



# NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

# WATTS NEWS

VOL. 25 NO. 7

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

JULY 2022

## CEO Report

Good morning,

We held the Annual Meeting of North Itasca Electric on Thursday, June 16. This is the presentation I gave to the Member-Owners that were able to attend.

I sincerely apologize to all. During the Annual Meeting the wind came up and upset our American flag. This was an oversight on my behalf, I should have anchored the flag better. I will ensure that the due respect of our American flag will not be overlooked ever again. Once again, I apologize.

We started our meeting with a safety message; thank you to our crew that presented that message to all of us. This presentation was explaining the steps of an underground outage.

2021 was one wild year. We saw several changes in the economy, work force, and world around us. North Itasca



Brad Dolinski, CEO

Electric was able to have a successful year through the hard work of many. I want to recognize those who made this possible.

Our operations department overcame many challenges last year. We were down to three linemen at a point last summer. The crew was able to be flexible to cover call and accomplish the mountain of work we had. Trying to be resourceful, we contacted neighboring cooperatives for scheduled mutual aid. Several of our neighbors sent us linemen who volunteered

to assist us on the weekends to provide some relief to our crews. Daryl also worked with several contractors to provide new services to the many new Member-Owners. The changing work demands coupled with a retirement of Mr. Jerry Pula and storm response over the past couple of years led us to the decision to hire additional linemen.

Please help me to welcome Josh Hubbard and Jake Bowers (journeymen), and Trevor Michienzi (1000 hr). Bruce Carlson, Chuck Peck, John Rahier, Cody Eischens, Cole Serfling, Dick Lind, Chris Larson and Daryl Pederson – thank you all for the hard work you provide for our cooperative!

I want to call out Jerry Pula once again! Jerry has been serving our membership since 2000. Jerry made the decision to retire this past year. I want to thank Jerry from the bottom of my heart for all he has given to the membership.

CEO to p.2>

## Brainstorm!

...and win a \$100 energy credit!

For those of you who were able to attend North Itasca Electric's annual meeting Thursday, June 16, you heard our CEO Brad Dolinski telling us how important it will be for members to participate in a load reduction program during our peak-time occurrences. Various programs are being looked at to engage member participation but we believe the best results will come from you, the members.

To encourage member participation, North Itasca Electric is asking you to submit your ideas on how to reduce energy use during peak-time occurrences along with your electric bills or send separately to Jerry Loney. He will enter your name for a chance to win a \$100 energy credit off your next electric bill or apply it to

other purchases from North Itasca Electric. All ideas submitted will be published in the WATTS News.

The more we can reduce demand during peak times, the less likely we will experience energy shortfalls and higher costs we're hearing about within the MISO market. Fifteen states supply and receive energy from MISO, and three of those states – Michigan, Illinois, and Indiana – have or are closing their coal fired powerplants.

Brainstorm to p.4>

## Don't let a heat wave spike your bill

As summer heat waves make their way across Minnesota, North Itasca Electric Cooperative is offering its members advice on how to stay cool at home without running up their electric bill.

"These times when people in our community are using more electricity all at once — in this instance to stay cool — are called 'peak hours,'" "The cost to provide power ends up being higher due to increased demand. By conserving energy use during this period of high temperatures, you'll not only be saving yourself money, but you'll be helping maintain the reliability of our regional electric grid by reducing stress on it."

Here are a few easy ways to

conserve energy for the benefit of yourself and your neighbors:

- Adjust your thermostat by raising it a few degrees during the day
- Use ceiling fans to create a wind-chill effect that will make the air feel cooler to the skin
- Cover windows that receive morning or afternoon sun with drapes or shades
- Keep doors and windows closed as much as possible
- Turn off lights and electronics when not in use
- Run large appliances at night (e.g., dishwashers, laundry machines)

Remember to keep your body cool, too, by drinking plenty of water.

## Members win energy credits



(l to r) Fifty dollar energy credits went to Donald Dahms and Nancy Fradette. Chair Larry Salmela (r) enjoys recently retired Jerry Pula's shirt - Pula won the grand prize, a \$100 credit.

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

Annual Meeting  
pages 6-7

Sizzling Summer AC Sale  
page 8

Vertical Ag  
page 1

Office Hours  
Monday - Friday  
7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
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## CEO Report (continued)

>from p.1

There are many nights, weekends, missed events, and a lot of time all these guys invest into our system. Thank you to all our operation department!

Our auditors were here in May to report to the Board of Directors. I am very proud to say we received a clean audit report once again. Preparations for the audit really begin in January and run throughout the twelve months of the year. Our office professionals are outstanding! Communi-

cating with our Auditors through the year and keeping outstanding records is only part of the daily tasks facing these professionals.

These office professionals are my rock! They sort through the financial data, provide hundreds of reports, and take on any task, no matter the size. Tina Danielson, Sheila Hafeman, Katie Smith, and Kim Giesen... Thank you! You are our last line of defense to ensure the I is dotted and T is crossed; thank you for all you do.

A couple of the new

projects we have been working on relates to communications. We have updated our phone app. This is a handy tool to help with billing information, usage, outages, payments and notifications. If you need more information on this app, let us know. We will be more than happy to help you get signed up.

In the second big project, we are creating a new website. This will update the look and feel of the current site. We can be more proactive and timely in sharing information related to your cooperative. The new website is designed to be used with phones and tablets; this is a major improvement over the current site. Thank you, Kim, for your willingness to tackle these projects!

Jerry Loney and Roxanne Prather are my hard-working Member Services Department. Roxanne came to me with a new idea, electric bicycles. OK, I had

my doubts. I'm glad I listened to her; these things are awesome! The first four through the door sold almost immediately. They are a blast to ride for young or young at heart! Don't worry about the hills between here and there, you can just twist the throttle and climb that thing.

Jerry has been looking for new programs to shave additional load off our peak. These programs can save us all significant money. With the changing grid and rising costs, it will be vital for all to come together to save and protect the grid.

Jerry has some thoughts and programs he will be working on this year. One little space heater can run us \$36 if it is running at the wrong time during the month. These are billing peak times. We want to work with you over this next year to see if we can smooth that mountain peak out. This will help us to provide rate stability over the coming

years. Thank you to Roxanne and Jerry, thinking outside the box to help the Member-Owners out is what we are here for.

Next, our Board of Directors. Thank you for coming to our meetings prepared, for the continuing education you take, and for the oversight you provide.

Our directors put in many hours for our behalf. They attend classes, meetings and seminars to continue to educate themselves to best oversee our Cooperative. Mr. Andrew Shaw is our cooperative attorney, he is outstanding overseeing discussions relating to our policies and our bylaws. Andy is also a call I will make when the clouds get dark, his wisdom and oversight is welcomed and appreciated. Thank you, lady and gentlemen, for your commitment to North Itasca.

One last thanks, that's for you the Member-Owners. Your grit and determination through the years got us to this point. You and your communities built the cooperative we are all proud to serve. We have some challenges coming in the years ahead, but together we have kept rates stable for the past five years.

With pressures coming



CEO Brad Dolinski speaking at the annual meeting.



CEO Brad Dolinski presents a check for \$1,000 from the employees of Great River Energy to Gary Chapman, chair of North Itasca Electric's Community Trust Board.

