

CEO Report

Good morning NIECI!

I'm gearing up to share the next couple of weekends with friends.

I met one couple shortly after starting my career with North Itasca Electric. They are soon to be newlyweds! Congratulations Eric and Kelly, I'm sure you'll share many happy years as North Itasca Member-Owners! Don't forget to add Kelly to your account, Eric, our office will be happy to help you with that. My two daughters have been practicing dance moves to prepare for the big wedding dance. Looking forward to a couple of great weekends.

The Board of Directors and I just got back from Energy Issues Summit put on by Minnesota Rural Electric Association. Forty-four cooperatives



Brad Dolinski, CEO

from Minnesota attended the summit to learn together and discuss the issues we are facing. I've heard it many times and again down at the summit, the rate of change happening in our industry is faster today than it has ever been. You mean to tell me this isn't normal? I have discussed with you many changes faced over the past five years. I'm proud to say, we made it through those, and we will make it through the ones to come.

I want to touch on a few local energy issues with you. My friend Christine Fox from Itasca Mantrap talked about frauds in her most recent article. This prompted me to bring this up, we must be very cautious today.

CEO to p.2>

New website goes live!



by Kim Giesen

We are very pleased to announce North Itasca Electric Cooperative's new website went live on August 11th. Our new website brings us right into the year 2022! We now have a more user-friendly website. So much information all in one place. <https://northitascaelectric.com>

The new website has a community calendar which we hope our members will all come to use regularly. You can submit an event to have posted on the calendar by going to the MEMBERS SERVICES tab and clicking SUBMIT AN EVENT. Fill in the fields

necessary, click submit event, an email will be sent to North Itasca Electric who will review the information and then post it to the calendar. This will be a great way to keep our community informed.

You can still pay your bill. Go to the ACCOUNT

Website to p.6>

EV workshop held

by Sally Sedgwick

If you were part of an emergency response team for a car accident and found it was an electric car, would you know what to do?

Currently, that's a rare occurrence, said Al Ebbinga, trainer for SASCS (Safety and Security Consultant Specialists). Data shows that for every 100,000 gas vehicles sold you can expect that about 1,500 of them will be involved in a vehicle fire whereas out of every 100,000 all electric vehicles sold, only 25 will be involved in a vehicle fire. Still, the latter are the incidents that make the news, he said.

To deal with potential engine fires, responders are trained to disable the battery. But where is the battery on an electric car?

They actually have two, explained Rodney De Fouw, member electrification strategist from Great River Energy. One is a 12 volt battery under the hood that runs the car electronics/accessories. But the essential battery is under the floor, and that is a 480 or 600 volt battery.

Great River Energy was providing a workshop planned by North Itasca Electric for area emergency and first responders. Coming from Bigfork, Balsam, Deer River, Squaw Lake and Warba, 49 attendees were trained in a two-hour workshop in August.

Training covered appropriate responses to accidents involving EV to p.7>



Business Spotlight:

Dahlke Forestry Services, LLC

by Sally Sedgwick

When Hunter Dahlke looks at a woodland he sees a whole forest.

From moss to a 200 year old tree, the woods is a system of living vegetation, he says, and forest health depends on the big picture of how all the parts interact.

He recalls nature walks as a child with his grandmother, looking at bugs and plants along the path and turning around at a big cottonwood tree. Those experiences ultimately set him on a

course which led to an AA degree in Natural Resources and Wildland Firefighting at Minnesota North – Itasca Campus (formerly Itasca Community College) and a degree in forest management at University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point.

After graduating in 2020 he explored the practical side of forestry as an intern or seasonal



Hunter Dahlke

employee at agencies like the Forest Service or Department of Natural Resources and other private and public organizations. He spent

Dahlke to p.6>

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Operation Round Up
Deadline Fri., Sept. 23
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End of Summer Sale!

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Scenic Substation
dedicated

page 16

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
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CEO Report (continued)

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The bad guys have shifted their tactics over the years and for good reason; it's working. Please know if it doesn't feel right call us in the office. Frauds are popping up where someone will pose as a North Itasca Electric employee and demand you give your payment immediately or be cut off from service. That is not the approach your cooperative uses. If you have questions if this seems legitimate, hang up and call the office back at 218-743-3131. We will be able to confirm if the request was legitimate.

