lake MN 56681. The City of Squaw Lake is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

NOTICE

ASSESSMENT NOTICE – MARCELL TOWNSHIP

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments.

This may affect your 2023 property taxes.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Appeal and Equalization for **Marcell Township** shall meet on **4/21/2022 at 9:00 AM at the Marcell Town Hall**. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

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

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

Request for Road & Bridge Quotes Marcell Township

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

For consideration, quotes must be received, with the required paperwork, by April 13th, 2022, 5:00 p.m. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all quotes.

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

Quotes can be directed to:

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Great River Energy: Your membership to affordable, reliable, responsible power

Great River Energy provides wholesale power and delivery services to North Itasca Electric and 27 other electric cooperatives that collectively own Great River Energy. Together, these cooperatives provide retail electric service to more than 720,000 member-owners across Minnesota and parts of Wisconsin.

With stable wholesale rates, record-setting transmission reliability and a plan to dramatically reduce carbon dioxide emissions, Great River Energy is living up to its mission and fulfilling its promise to member-owner cooperatives.

Strong financials in 2021

While other types of businesses strive to produce returns for investors, cooperatives focus on service. When there's excess revenue collected, it's reinvested in the company or returned to members.

That spirit of sharing guided Great River Energy throughout 2021. Due to strong sales and cost containment, Great River Energy recorded very strong margins. Great River Energy issued bill credits to members several times during the year and returned \$25 million in patronage capital payments.

Great River Energy's financial position has never been stronger. Great River Energy's wholesale power rates are 10.9 percent below the weighted regional average cost of electricity, and they are projected to remain steady or decline over the next several years.

Energy evolution underway

2021 witnessed some of the most significant and lasting changes to Great River energy's power supply portfolio. By dramatically reducing coal and more than doubling its renewable resources, Great River Energy worked toward reducing its power supply costs and minimizing its environmental impact.

Great River Energy reached an agreement to sell its largest power plant, the coal-based Coal Creek Station located in central North Dakota. In addition, the 436-mile high-voltage, direct-current transmission system that

delivered the plant's energy to Minnesota was contracted to provide a dedicated pathway for the planned 400-megawatt Discovery Wind project.

This shift has the cooperative positioned to meet Minnesota's 80 percent carbon dioxide emissions reduction goal more than 25 years ahead of schedule.

Battery comes into focus

Great River Energy's partner on its upcoming Cambridge Energy Storage Project, Form Energy, revealed long-awaited details about its technology. The primary component of Form's first-of-its-kind, multi-day battery is also a cornerstone of Minnesota's economy: iron.

While other battery technologies employ expensive and rare metals, iron

is one of the safest, cheapest and most abundant minerals on Earth – and it is found in Minnesota's Iron Range.

The energy storage project is expected to be in operation at the end of 2023 in Cambridge, Minnesota. It will be the first commercial deployment of Form Energy's proprietary multi-day energy storage technology.

Serving members reliably

Transmission reliability is among the most important aspects of electric service. The electric system has developed over time and undergoes

constant monitoring and maintenance to ensure it is reliable and resilient. Eight of the 10 metrics Great River Energy uses to assess transmission reliability were at all-time records in 2021.

Great River Energy's system performed well in June 2021 despite temperatures repeatedly reaching above 90 degrees Fahrenheit. The system did not experience any overloading, and Great River Energy did not need to make any special operational changes. Every resource in Great River Energy's power supply portfolio played a role in serving its member-owner cooperatives.

A responsible conclusion

Two-and-a-half years after the retirement of the

Elk River Energy Recovery Station, the power plant site now resembles how it likely looked a century ago.

Crews spent much of 2021 removing underground structures, disposing of building materials and landscaping. The site has been graded to match the surrounding topography and seeded with pollinator plantings.

Transmission utility partnership builds under Grid North Partners

A partnership of utilities responsible for more than 800 miles of high-voltage transmission lines has been reinvented. Great River Energy was central to the launch of Grid North Partners, a collaboration with ambitions to build the next series of projects needed to ensure continued reliable, affordable energy and open new pathways for renewable energy. Grid North Partners is an evolution of CapX2020.

Grid North Partners worked with regional partners to identify the regional transmission enhancements needed to integrate the changing generation fleet while educating policymakers and other stakeholders on the purpose and need for transmission.

Due to strong sales and cost containment, Great River Energy recorded very strong margins in 2021.

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