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### North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Directors

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*By your side! Miigwech  
Brad*

## Highlights from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.  
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
May 26, 2022

**Start time: 10:00 a.m.**

**End time: 2:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on May 26, 2022.

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

Also Present: CEO Brad Dolinski, Andy Shaw, Jerry Loney, D. Pederson and K. Giesen.

Absent: T. Danielson

**Start Regular Board Meeting: 10:00 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 A. Shaw – Legal update. Review of the following Board Policies 100.40 Delegation of Duties of the CEO. Motion to accept without changes, seconded, motion passed. Review of Bylaws Article I. Membership. Defines who can be a member. Any changes to the Bylaws need to be voted on by the membership.
- o Matt from Brady Martz was present to present the audit review.
- o Motion to accept the audit as it was presented, seconded. Motion carried.
- o B. Dolinski held the safety discussion. Water safety was reviewed. With the high water that we are all seeing there can be a lot of debris in the water. Take extra caution when on the water. Use your life jackets. Daryl also stressed DO NOT cut trees off lines. Wait for the linemen to come and take care of them.
- o B. Dolinski reviewed the operating reports. Motion was made to accept the operating reports, seconded. The motion was carried.
- o D. Pederson gave the line report. MREA is here for digger derrick and truck training. Right of way clearing will start next week. Still seeing material delays. Outage report was reviewed.
- o J. Loney gave the member services report. The office heat source pump is paying for itself. Reviewed possible programs for savings to both the cooperative and the members.
- o B. Dolinski gave the CEO report. District 2 will be held July 15th in Grand Rapids. Motion was made to approve travel and expenses for the meeting, seconded. Motion carried. August 9-11 is the EIS Summit. Motion was made to approve travel and expenses, seconded. Motion carried. CoBank annual meeting will be held in Colorado Springs, August 2-4. Motion to approve travel and expenses to attend, seconded, motion carried.
- o B. Dolinski gave the Northland Connect report.
- o B. Dolinski went through the PCA charges and credits.

## Electrification today

by Jerry Loney

Electrification has taken on a whole new landscape. We see fields full of solar panels and hill tops with wind turbines reaching high in the sky grabbing for the strongest winds. These sites are not only becoming a large part of our electric generation but have become the norm of our landscape in many places throughout the country.

We will be seeing more of these sites pop up as coal fired power plants shut down. Great River Energy just recently sold Coal Creek station (that members toured for many years) that produced much of the energy for the MISO market. With legislation focused on climate change, we are seeing more coal fired plants shutting down throughout the United States and being replaced with solar and wind farms which we see sprouting up all over the country as renewable energy sources.

Great River Energy has a goal that 50 percent of the energy it produces will come from a renewable

energy source by the year 2030. Fossil fuels will still be needed in the mix, but as time continues, it will become the secondary source of generation rather than the primary. There are a few other renewable sources in the mix such as hydro and digestors, to name a couple, but they account for a very small portion compared to that of wind and solar.

We no longer only look to the sun for lighting our days but now also for our electrical and heating needs. The sun is the cause of all our weather. When the sun heats the earth, heated air molecules rise upward and create pressure gradients. As this pressure increases, it causes the air to move and we get wind. This wind also is now being used as a renewable energy source, generating electricity through wind turbines.

Electricity of itself cannot be stored, but now with new technologies in storage heating equipment and batteries, this has changed. We can now store the electricity pro-

duced in batteries or in the form of heat storage in medias such as ceramic bricks and water heaters. North Itasca Electric's off-peak program called Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) takes advantage of the energy produced that normally could not be stored by placing energy in water heaters and ETS space heating products (such as Steffes heating equipment) containing ceramic bricks, storing that heat for distribution throughout the following day to heat our homes. These programs are especially great for nighttime energy production because they reduce daytime demands when it is more expensive to produce, and higher demands occur. Now with electric vehicles appearing on our grid, placing them on an off-peak program is critical. Many electric vehicle chargers are 7 to 9 kW, but now we are seeing 19 kW chargers with electric trucks coming out on the market. With average demand charges of \$20 per kW, it is of the utmost importance that electric vehicles don't charge during our peak times. During the summer months, peak-time demand charges are \$25 per kW (19 kW charger x \$25 demand charge = \$475) in demand charges to North Itasca Electric for a month.

**Saturday, July 2 • 1-4 p.m.**

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## Brainstorming peak savings

>from p.1  
Michigan alone this summer is expecting a 1,200 MW shortfall in energy because of this.

Since Great River Energy is part of the MISO market, North Itasca Electric shares in the possibility of energy shortfalls among the other 27 electric cooperatives which own Great River Energy.

Last July 2021, North Itasca Electric's demand was 8,421 kW and, between demand, transmission and ancillary charges, North Itasca Electric's demand costs per kW was \$26.36 (\$221,977.56 in July alone).

If all North Itasca Electric's member-owners could reduce usage just

500 Watts (0.5 kW) during the peak time, billing demand would reduce by 2,500 KW (\$65,900) in July alone.

These peak times will be posted on our soon ready-to-launch website and on Facebook the day of occurrence. One also can expect peak times when the weather is extremely cold or hot and humid.

Another option is to go to [www.greatriverenergy.com](http://www.greatriverenergy.com) and look under load management for control possibilities. Those on Minnkota Power rather than Great River Energy's system can go to <http://beltrami.lm.minnkota.com/> to see if load control is planned for that day.

*Many hands make for light work.*

## Hot weather can stress the electric grid, but co-ops have a plan

Minnesotans experience weather in extremes oftentimes on a recurring cycle — from deep freezes to big melts to heat waves — which means your local electric cooperative must be prepared year-round to keep electricity flowing to homes, farms, and businesses no matter what Mother Nature throws its way.

When temperatures drop as low as they did during the polar vortex earlier this year or reach heat index values as high as 100 degrees during the summer, North Itasca Electric Cooperative's wholesale power provider Great River Energy deploys its demand response programs to cost-effectively meet members' electrical demands.

More than 200,000 residents

participate in programs that allow Great River Energy to cycle their air conditioner, water heater or some other load for a period of hours on high-demand days. Because of this, Great River Energy can control 15 percent of its peak load — or the equivalent of reducing electricity demand by more than 200,000 homes on a normal summer day.

"We are able to be very proactive in anticipation of extreme weather events and work closely with our members to ensure they are properly prepared," said Josh Hebert, load management specialist at Great River Energy. "We depend on the flexibility of our programs, and the membership, to avoid paying higher market costs during

times when demand for electricity is high. These programs also help avoid transmission and substation equipment from reaching thermal limits during extreme heat."

In addition to these programs, Great River Energy owns and operates a fleet of natural gas peaking stations across Minnesota that generally run only on the hottest and coldest days of the year. These plants can start up in a matter of minutes to add electricity quickly and dependably to the grid when needed. Most of the cooperative's peaking plants are "dual fuel" facilities, meaning they can operate on fuel oil when demand for natural gas is heightened.

## Supplementing traditional farming with indoor agriculture

Farming is a foundational component of Minnesota's economy.

The state is home to more than 68,000 operating farms. It ranks No. 5 in the country for total agricultural production. Over half of Minnesota's total land area is comprised of farmland.