The phone isn't the only way these jokers are attacking people. They are using texts to your cell demanding information or using emails to trick you. There are technologies out there to spoof caller ID systems. They might use a technology or an email account to make the messaging look very real. You need to be cautious

before you click on links. This can infect computers with viruses, or they will tempt you to share information you don't want to give them.

One fraud Chris talked about is when they tell you that you have been overcharged and are owed a refund. All you need to do is give your bank account or credit card information and we will refund your account. The fraud is they then drain your account rather than issue you the "refund." If North Itasca Electric owes you money, we apply it to your account with us in the form of a bill credit. I need to be careful because we do call and communicate with our members. We will always understand if you would like to end the call and call us back to ensure you're talking to the real North Itasca Electric.

The next thing I want to talk about isn't as much of an issue as a celebration! Kim and our web

designer Jonathan were able to release our new website. If you haven't had a chance to check it out, I would encourage you to take a peek. Kim wrote an informational article about the website, so I won't double up on her efforts. I do want to thank Kim for tackling this project! Outstanding job and very much appreciated.

We are starting to work on the 2023 budget. I wish I had a more accurate crystal ball, seems like it can't predict storms at all. This budget work will determine our recommendation of rates to the Board of Directors. I have been experiencing pricing pressures all year. We are fighting to keep rates stable but with rising costs everywhere I feel this might be the first time in five years we may need to adjust rates. I will keep you informed along the way what we are seeing.

By your side! Miigwech Brad

Krista Erickson, Business Office

Krista Erickson joined the business office as accounting clerk in mid July. A familiar face in Bigfork, Krista was store manager at Kocian's Family Foods before joining the cooperative.

In her new position, Krista handles accounts payable and payroll, including benefits and taxes. It's a calm, professional environment, she said, with an emphasis on doing things correctly.

Married with four adult children and a black lab Rocky, Krista enjoys quilting, canning jams and jellies and working

with her Cricut Die-Cut machine when she has free time.

And she has a passion for a big project in town. When the Over 50 Club had to close and the Bigfork Improvement Group decided to disband, a group of concerned citizens stepped in to keep both operating on Main Ave. The B.I.G. Community Center was established and gradually the older building is being renovated.

The building now offers space for community



education, events and local fundraisers, and maintains a medical closet for loan of equipment like crutches, walkers and shower chairs. This fall, the group hopes to sponsor its second annual haunted house and a community Thanksgiving Dinner.

Noah Troumbly, Line Department

New addition to the line crew Noah Troumbly started his career with North Itasca Electric in late July.

Attending the Electric Lineworker Technology Program through Minnesota State Community and Technical College in Baudette, Noah continued his training with the Missouri Valley Apprenticeship Program before joining North Itasca Electric.

It was an easy career

choice. Noah explained that he was interested in electric utilities as a trade and also liked to be outdoors.

In his free time, Noah also likes to be outdoors, hunting and fishing and enjoying the Minnesota northwoods.



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

Keep us up-to-date

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

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Highlights

from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
July 28, 2022

Start time: 9:00 a.m.
End time: 11:40 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on July 28, 2022.

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

Also Present: CEO Brad Dolinski, Jerry Loney and Kim Giesen.

Absent: L. Kongsjord, Andy Shaw, Daryl Pederson, and Tina Danielson

Start Regular Board Meeting: 9:35 a.m.

- o Pledge of allegiance was recited.
- o A motion was made to adopt agenda, it was seconded; motion carried. A motion was made to consent agenda, it was seconded; motion carried.
- o B. Dolinski reviewed the operating reports. A motion was made to accept the operating reports, seconded; motion carried.
- o A motion was made to approve a Resolution for Equity Subscription Investment in CRC Cooperative. A motion was made to accept the resolution, seconded; motion carried.
- o Brad gave the Line Department report in Daryl’s absence.
- o Brad gave the Members Services report in Jerry’s absence.
- o Brad gave the Office report in Tina’s absence.
- o B. Dolinski gave the CEO report. November meeting falls on Thanksgiving Day. Brad wants the date of the meeting moved to November 29th and incorporated with the strategic planning meetings.
- o Brad gave the Northland Connect report.
- o A motion was made to approve the CEO expenses, seconded; motion carried.
- o W. Waller gave the MREA report. District 4 meetings all went well.
- o Brad gave the GRE report in Lloyd’s absence.
- o Round Table discussion was held.
- o A Motion was made to adjourn, seconded; motion carried.
- o Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m. with a visit to the Scenic Substation to follow.