While outdoor agriculture has historically been the primary means of growing crops in Minnesota, new technology is connecting communities to traditional ways of farming with a twist: growing crops indoors.

Vertical farming is an expanding industry that can supplement conventional means of

agriculture by providing farm-to-table produce year-round. This strategy involves growing small crops indoors in vertically stacked layers while using electricity to control the temperature, humidity and other conditions that contribute to ideal growth.

Indoor agriculture requires a small fraction of the land and water used in traditional agriculture, and there is no need for pesticides since the crops are in a controlled pest-free environment. Indoor agriculture can also maximize energy efficiency by using artificial intelligence to control lighting systems and other sensors. And, as more renewable energy

is added to the grid, the power used for indoor farming becomes cleaner.

Many of these benefits are playing out in a real-life example of indoor farming through 'Sota Grown, an innovative pilot project that's growing leafy greens inside a renovated shipping container at Central Lakes College's Staples, Minnesota, campus.

Project partners include Great River Energy, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, Lakewood Health System, the Electric Power Research Institute and Central Lakes College. Each plays a specific role in the production of kale in the container, from seed to harvest to the dinner table.

"The collaboration has been an impactful initiative to engage and educate our membership on food access in our rural communities," said Jill

Eide, member strategist at Great River Energy.

About 30 percent of Minnesotans have limited access to fresh, healthy food based on their distance to a full-service grocery store. Food containers like 'Sota Grown can be placed in or near these areas, and the produce grown can provide greater access to fresh food for members of these communities. Container farms also help minimize the time food spends in transit, as produce can go from harvest to the table in hours, rather than days.

While indoor farming is not a replacement for traditional farming, projects like 'Sota Grown demonstrate how traditional farming could be supplemented with new agricultural techniques and technology to create additional benefits for communities.

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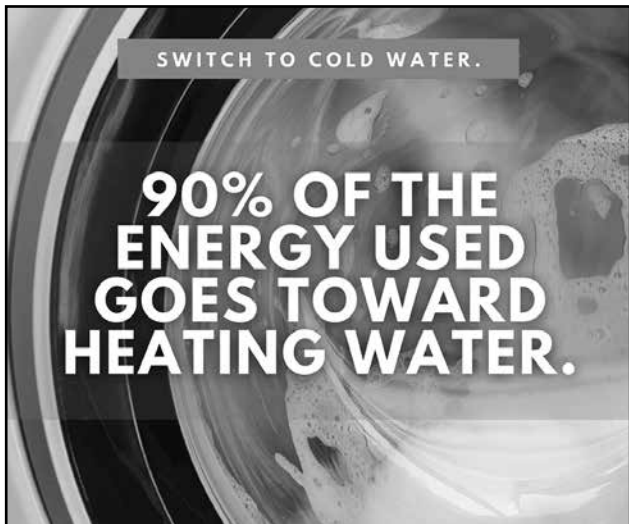
### PEAK HEAT DAY ALERT

Avoid running the dishwasher during peak energy use hours.



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## North Itasca Electric Co-op is on Facebook!

## Safety tips for before, during and after the storm

by Abby Berry

Storm season is in full swing. Many summer storms have the potential to produce tornadoes—they can happen anytime, anywhere, and can bring winds over 200 miles per hour.

In April, a video of NBC Washington chief meteorologist Doug Kammerer went viral. During a live broadcast, Kammerer called his teenage son to warn him of a tornado that was headed straight for their home. Knowing the kids were likely playing video games and not paying attention to the weather, he told them to head straight to the basement. Kammerer debated if he should call his family on-air, but he knew it was the right thing to do. Luckily, the kids made it safely through the storm.

As adults, we understand the importance of

storm safety, but younger children and teens may not realize the dangers storms pose. That's why it's so important to talk to your family and have a storm plan in place. Here are several tips you can share with your loved ones.

### Before the storm

- Talk to your family about what to do in the event of a severe storm or tornado. Point out the safest location to shelter, like a small, interior, windowless room on the lowest level of your home. Discuss the dangers of severe thunderstorms; lightning can strike 10 miles outside of a storm. Remember: when you hear thunder roar, head indoors.
- Make a storm kit. It doesn't have to be elaborate—having a few items on hand is better than nothing at all. Try to include items like water, non-perishable foods, a

## Practice Storm Safety

**Have a plan in place and make a storm kit.**

**Listen to local alerts and know where to shelter.**

**Stay off the roads if trees and power lines are down.**



manual can opener, a First-Aid kit, flashlights and extra batteries, prescriptions, baby supplies and pet supplies. Keep all the items in one place for easy access if the power goes out.

### During the storm

- Pay attention to local weather alerts—either on the TV, your smartphone or weather radio—and understand the types of alerts. A thunderstorm or tornado watch means these events are possible and you should be prepared; a warning means a thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted in your area and it's time to take action.
- If you find yourself in the path of a tornado, head to your safe place to shelter, and protect yourself by covering your head with your arms or materials like blankets and pillows.
- If you're driving during a severe storm or tornado, do not try to outrun it. Pull over and cover your body with a coat or blanket if possible.

### After the storm

- If the power is out, conserve your phone battery as much as possible, limiting calls and texts to let others know you are safe or for emergencies only.
- Stay off the roads if trees, power lines or utility poles are down. Lines and equipment could still be energized, posing life-threatening risks to anyone who gets too close.
- Wear appropriate gear if you're cleaning up storm debris on your property. Thick-soled shoes, long pants and work gloves will help protect you from sharp or dangerous debris left behind.

Summer is a time for many fun-filled activities, but the season can also bring severe, dangerous weather. Talk to your loved ones about storm safety so that everyone is prepared and knows exactly what to do when a storm strikes.

*Abby Berry writes for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.*

## 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](http://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** - Steve Bartlett (218) 591-1616
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### NORTHERN ITASCA HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD FILING NOTICE

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

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

Dates for filing are **August 2 - August 16, 2022**. Interested individuals are to file affidavits of candidacy with city or town clerk of residence, or county auditor's office in the case of unorganized positions by 5:00 p.m. on 8/16/22.

Election date is Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

Should you have any questions regarding participation on the Board, please contact George at 743-3312 or Renee at 743-1772.



### Notice of Filing For Marcell Township Election

Notice is hereby given to qualified voters of the Township of Marcell, County of Itasca, State of Minnesota, that filing for township office will be held for a two-week period beginning Tuesday, August 2, 2022, and ending Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at 5:00 PM.

Affidavits of Candidacy and \$2.00 filing fee may be filed, by appointment, with the Township Clerk, Tracy Chase, 48705 Town Hall Road, Marcell, MN. Please call to set up a time at 218-360-9982.

Offices to be filled at the November General Election are:

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Supervisor (B)- Four Year Term

Treasurer- Four Year Term

Submitted by

Tracy Chase- Marcell Township Clerk

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## Large turnout for annual meeting

by Sally Sedgwick

The annual meeting for North Itasca Electric started off to a full house with 183 members and guests present – inside the headquarters garage because of threatening weather.

Rep. Rob Ecklund from the Minnesota legislature was invited to say a few words, followed by a safety demonstration by the line crew. Meetings at

the cooperative are always started with a safety discussion, explained CEO Brad Dolinski.

If a tree is on a line, never cut it yourself, he reminded members. Let the office know and stay back and keep others back. A line can be energized even if a tree has fallen on it.

Line Superintendent Daryl Pederson introduced John Rahier to

explain how a crew traces a fault in underground line. Using the green box on the customer's property, the crew can locate the distance down the line for the fault and find it through a "thump" that they can create with current. Listening for that thump can be tricky in the woods, Rahier explained,



(above) Members came to Bigfork for the annual meeting at the cooperative headquarters, (below) John Rahier (far left) narrates as line crew demonstrates finding an underground fault.



and digging through frozen winter soil can also be daunting; it may take awhile to fix this kind of outage.

The crew recreated the method above ground for members – with a startling, loud thump! Rahier reminded the crowd to not let children play around the North Itasca Electric green box and keep it clear.

The cooperative's legal counsel Andy Shaw gave the election results. The membership had passed a bylaw change previously that allowed unopposed candidates to be elected by acclamation. This year all three director districts had incumbent unopposed candidates. Re-elected were Bruce Leino, District 7; Jeff Kilian, District 8; and Roy Bain, District 9. Shaw pointed out that the cooperative had saved about \$15,000 in costs this year because of the bylaw change.

Chair Larry Salmela reported on the state of

the cooperative, saying that it was doing very well with stable rates and stable workforce. The cooperative was able to add more line crew, yet not raise rates. He commended CEO Brad Dolinski for a well-run operation.

He also said that the board had chosen Lloyd Kongsjord as the new co-op representative to the Great River Energy board, replacing Bruce Leino after many years serving in that capacity.

CEO Brad Dolinski's speech can be found in the CEO report, page 1. Following his speech, he presented Gary Chapman, board chair for the North Itasca Electric Community Trust which administers the Round Up grants, with a check from GRE for \$1,000. Chapman thanked members who participate in the program, noting that this year the trust gave away \$13,800 in its spring session for growing

needs in the community. The Round Up program allows members to "round up" their bills to the next dollar, pooling the change to donate to area nonprofit groups, schools and similar organizations toward projects. Since Round Up started in 2005, the trust has distributed \$391,331.

The audience asked a number of questions relating to electricity reliability. Dolinski said he had specifically asked the question – Will my members experience blackouts? Although there is the potential of this happening, the answer reassured him, he said. GRE is well supplied, recently selling 700 excess MW in the MISO auction. Together with regional generators, GRE is working on a rule change to have a 10-year plan for capacity. Finally, GRE keeps its distribution cooperatives informed

with a weekly call looking at power availability, projected loads and weather for the week.

The new webpage will allow customers to look more closely at their usage and control hours for load management programs. The summer peak usually falls between 6 to 9 p.m. Pederson explained that there is a delay in getting meter information, but customers can look at the previous day. The new web page will use the current URL: [www.northitascaelectric.com](http://www.northitascaelectric.com).

In response to a question on EV chargers; they are installed by local electricians. Contact Jerry Loney at (218) 743-1313 for information on load management programs and rates.

Members were urged to participate in these programs: "We need you to make this co-op successful," said Dolinski.

cooperatives informed



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# 2022 Annual Meeting



Flower planter winners include (from top left, clockwise): Tony Motzko, Jon Paulson, Grant McDougall, Inez Martell and Jodi Ellison.

Rep. Rob Ecklund (below) stopped by to share a few words with the crowd.



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With smart plugs, you can conveniently manage lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. By powering off unused devices when you're away, you can save energy (and money!).

Source: energystar.gov

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## Sizzling Summer Air Conditioning Sale

Summer is here and along with that comes the heat and humidity. Is your old AC working like it should, If not it may be time to purchase a new one! North Itasca Electric has some in stock and on Sale just in time to help you beat the heat!

### Whirlpool/WHAW081CW \$364.00 **Sale \$334.88**

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### Whirlpool/WHAW121BW \$509.00 **Sale \$468.28**

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### Whirlpool/WHAW151BW \$676.00 **Sale \$621.92**

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### Whirlpool/WHAW182BW \$598.40 **Sale \$550.53**

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## Wilderness Days in Bigfork

Wilderness Days was packed with two days of events this year including tourneys, vendors, pony rides, bouncy house, a cultural dance performance and food.

The Main Street parade was led off by a half hour performance by the precision riding of a Shriner's



> motorcycle team and featured the American Legion Honor Guard and the Hibbing High School Bluejacket Marching Band.



Sarah Stone and Courtney Olson offered information promoting summer swim lessons and recognizing the medical transportation services of Angel Flight.



Firefighters carry the flag.



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Eddy, the Bigfork Valley mascot, had his own nest.



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## Edge Gallery Carl Gawboy brings scenes of Ojibwe life to Edge

by Gail Blackmer

This year the popular Juried Art exhibit is moved to the month of August, while the hectic summer month of July will feature paintings of peaceful and sustainable Ojibwe culture by Native artist Carl Gawboy.

Carl has taught American Indian culture and painting at UMD and St. Scholastica, and has produced murals installed

throughout the north country from Bemidji to Superior. He encompasses the spirit of everyday life in the rituals of ricing, canoeing and storytelling in his paintings.

Carl is one of the original founding members of Native Skywatchers, and co-delivers annual workshops on Native Astronomy and Science. His commitment to accuracy has

led him to paint the truth as his work is done with historical accuracy and often challenges popular and academic paradigms about American Indian cultures.

We are fortunate to have secured an exhibit of work from an artist whom the Depot Foundation of Duluth recognized with an Arts and Culture Lifetime Artist Award in 2008. The Edge Gallery has a commitment to showcasing Native art and artists in the annual line-up of public shows, with the Gallery committee's member Karen Ferlaak serving as curator for these special exhibits.

As always, the public is invited to stop by to view the exhibit during our hours of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. the opening

reception will be Friday, July 1 from 5-7 p.m.

The gallery is attached to Bigfork School, admission is free, however the entire Edge Center for the Arts depends on public support for bringing arts, entertainment, and activities to our region.

Whether you live next door to the Edge Center or are a seasonal resident, a visitor from larger cultural center or simply enjoy or are inspired to create your own artwork, a visit to the Edge Gallery during July will make you feel a little more at home in the natural world as you view the paintings, old and new, of Carl Gawboy.

### Road conditions:

Call 511 or visit  
hb.511mn.org  
(low bandwidth:  
lb.511mn.org).

## Edge Theatre

Stages Theater Co., the professional children's theater company that has been coming to the Edge Center to delight our young and older audiences for a decade returns for three performances, Friday through Sunday, July 15-17. Friday and Saturday shows will be at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

Stages will present Disney's Little Mermaid Jr., in all its glory and glamor!

Tickets are \$5 for children and \$10 for adults at Timber Rose Floral, online and at the door.

Join Ariel and all her sea-going friends in this popular children's story of true love and friendship. This is a 60-minute show with Academy Award-winning music adapted and arranged by David Weinstein. Music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Howard Ashman and Glenn Slater and presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International. The show is directed by Sandy Boren-Barrett.