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.

Activities in the Member Services Department

by Jerry Loney

On August 17, 2022, an Electric Vehicle (EV) training course for first responders took place. North Itasca Electric along with Great River Energy hosted this training course to prepare first responders in the event of an emergency.

This course was held at the Bigfork Fire Hall, and Deer River, Squaw Lake, Northome and Balsam fire departments were also invited to attend. Some of the training covered: types of electric vehicles - electric vehicle emergency response - electric vehicle crash and fire response - shutting down/disabling of electric vehicles - emergency responder safety - dispelling electric vehicle response myths.

Sales

Despite the high costs of construction, heating equipment sales have been higher this summer than in the last few years. Electric boilers for in-floor heating systems and Steffes room units have been the most popular means for heating homes.

Sales in Briggs and Stratton whole house generators and Generlink transfer switches increased dramatically after the storms this spring caused lengthy outages. Five have been installed this year with another eight in the warehouse ready for installation. Three additional generators have been ordered due to the present lead time to receive them.

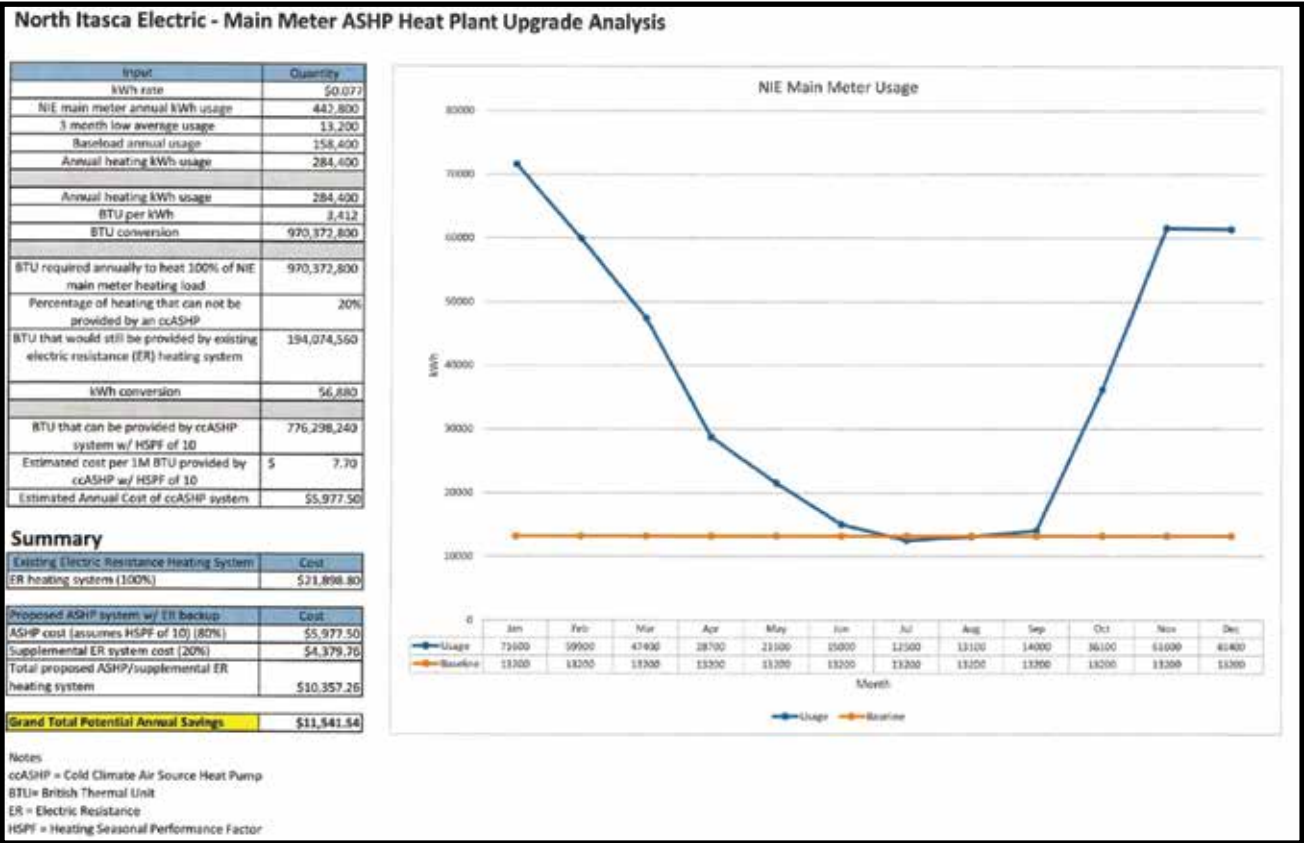
Rebates

Rebates are still available. The current balance remaining for 2022 is \$13,250. Most of the rebates paid out have been for air source heat pumps: \$750 for Mini-Splits, and \$1,000.00 for central systems. The payback for these rebates is good as the energy and demand surpass the rebate amounts given in a short period of time.

North Itasca Electric is one of the smallest cooperatives of Great River Energy and under 5,000 members, so it has been exempt from all CIP (Conservation Improvement Program) requirements, but we are still providing rebates to you the members. We feel it’s the right thing to do because we are a cooperative.

Headquarters HVAC system

The new air source heat pump that was installed at North Itasca Electric this spring shows the proof is in the pudding. In July 2021, North Itasca Electric’s energy consumption was 11,883 kWh. This July 2022, consumption dropped to 5,476 kWh – a reduction of 54 percent and a 58 percent reduction over our average monthly usage calculated in the chart. If the efficiencies are this good on the cooling side, which is less efficient than the heating side, I’m anticipating that we will be finding our savings will be better than anticipated.



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Staying powered up