## Bigfork Food Shelf has grant opportunity

by Lynne Schleicher

The North Itasca Emergency Food Shelf, located at 200 Main Ave. in Bigfork is open every Thursday from 12:30-3 p.m. and the third Thursday of each month from 12:30-4:30 p.m.

We are here to assist our neighbors who may be struggling in these current times. Currently we have 20+ volunteers who keep the food shelf running. The weekly volunteers who assist with shopping, those that help monthly on delivery day, the dedicated volunteers who brave the weather to distribute on Pop Up Pantry day each month and those keeping our records and breaking down cardboard: you are each appreciated!

Since January 2022 we have served between 40-90 households and distributed over 2,000 pounds of food each month. Our Pop Up Pantries serve various items to 60-80 households monthly. We never know what will come on the truck, once we even received dog food!

Due to COVID we have not held our annual Empty Bowls fundraiser. So, here is an opportunity to help!! Hunger Solutions has given us an "Open Your Heart Summer Challenge Grant." We have applied for this grant, with the goal of providing more fresh produce. What can you do? Well, all dollars received in the month of July qualify. This is a "proportional" grant, not dollar for dollar. The more we raise in July, the larger our grant award will be. Food donations do not count, however, we will never decline them. You may

mail donations to NIEFS, P.O. Box 152, Bigfork, MN 56628 or stop by during our open hours. Thank you to all of our current donors, both business and personal. We couldn't do this without you!

Emails can be sent to BigforkMNfoodshelf@gmail.com and watch our facebook site Bigfork Food Shelf – NIEFS for current updates and Pop Up dates.

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Lois Bendix (l) and Peggy Brennan offer some garden seeds to a young visitor at the FRFC booth during Wilderness Days.

## Free Range Food Co-op

by Merry Moody

Free Range Food Co-op was excited to participate for the first time in the recent celebration of Bigfork Wilderness Days that was held on Friday and Saturday, June 10-11.

If you have not heard of Free Range Food Co-op, please lend an ear for a moment. What began as a small group of community members who came together in October of 2015 to talk about the possibility of developing a food co-op in the Grand Rapids area has flourished and blossomed into real life opportunity for those of us in Itasca County and the surrounding area.

Our Mission Statement is: Free Range Food Co-op is a cooperatively-owned grocery store committed to community well-being through access to local, wholesome, organic foods and goods. This mission, always at the forefront of FRFC, focuses to develop the local food system and better support local growers and producers.

Free Range Food Co-op is currently 952 owners strong, getting ready to launch a capital campaign and searching earnestly to secure a suitable building in Grand Rapids to settle into and provide shopping options. Our area has numerous producers and plenty of shoppers which is a win, win situation.

Being an owner of FRFC is savvy and timely. Check out our website at [freerangefood.coop](http://freerangefood.coop). There is a wealth of information and an up-to-date calendar of events you will find very helpful as you consider joining in with this community-grown, cooperatively-owned opportunity.

## Bigfork Improvement Group donates to Boosters

The Bigfork Improvement Group (B.I.G.) donated \$1,000 to the Bigfork Booster Club toward expenses in organizing the 2022 Wilderness Days event in June.

B.I.G. ran a hotly contested Rubber Ducky Derby on the Big Fork River, with Marty Niewind's duck coming in first among the 625 ducks. ]

Second place went to Cindy Aultman, third place to Charlotte Custer and Rob Powell's duck won the Lazy Duck prize, coming in last.



(l to r) Krista Erickson, Rodney Ernhart and Allyssa Pitzen.



Rubber Duckies race down the Big Fork River.

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## Summer hours at Discovery Center

The Edge of Wilderness Discovery Center just north of Marcell on Highway 38 is open six days a week during the summer, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday - Monday. Visit the center for interpretive displays and a gift shop. There are also indoor and outdoor educational facilities, trail, pier and naturalist programs. You can also rent a kayak for a day on the water! Call for more information: (218) 832-3161.

### Naturalist programs at the Discovery Center

*Saturdays 11 a.m. – free*

July 2 – A walk through Minnesota forests

July 9 – Freshwater ecosystems

July 16 – Why so many lakes?

July 23 – Bird identification

July 30 – Animal tracks

August 6 – Smokey Bear's birthday

August 13 – Wolves

## B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork

Coffee Club Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Bingo every Thursday 1-3 p.m.

## Swim lessons at Bigfork Beach

In an EOWSKI! YMCA, the beach will be closed from 9 a.m. until noon during the lessons. Cost of the lessons will be partially covered by EOWSKI! and a matching grant from the city of Bigfork. Cost to each child will be \$60 or less. However, organizer Sarah Stone said that EOWSKI! will make sure that every child who wants to participate will be able to do so. For more information or to sign up, call Stone at (218) 387-5012.

Lessons will be offered through the YMCA with Water Safety Instructor-certified staff as well as YMCA lifeguards. Lessons will be scheduled daily from 10:45-11:30 a.m. with the possibility of another section starting at 9:30. At the request of the

For more information or to sign up, call Stone at (218) 387-5012.

For more information or to sign up, call Stone at (218) 387-5012.

## SAIL classes expand

ElderCircle has replaced Bone Builders with "Stay Active & Independent for Life (SAIL)." 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 drinking water.

Following is the local schedule as of March 21:

- 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.

## — Community Education —

**Bigfork:** Register for classes at (218) 743-3444, online at [getlearning.org](http://getlearning.org).

POSTCARD COLLAGES

*Find - Cut - Glue and Share!*

Date: Tues., July 26

Time: 10 a.m.-noon

Location: Edge Center, Bigfork

Cost: Free

Register by July 21.

**Blackduck** Register online at [blackduck.k12.mn.us](http://blackduck.k12.mn.us) under Community Education. Call Melanie (218) 766-3809 or email [mcleveland@blackduck.k12.mn.us](mailto:mcleveland@blackduck.k12.mn.us) with questions.

ADULT PICKLEBALL LEAGUE

Date: Tuesdays

Time: 5:30-7 p.m.

Location: Blackduck School playground

Cost: \$3

No registration or experience necessary, just show up.

## Community Cafe

The Community Cafe is available to anyone who is in need of a meal. There is no income or financial qualification to receive a free meal. Each Tuesday through Thursday from 4:30 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. (or until gone), a nutritious three-course meal is served. Location: King Elementary School. for more information, visit [communitycafemn.org](http://communitycafemn.org).

## Follow storm outages on Facebook

What kind of information is on North Itasca Electric's Facebook page? Here's a post from June 21...

DATELINE...JUNE 21...1:07 a.m.

We currently have approximately 35 different outages affecting approximately 850 members. I am attaching a link to our outage map viewer. Crews are reporting in heavy damage to poles and downed lines in most areas affected. This is a widespread and difficult situation. Please continue to have patience as our crews are working as fast as safely possible to restore power to as many members.