The storms we experienced in May and June raised a stir. These outages were long-lasting for many members with fallen trees across lines, broken poles and a lightning strike on the Jessie Lake Substation.

The long outages took their toll on many with power being out not for a few hours, but for a few days. The necessity for energy is more prevalent today than ever.

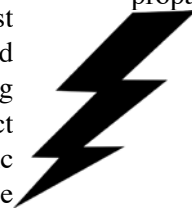
This became even more apparent the last couple of months with the high number of Generlink disconnect switches and Whole House Generators being ordered. After the first storm in May, I experienced a high number of calls asking about the Generlink disconnect switches North Itasca Electric offers and saw the need to place a larger order for more.

Generlink Disconnect Switches

With this Generlink disconnect switch, there is no longer a need to run extension cords throughout your home to the various essential appliances you need to keep powered up. Just determine which appliances are necessary to run according to the wattage of your portable generator and start it. A 6500 to 8000 watt portable generator can handle most essential appliances without much trouble, but a good knowledge of your loads is necessary for good power management.

North Itasca Electric stocks 30-amp disconnect switches, but they are also available in 40-amp with a 20-foot cord to match your generator's outlet connection. 20- and 50-amp connections and longer extension cords are also available if necessary.

Once purchased, North Itasca Electric's line crew will come out to install it, mounting it between your existing main meter socket and the main meter itself.



The Generlink, cord, and installation cost is just under \$1,000.

The Appliance Energy Chart gives an idea of wattage from Generlink's manual of various appliances to determine the loads you can support with a portable generator; you must consider both the "running watt" and the "starting watt" requirements of loads you want to operate.

Whole House Generators

The Briggs and Stratton whole house generator North Itasca Electric sells makes it even easier for members. Connected to, and fueled by, your propane tank, there is no need for monitoring fuel levels, determining essential appliances, or verifying if utility power has been restored.

These generators automatically start when an outage is detected and shut down when utility power has been restored. The smallest whole house generator North Itasca Electric sells – 12 kW – can manage about everything you need, even when the higher load appliances such as dryers and water heaters are used.