**ELLIS** Check out our page on Facebook  
Lots of pics/videos of our work

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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: July 21; Aug. 11  
11:45-12:45 Togo: Junction Bar & Grill

Mondays: July 18; Aug. 8, 29  
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

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<b>Northome Food Shelf</b> 12059 Main St Bring your own bags.	<b>Northern Itasca Emergency Food Shelf</b> 200 Main, Bigfork Thursdays 12:30-3 p.m.
1st Mon.: 9 a.m.-noon	3rd Thursday 4-5:30 p.m.
2nd Mon.: 2-5 p.m.	(218) 743-3381
3rd Mon.: 9 a.m.-noon	
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<b>Blackduck Community Library:</b> (218) 835-6600	<b>Northome Library</b> (218) 897-5952
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<b>Resource Centers:</b>	
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Community News

Email editor at [sedgwick@paulbunyan.net](mailto:sedgwick@paulbunyan.net),  
put Community News in the subject line

Ardenhurst

The annual Ardenhurst Township potluck picnic will be held again this year in July. This will be the 15th year of this annual gathering. It will be held on Thursday, July 28 at 6 p.m. at Ardenhurst Community Park. Mark your calendars now for this coming event. As usual, it is a potluck picnic. Cold drinks and plastic and paper products are always provided. Ardenhurst Community Park is located 4.1 miles south of Northome on Highway 46. Turn east on Island Lake Road toward the lake to get to the park. Everyone is welcome to this picnic so come one, come all.

Deer River

July 8 - 10 is the 73rd Wild Rice Festival in Deer River. Highlights include live music on all days: Friday, Garage 19, 8 p.m.; Saturday, John Perkins, 1-4 p.m. and a street dance/concert by The Dweebs, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.; Sunday Deana Carter, 4:30 p.m. Also the Midway, Pow Wow (Friday, 6:30 p.m.), Wild Rice Run, kids bike rodeo and fireworks (Saturday, 10 p.m.), kids tractor pull, parade (Sunday 1 p.m.). For full schedule, visit [wildricefestival.com](http://wildricefestival.com).

General Interest

A number of local chat sites have started up to share information and news within area communities: One of the newest is Western Itasca Area News on Facebook. Started in mid-May, there are already almost a thousand members with about 45 posts a day. Although there are sites for local selling and swapping, this site is just for news, events, personal observations and family celebrations.



Marcell Family Center

218-832-3444

49023 State Highway 38 Marcell, MN 56657

**MFC hours:**  
*Fitness Center, gymnasium, multi-purpose room, public computer room and WiFi hotspot.*

Mon: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 4-7 p.m.  
Tues, Thurs: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 4-7 p.m.  
Fri: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Fitness Walking** at the Marcell Family Center 4-7 p.m. Free, register at [getlearning.org](http://getlearning.org).

~ June Calendar ~

- 1 Reception for “Paintings of Carl Gawboy,” 5-7 p.m. Exhibit opens June 30 and runs through July. The Edge Gallery is open Thurs.-Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 2 Naturalist programs every Saturday in July at Discovery Center north of Marcell, 11 a.m. See p. 12 for topics.
- 2 Spring Lake Store is hosting a Music and Art Festival, 1-4 pm. Music by John Perkins, and by the Bigfork Valley Boys; local artists and photographers, history of the store. Juice and treats served.
- 4 Independence Day. North Itasca Electric offices closed.
- 5 Bigfork Valley Hospital Board meets, 9 a.m. Contact (218) 743-1772 for telephone or virtual attendance information.
- 5 Pop Up Pantry, 200 Main Ave. in Bigfork, 1 - 2 p.m. or until food is gone. Income guidelines apply.
- 6 “The Club I Never Wanted To Join” breast cancer support group meets, 3:30 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in the chapel, use south entrance, 2901 Highway 169, Grand Rapids. More info with Lynn Ettl (218) 832-3612, [lynn\\_ettl@msn.com](mailto:lynn_ettl@msn.com)
- 8-10 Wild Rice Festival in Deer River. Live music, events, food, Midway, parade and fireworks. For full schedule, visit [wildricefestival.com](http://wildricefestival.com).
- 11 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 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.
- 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 a.m.
- 13 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m. Livestreamed on YouTube, see school Facebook page for link.
- 13 Blackduck ISD32 School Board, 5 p.m. in the Media Center. Note changed time.
- 15-17 Northwoods Saddle Club holds Friday night barrels and a WSCA Horse Show on Saturday and Sunday at St. Louis County Fairgrounds Arena, 1001 Discovery Dr., Chisholm, MN 55719. Save the date for Aug. 12-13 for final show at North Star Ranch in Effie. See [northwoodssaddleclubinc.com](http://northwoodssaddleclubinc.com)

18 ISD318 School Board meets 6:30 p.m. Forum, 6 p.m. Meeting is streamed and archived at [watchictv.org](http://watchictv.org).

25 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.

28 Annual Ardenhurst Township potluck picnic at the Community Park, 6 p.m. See Community News.

28 Second annual Pie Social fundraiser and Best Pie Contest at B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

29-31 67th North Star Stampede at the rodeo grounds north of Effie. Friday, 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m.

30 Effie Rodeo Daze flea market, vendors and parade.

30 38th annual Blackduck Woodcarvers Festival, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Woodcrafts and more.

31 Sausage-Gravy-Biscuit Fundraiser at B.I.G. Community Center, Bigfork, 8 a.m.-noon.

Area Church Directory

**Alvwood Evangelical Free Church Sun 10:00a**  
58712 Co. Rd. 131  
Blackduck 56630 218-659-4681

**Balsam Bible Chapel Sun 10:00a**  
41516 Scenic Hwy 7  
Bovey 55709 218-245-1960

**Bear River Lutheran Church Sun 10:00a**  
11141 Hwy 22  
Cook 55723 218-376-1012

**Bethesda Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a**  
Mizpah 56660 218-897-5654

**Bigfork Assembly of God Sun 9:30a**  
101 Golf Course Ln  
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3500

**Bowstring Chapel Sun 10:15a**  
45114 Co Rd 133  
Deer River 56636 218-832-3171

**Calvary Covenant Sun 10:30a**  
54764 Co. Rd. 31  
Northome 56661 218-897-5684

**Centennial Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a**  
Hwy 46  
Squaw Lake 56681 218-259-0115

**Deer River Bible Church Sun 10:00a**  
33276 State Highway 6  
Deer River 56636 218-246-9570

**Dora Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a**  
59329 Co Rd 145  
Northome 56661 218-659-4551

**Effie Fredheim Lutheran Church (ELCA) Sun 8:30a**  
Hwy 1  
Effie 56639 218-743-3368

**First Presbyterian Church, BF Sun 10:15a**  
109 Ash St.  
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3783

**Gemmel Community Church Sun 10:00a**  
10609 Town Rd 34  
Gemmel 56660 218-897-5966

**Grace Community Church (ELCA) Sun 10:15a**  
401 State Hwy 38 N  
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3368

**Hope Lutheran Church Sun 10:30 a.m.**  
12234 Third St.  
Northome 56661 218-897-5654

**Jehovah's Witnesses Tu 7:00p., Sun 10:00a**  
Hwy 38  
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3275

**Jesse Lake Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a**  
45834 Co. Rd. 4  
Talmoon 56637 218-832-3883

**Marcell Community Church Sun 10:30a**  
49103 State Hwy 38  
Marcell 56657 218-832-3200

**Northome Community Church Sun 10:00a**  
12071 Bartlett St.  
Northome 56661 218-897-5040

**Northwoods Chapel Sun 9:00a**  
50550 Mushgee Rd. (corner of Co. Rd. 622)  
Deer River 56636 218-659-2784

**Old Scenic Community Church Sun 10:30a**  
25747 Co. Rd. 340  
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3953

**Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church Sun 9:00a** Mass also W, Th, F 9:00a.  
320 Golf Course Ln  
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3255

**Sand Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a**  
55581 Co. Rd 4  
Spring Lake 56680 218-659-2872  
*Church website: [www.sandlakealliancechurch.org](http://www.sandlakealliancechurch.org)*

**St. Catherine's Catholic Church Sat 4:00p**  
52265 State Hwy 46  
Squaw Lake 56681 218-743-3255

**St. Michael Catholic Church Sat 7:00p; Tu 6:00a**  
12026 Lake St  
Northome 56661 218-743-3255

**Seventh Day Adventist Sun 11:30a**  
12352 Hwy 46  
Northome 56661 218-897-5723

**Suomi Evangelical Lutheran Church Sun 10:30a**  
42935 Co. Rd. 48  
Deer River 56636 218-832-3883

**True Life Church Sun 10:00a**  
45976 Terry  
Talmoon 56637 218-244-7089

Church directory sponsored by  
North Itasca Electric Cooperative,  
send changes to editor,  
[sedgwick@paulbunyan.net](mailto:sedgwick@paulbunyan.net)



North Star Stampede

July 29-31

Memorial Day Observances

It's Rodeo month!

The 67th annual North Star Stampede is scheduled for July 29-31, rain or shine.

The rodeo at the North Star Ranch just north of Effie on Co. Rd. 5 is the largest open rodeo in the state, where anyone can enter and try their hands at bareback riding...or dally calf roping...or even wild cow milking.

Friday's events start at 5 p.m. with a grand entry; Saturday and Sunday events start at 2 p.m.

This year a full slate of contests are scheduled, including saddle bronc, ranch bronc (new event) and novice bronc riding, steer wrestling, bull and junior bull riding, team roping and the popular barrel racing. Total purse added is \$4,300 with trophy buckles in each event and a trophy saddle for the all-around winner in rough stock events.

This year tickets are \$18 for adults, \$10 for children ages 6-13. Three day passes are available, and camping is also available for those with 3-day passes.

Share the excitement as cowboys vie for honors in the arena!



Effie American Legion Waldron-Flaat Post 182 joined other Veteran groups at area cemeteries on Memorial Day to recognize those who fought for this country.



Cooking a family meal set on low for 4 hours

10¢

Electricity continues to be a great value courtesy of your electric cooperative

Marcell to get RWIS

Motorists traveling in communities of Grand Marais, Tamarack, Moose Lake, Gowan, Stony River, Cohasset, Cook, Schroeder and Buck Lake. uses the information gathered as well as the camera images for maintenance decision support.

The information is also sent to the National Weather Service as well as Minnesota's 511 traveler information system. There are currently 139 RWIS systems throughout Minnesota, with an additional 19 systems to be added throughout the state by late October 2022. The contractor is Design Electric.

No detours are required for this project, work will be completed under traffic with flagging operations when lane closures are required for everyone's safety.

RWIS is an environmental sensor station in the field that is used to collect weather data such as atmospheric parameters, pavement conditions, and visibility. MnDOT

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Spoonbread

1 cup cornmeal  
1 cup boiling water  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
2 Tablespoons butter  
4 eggs  
1 cup cold milk

Preheat oven to 400°.

Add salt to water and bring to boil in a saucepan. Stir in cornmeal and stir for one minute.

Remove from heat, add butter and beaten eggs. Mix well. Stir in milk.

Pour into hot buttered dish and bake 25 minutes. Remove and let sit for 5 minutes and serve with jam.



*This is a very old and delicious recipe!*

Stuffed Cabbage Rolls

1 head cabbage  
4 slices of bacon, cooked and chopped  
(can substitute or add other cooked, chopped meat)  
2 eggs  
1/4 cup breadcrumbs  
1 Tablespoon butter  
Pepper and salt to taste.

Remove outer leaves of cabbage - as many as you plan to serve. Chop remaining cabbage fine and saute with ingredients above.

When soft, place a couple of spoonfuls on each leaf and wrap up (can wrap in cheesecloth or tie with string if desired).

Boil rolls until done and serve with melted butter.

*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/EDITORIAL DEADLINE

for AUGUST – Fri., July 15

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Gus David

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DahlkeForestry.com

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10/22

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**-SALES-**

**Garage sale:** 49690 Jessie Lake Road. Friday, July 22, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, July 23, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Many items plus Paddle King 3000, like new.

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

**CLASSIFIEDS****-SALES-**

*Flea and Farmers Market:* Third Thursdays of the month through September: July 21, Aug. 18, Sept. 15 at the Little Turtle Lake Store in Talmoon., 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Booth space \$5. Call **(218) 832-3804** to reserve.

*Wanted:* Flea market vendors for Tractor Show in Deer River August 26-28. For information call **(218) 328-6247** or **(218) 246-8455** 8/22

**-WANTED-**

*Wanted:* Portable bandsaw mill on highway wheels, motorcycle with kick starter, attachments to fit a Kubota B2601 tractor, older travel trailer in good condition 21' to 26'. Call **(218) 308-1335** 9/22

*Wanted:* Feeling better, would love some houseplants, perennial flowers. Call **(218) 256-4078** 9/22

*Wanted:* Professional experienced in leveling post and pier foundation cabin. Cabin is 1920s log cabin located on Bowstring Lake. Please contact me via email, [fawkr@hotmail.com](mailto:fawkr@hotmail.com), if you can provide this service. 8/22

**-FOR SALE-**

*For sale:* 16 inch split seasoned birch firewood, U-haul \$60 per face cord; \$180 per logger cord Call **(218) 659-2726** for appt.

*For sale:* Ruger VT 556/223 AR Platform. Medium Heavy Barrel 1-9 twist. Long Range Rifle. Legal sale only. \$1,600. Call **(218) 256-3829** 8/22

**-FOR SALE-**

*For sale:* Small spinet piano, \$150. Call **(218) 743-6128**. 8/22

*For sale:* Home Comfort wood cook stove, gray granite color, warming bins, no reservoir, \$375. 2009 Kawasaki KLR650 motorcycle, 3980 miles, excellent condition, parts, manuals, extras 54+ mpg, aluminum luggage set and crash bars, \$5,250. 1970 Colt model 1911 45 cal. commemorating the 25th anniversary of the end of WWII, engraved unfired polished nickel in oak display case, \$1,400. Howard Miller grandfather clock, model 610-892 Westminster chimes, \$450. Call **(218) 308-1335** 8/22

*For sale:* Combination locking safe removed from Kelliher Hotel in '70s. Made by Cary Safe Co, Buffalo, NY and Hubbard @ Richardson, Milwaukee. 24" W, 23" D, 35 1/2" H. \$750. Locking file cabinet with 5 drawers: 17 1/2" W, 30 1/2" D, 53 1/2" H, \$100. Call **(218) 897-5918** 8/22

*For sale:* Winchester Model 100 308 auto rifle with scope and extra clips. Pre '64, \$475. Call **(218) 659-4633** 8/22

*For sale:* Antique outboards, see BOATS.