The Symphone II transfer switch sold by the cooperative can control up to eight modules. It prioritizes loads enabling a homeowner to reduce the generator size and propane consumption.

Sample Worksheet
Generator Size
(Watts)

Load	Start Factor	X	Running Watts	=	Load Watts
Refrigerator	3	X	750	=	2,250
Freezer	3	X	750	=	2,250
Television	1	X	200	=	200
Computer	1	X	200	=	200
Furnace fan (1/4) HP	3	X	400	=	1200
Lights	Wattage	X	Number		Load Watts
Standard Incandescent bulbs	60	X	5	=	300
LED equivalent bulbs	10	X	3	=	30

Appliance Energy Use

Equipment	Starting factor	Running wattage
Water heater (50 gallon)	1	4500-5000
Portable heater with fan	2	500-1500
Furnace fan - 1/4 HP	3	400
Furnace fan - 1/3 HP	3	450
Furnace fan - 1/2 HP	3	600
Computer	1	200
Space heater	1	500-1500
Refrigerator/freezer	3	750
Home security systems	1	200
Lights	1	40-150
Range w/oven	1	12200
Small range burner	1	1300
Large range burner	1	2400
Garage door opener	3	750 - 1050
Well pump 1/3 HP	3	750
Well pump 1/2 HP	3	1000
Well pump 3/4 HP	3	1500
Submersible sump pump 1/2 HP	3	1000
Electric heat pump	3	6000
Central A/C 3 ton unit	3	6000
Dishwasher w/o hot water	2	1200
Television	1	150-400
Radio	1	70-200
Microwave	1	600-1500
Coffee maker	1	750-1200
Toaster	1	1100
Hair Dryer	2	600-1400
Washing machines w/o hot water	2	1000
Clothes dryer	2	4850
Air cleaner	2	50
Dehumidifier	2	840
Humidifier	1	177
Vacuum cleaner	1	800

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A message from David Saggau, GRE President and Chief Executive Officer

Cooperatives handle the heat

The electric system is designed to provide all the energy members need, even during the hottest times of the year

As the summer began, you may have heard news about a shortage of electricity in the Midwest or concerns about the stability of the electric system. While it was true that there was less surplus energy than we typically have, the Midwest electric system still had nearly 8 percent more electric generating capability than required to meet the expected demand.

In Minnesota, the situation is even better. All utilities in our state, including Great River

All utilities in our state... have more electric generating capacity than required.

Energy, have more electric generating capacity than required. As expected, the electric system performed reliably throughout the summer season, keeping members cool and comfortable even during prolonged heatwaves.

When service interruptions do occur, they are typically due to weather events resulting in physical problems with the system, and not a lack of planning for adequate supply. As the electric industry continues to transition to more renewables and we face the impacts of more extreme weather events, Great River Energy is focused more and more on resiliency.

In emergency situations, the region’s grid operator 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.

The reliability of the electric system is paramount to electric cooperatives.

Great River Energy and North Itasca Electric Co-op operate and maintain an electric system that is dependable today and carefully planned to be resilient as we continue to make and use electricity in new ways.

Great River Energy is transitioning the way we generate electricity by reducing the use of fossil fuels and adding cost-effective renewable resources, such as wind energy. These resources require no fuel, which makes them environmentally responsible and economically advantageous. Because their production depends on the weather, however, we must have a dependable backup plan to reliably meet the needs of our members.

We plan power supply resources 15 years in advance to ensure we have what we need to serve members. Furthermore, every spring the team at Great River Energy performs detailed maintenance on our fleet of natural gas and fuel oil powered “peaking” power plants in preparation for response to the peak needs of the system. These plants can produce electricity in a matter of minutes when needed.

In addition, Great River Energy methodically designs, plans and operates a system of transmission lines that can handle high heat and elevated electricity demand. We also work with North Itasca Electric Co-op to reduce electricity use during strategic times to provide relief to the electric grid and ultimately save members money.

As a member of North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc., you are served by Great River Energy’s diverse and flexible portfolio of resources to ensure you have the energy you need, all year round.

Roxanne’s Repair Tips:

If your dryer doesn’t heat...

Is your dryer taking longer to heat than it used to take? This is a common problem and can be an easy fix.

The first thing to check is make sure your setting is on a heat setting, then feel the clothes to see if they are warm when the dryer stops.

If the clothes are not warm, then I would check the heating element. Sometimes you can see if it is bad; it might be broken right off or look burnt. If you can’t tell use a multimeter to test for current.

If it’s not the heating element, see if the exhaust pipe is plugged. To do this, detach it from the back of the dryer and use a hose brush to clean out any lint that is in there. Also, check where it blows the air out of the house. If the vent is blocked it stops the air flow, which will cause your high limit thermostat to shut off too soon.



The high limit thermostat can be found on the heating element. There is also a cycling thermostat that is located on the blower housing that cycles your heat on and off. If either one of these is bad your dryer won’t heat. These can be checked with a multimeter to see if there is current running through them. If not, you will have to replace whichever one is bad.

Some dryers have a moisture sensor located inside the drum. If this fails it will cause the cycle to stop too early as well.

Just a reminder: please make sure you clean your lint filter after every use, and once a year you should check your vent pipe where it hooks to the dryer and where it goes outside and clean any lint out.

There is a certain amount of lint that gets past your lint filter and ends up in the bottom of your dryer by the heating element. I pop the top off my dryer and use a vacuum to suck that out every year. If you don’t keep this clean it could start a fire.

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Dahlke Forestry Services

>from p.1

a fire season fighting wildfires all over the country. Then this year he came home to start his own business.

Dahlke Forestry Services offers a range of services from removing dead or storm damaged trees to developing trails or creating spaces that attract wildlife. He does everything but climb the tree, he says, and for specialized equipment he doesn't own he partners with others. He just added a stump grinder and a piece of property to begin a firewood business in the future.

But his favorite jobs start with asking the landowner what they want the end result to be on their property and looking at different ways to get there. It might be to manage the forest for future generations, or to access the woods as they

grow older. It might be to create a defensible space for wildfires or to attract a favorite animal or bird.

He gives a lot of credit to private landowners who want to learn about forest management and who ask questions on ways to improve outcomes. For instance, the emerald ash borer is on its way, and one way to prepare for it is to cut old ash and regenerate younger trees. On the other hand, he says, he has talked clients out of cutting a tree.

What is his favorite tree? "I'll get in trouble with my peers," he laughs, but it is the basswood. It's a beautiful shade tree and makes a special sound in the wind, he explains.

Meanwhile, when Dahlke gets up in the morning he's happy. He's where he wants to be and doing what he wants to do. He's sharing his life with fiancée Aly, 2 labs



and a spaniel and working to find ways to meet the needs of his clients.

He will take on a single tree or a whole

forest. And estimates are free. He can be contacted at (218) 929-7228 or by email at dahlkeforestry@hotmail.com .

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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

Website goes live

>from p.1

tab and then click on the ACCOUNT LOG IN tab. You can Login to Pay Bill. Your current username and password are still active. Here you can also Register to Pay Bill Online to set up your account to do just that. There are many other tabs that help you manage your electric account.

Full instructions for using our new MOBILE APP can be found under the ACCOUNT tab as well.

The MEMBER SERVICES tab is host to lots of information for our members. You will find CONTRACTOR LISTS, OPERATION ROUND UP information, bylaws, application forms, our service area map and so much more.

Our SHOP APPLIANCES tab shows the brands of appliances that we carry. There are handy links to each website. We can order many of the products if we do not currently have them in stock. The monthly sales are listed along with some handy tips and recommendations.

The OPERATIONS tab takes you through all the procedures for installing and maintaining our service lines.

SAFETY is taken very seriously at North Itasca Electric Cooperative. We have dedicated an entire tab to the safety sights we should all be aware of.

We introduce our Board of Directors and ourselves under the ABOUT US tab. Be sure to check out OUR HISTORY which is a detailed story of the start of North Itasca Electric Cooperative.

Current REBATES can be found with explanations for each rebate along with a rebate form that can be downloaded for each.

You can find all the forms that you might need to keep your electric account up to date under the FIND A FORM tab.