*For sale:* Walnut boards one inch thick, up to 14" wide. Bandsaw cut, air dried. Call **(507) 321-0554** 8/22

**-FOR SALE-**

*For sale:* Coleman 5kW generator new on wheels, \$495. OTC Genisys automotive scanner current for 2007 needs update, \$350. Two Servel LP gas refrigerators, both for \$400. Fridgidaire 25 pt. dehumidifier \$35. Call **(218) 308-1335** 8/22

*For sale:* Beautifully handcrafted cremation urns made by local artisan. Made of oak, birch, aspen, maple or other woods. Made to meet all funeral home specifications. Price range \$200 and up depending on wood. Call **(218) 897-5918** 10/2

*For sale:* 10'x24' pontoon canopy on wheels, \$6,000 obo. Call **(218) 259-2482** 7/22

*For sale:* Staffordshire ware Myott Royal Mail 9 piece dish set plus extra pieces, \$150 (Note new price). 1952 children's folding table and chairs \$75. Phillips 66 gas can \$75. Call **(218) 910-6610** 7/22

*For sale:* Cut, split, seasoned birch ash, maple, aspen firewood. Call **(218) 910-6610**. 7/22

**-VEHICLES-****TIRES, ACCESSORIES**

*For sale:* '08 Chevrolet Impala. Exc. condition. Call **(218) 256-6668** 8/22

*For sale:* 4 tires and rims. Timberline Daytona ATS off 1998 Jeep Cherokee. P22570R15. \$400. Call **(218) 966-2052** 8/22

**-VEHICLES-****TIRES, ACCESSORIES**

*For sale:* 4-4x4 Carlisle tires. Exc. cond. – less than 4 hours on my machine Cost \$440, sell for \$190 obo (2) size 24 x 10.5-10 and (2) @ 24 x 9.5-10. Mizpah area Call **(218) 897-5946** 7/22

**-MOTORHOME-CAMPERS**

*For sale:* 1988 Coachmen Catalina 28 foot 5th wheel camper. Air conditioner, like new condition & has always been kept in a shed. Price: \$7,000. Call **(218) 743-3197** 8/22

**-BOATS-****MOTORS, FISHING**

*For sale:* 1985 Alcott Sunfish Sailboat with hand dolly. Includes extra sail and rigging poles. \$650 obo. Call **(952) 292-3294** 8/22

*For sale:* 2- 100 year old antique outboard motors. #1 rowboat engine, \$400, #2 Elto light twin designed by Ole Evinrude, \$300. Both, \$550. Call **(507) 321-0554** 8/22

**-FARM-**

*For sale:* Farmall M Excellent condition. Parade ready, many new parts. \$2,200 or best offer. Call **(218) 335-7838** or **(218) 244-5297** 7/22

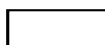
*For sale:* Hay. Small square bales. timothy, clover field hay mix. Nice hay. Call **(218) 256-3829**. 8/22

**Doxo.com** There is an on-line bill pay website that appears to be affiliated with North Itasca Electric, but it is not. Doxo.com is third-party website that allows people to pay their electric bills via their site. However, doxo.com may charge the member extra fees, and North Itasca Electric cannot control when we will receive the member payments from doxo.com, possibly resulting in a late payment for the member or even disconnection due to non-payment.

To make sure you're paying North Itasca Electric directly, visit our website [www.northitascaelectric.com](http://www.northitascaelectric.com), for our direct link to the online bill payment portal, [mypcsportal.com](http://mypcsportal.com).

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Run my ad for one month only.

Your ad will run for two months unless you check this box. (Business classifieds are \$5 per insertion.)

Please note: We are as careful as possible, but are not responsible for errors.

Send to: Editor, WATTS NEWS,  
P.O. Box 43  
Spring Lake, MN 56680 or  
call: **(218) 659-2779**  
or email: [sedgwick@paulbunyan.net](mailto:sedgwick@paulbunyan.net)

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



# Grid authorities issue warnings about summer energy demand

Great River Energy has sufficient resources to serve its membership, but expected weather challenges may warrant added measures to maintain reliability of the larger grid.

Last week, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) issued its 2022 Summer Reliability Assessment. In it, NERC — the United States’ authority on electric reliability — warned that several parts of the country are at risk of energy shortfalls this summer due to predicted above-normal temperatures and drought conditions over the western half of the continent.

The announcement followed similar comments from the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), which manages the power grid for 42 million people in the United States and Canada, including Minnesota.

Although MISO projects the Midwest will have sufficient energy for the summer, it stated that additional measures may be necessary to maintain reliable service during periods of peak demand. These periods typically occur on hot and humid days when consumers are using more electricity than normal.

NERC indicated the north and central areas of MISO are in a “high risk” category due to generator retirements and increased demand. Great River Energy serves the northern area of MISO.

Although Great River Energy has enough generating capacity to meet the demands of its members, plus a cushion, any emergency measures deployed to maintain reliability will be applied over the entire region, regardless of which utility serves a geographic area or the capacity position of those utilities relative to their obligations in MISO.

“Great River Energy does its part every year to contribute to regional reliability by meeting its supply requirements, securing resources in reserve and having some surplus to sell to others,” said Great River Energy Vice President and Chief Power Supply Officer Jon Brekke.

Great River Energy has carefully constructed a portfolio of power supply resources that provides low-cost renewable energy and a robust fleet of dispatchable resources that allow it to generate or receive additional energy when needed. These include hydropower resources, power supply contracts with other energy producers as well as natural gas peaking plants. All state administrative, legislative and MISO resource adequacy requirements and obligations have been — and will continue to be — met by Great River Energy.

“Our peaking plants can start in a matter of minutes and most have the ability to operate on fuel oil if the supply of natural gas is constrained,” Brekke added.

Great River Energy and its member-owner cooperatives also have approximately 350 megawatts of demand response capability that can be dispatched to reduce stress on the electric grid. These demand response programs provide valuable flexibility and may be called on more often during peak periods this summer.

Every cooperative offers unique program offerings, and consumer-members can enroll at any time.

In emergency situations, MISO calls on additional power supply resources, imports energy from other regions and performs voluntary load reductions to manage the electric system. Temporary controlled manual load sheds, or periodic power outages, are used as a last resort to keep the system in balance.

If there are temporary controlled load sheds, Great River Energy has procedures in place to act immediately when directed by MISO to shed load. Load shed protocols and processes are defined and drilled routinely, so when these events happen, Great River Energy is ready.

“Emergency measures are rarely deployed, but our operators practice them regularly,” said Priti Patel, Great River Energy Vice President and Chief Transmission Officer. “We are prepared to maintain the health and reliability of the electric system in order to best serve our membership.”





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• Wood Chips

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**Scenic Rivers Clinics**

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**Your Local Clinics**

<b>Bigfork Medical</b> 135 Pine Tree Dr (218) 743-3232 Open Mon-Sat	<b>Northome Medical</b> 12052 Main St (218) 897-5222 Open Mon-Fri
<b>Bigfork Dental</b> 303 Main Ave (218) 743-3600 Open Mon-Fri	<b>Big Falls Medical</b> 410 2nd St NW (218) 276-2403 Open Mon, Wed, Fri

 [www.ScenicRiversHealth.org](http://www.ScenicRiversHealth.org) 



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