Feel free to give the office a call if there is something specific that you are looking for or if you are having trouble navigating the website. The office staff will be glad to help. 800-762-4048 or 218-743-3131.

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EV workshop for area first responders

>from p.1

different types of electric vehicles such as how to disarm the vehicles and where to use cutters without cutting lines to the high voltage battery if the car needs to be opened. Attendees learned, for example, that water instead of foam should be used in case of fire, that the 12 volt battery enables the larger under-floor battery, and that any leakage from the floor battery is a nontoxic coolant.

“When seconds matter, good information can make a difference,”



The Tesla phone app gives statistics on charging location and timing, and cost to charge with savings vs. a gasoline engine.

said De Fouw.

GRE’s goal is to have 1,000 firefighters and first responders trained across the state this year. It looks achievable: about 800 have been trained so far.

Three all-electric cars were on display for the attendees, including an all-electric Hyundai brought by De Fouw, a 2021 Tesla Model Y brought by cooperative member David Valerio and a Chevy Bolt EUV brought by a first responder.

The experience: an owner’s perspective

Valerio became interested in the Tesla because of the technology. And that technology is impressive. From the large screen inside the vehicle, the driver can access most functions, including the car cameras, energy use statistics and charge status. The car will also do enhanced navigation; not only will it plot your route, but also identify supercharger stations and time needed to charge the car.

Because of the charge time, extended trips do take longer – Valerio counts on 12 hours with four charging stops for the trip to visit relatives that takes 10 hours in a conventional vehicle. Most of his charging takes place at home, however. In fact last month that figure was 78 percent, according to the Tesla app on his phone. The factory listed range for a charge is 326 miles, but realistically it is a little less, and in the winter it drops to about 170 miles, he said.

The savings really comes in gas costs. He saves about \$300 monthly in gas for



(above) 49 area first responders attended a workshop in Bigfork taught by Al Ebbinga on what to do if an electric vehicle is involved in an accident. (right) Rodney De Fouw from Great River Energy inspects the engine compartment in his Hyundai electric car. A 12 volt battery runs accessories, the main car battery is in the floor under the seats.



comparable mileage in a gas vehicle

There is also a lower maintenance need: Tesla has about half the number of parts of gas cars. Aside from the push for green energy, Valerio believes that it is this reduction in supply chain logistics and the need for only 60 percent of the work force in the factory that will drive the availability and adoption of electric cars in the future.



Grant application deadline is Friday, Sept. 23 Operation Round-Up Trustees to hold grant meeting

Thanks to the generosity of nearly 85 percent of North Itasca Electric Cooperative’s membership, the Board of Trustees for Operation Round-Up will have funding available to distribute among various community organizations in North Itasca Electric’s service territory and organizations serving those in our membership.

The deadline for grant applications is **Friday September 23, 2022.**

Application forms along with instructions can be obtained by calling the office at (218) 743-

3131 or 1 (800) 762-4048, by e-mail to jerry.l@nieci.com or online at www.northitascaelectric.com.

Board trustees will tentatively meet on October 13, 2022, to review the grant applications and award funds appropriately as a committee.

When completing your grant application, please read and follow the directions closely, making sure the application is complete including accurate mailing addresses and phone numbers. Make sure your IRS tax-exempt

North Itasca Electric Community Trust Board

District	Trust board member	Phone #
1	Linda Dreher	218-897-5086
2	Meredie Rounds	218-743-3312
3	Bruce Steege	218-743-2649
4	Greg Anselmo	218-244-4648
5	Gary Chapman	217-402-3745
6	Stacy Swedberg	218-239-0220
7	Lisa Peterson	218-659-4266
8	Eric Elhardt	218-832-3051
9	Lisa Polchow	218-246-9680

letter is attached if you have one. Not following directions or leaving parts of the application blank or incomplete could cause the application to be disallowed.

If you have any questions on completing the application, please contact Jerry Loney at (218) 743-1313 or one of the Trust Board members listed above.

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Air Conditioners

WHAWO81C - \$364 **SALE \$327.60** 8,000 BTU-Powerful enough to cool a room up to 350 sq. ft., electronic control panel with 3 cooling speeds, eco, sleep mode and programable 24 hr. on/off timer with 8-way directional air louvers. Easy to install, comes with window mounting kit, 5.9' LCDI power cord uses 115v outlet. Window width 23" min/ 36" max window height 14.5" Energy STAR compliant 12.1 EER

LW1016ER- \$426.40 **SALE \$383.76** 10,000 BTU-Cools room up to 450 sq. ft., Low noise performance 52dB, 3 cooling fan speeds with auto cool option, easy electronic controls with remote, 24 hr. on/off timer, power failure auto reset, 3-in-one operation: cool fan, dry, slide out washable filter, filter light reminder, comes with window install kit, 115v , 23 5/8"W x 15"H x 22 1/67"D, Energy STAR rating of 12.0 EER



WHAW121BW- \$509.60 **SALE \$458.64** 12,000 BTU-Cools a room up to 550 sq. ft. with 2.6 pints per hour of dehumidification, electronic control with digital display and 3 cooling speeds, eco, sleep mode and programable 24 hr. on/off timer, remote, 5.9 ft LCDI power cord plugs into 115v outlet, power failure auto reset, 8-way directional air louvers, removable and washable air filter with clean filter alert. Easy to install window mounting kit included, window width: 26" min/ 36" max, min height 16" Energy STAR 12.1 EER

WHAW151BW-\$676 **SALE \$ 608.40** 15,000 BTU-Cools room up to 700 sq. ft. with up to 3.52 pints per hour dehumidification, on-board electronic control panel with digital display, remote control with LCD display, 3-cooling speeds plus auto option, auto restart after power outage, removable and washable air filter with clean filter alert, comes with easy to install mounting kit, 4.9 ft. LCDI power cord with 3 prong grounded plug, uses 115v, Energy STAR compliant with 11.9 EER



If you have questions, please call Roxanne at (218) 743-3132.



Koochiching County Fair



Float in memory of Larry Fee, put together by his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Larry was the Fair clown for many years. On the back, it said "Gone Fishin." The float won 2nd prize. Photo by Larry Fee's grandchildren.



Photo of the Scenic Sinkhole Scramble (left) by LaVon Weidenborner, other photos by Rena F. Troy.





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Edge Gallery

Bethany Jackson portrays “Honest Americana”

by Gail Blackmer

September's featured artist at the Edge Center Gallery in Bigfork is Bethany Jackson from Aurora, Minnesota.

She plainly states what we all have experienced about life in general when we consider her Artist Statement which reads: "It's not all sitting on the front porch swing drinking iced tea in golden hour lighting. Whether it's a broken-down vehicle, chronic illness, or the pandemic, we become house-bound with our pets and our problems. It may not be Instagram-ready, but it's really what's going on."

Indeed, that's an honest statement. The public is invited to view her dynamic compositions as they will be displayed in the Gallery from September 1 to October 1.

Bethany uses a combination of geometric, photographic and plein air techniques in her work, influenced by expressionism. The result gives the art a feeling of movement.

Our Meet the Artist reception will be held on Friday, September 9 from 5-7 p.m. for this show. Monthly exhibits continue through November this season with public viewing open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The Edge Gallery is located adjacent to the Bigfork School.

The gallery committee is made up of volunteers who have a desire to bring visual art to our community. At this time we are seeking volunteers to assist with hanging the monthly shows and also to host visitors during the monthly hours we are open to the public; just stop in to let us know if you are interested.

Edge Center Rocks Country!

... on Saturday, September 10 at 7 p.m. with The Jason Waldron Band and Mike Miller.

by Sandra LeBlanc-Boland

Father and son duo Jason and Blake Waldron from Effie, Minn. have been busy performing their classic country sets locally in the Edge of the Wilderness Community and throughout Minnesota's Northland, pleasing audiences with their blended sound of guitar and vocals.

With dad Jason on vocals and Fender guitar, and son Blake on his Ibanez, their familial gift of musicality and love of performing shine through.

The Jason Waldron Band enjoys playing cover songs by Tyler Childers, Hank Williams x3, Buck Owens, Johnny Cash, Johnny Rivers, to a bit of rock crossover with Stone Temple Pilots, Nirvana, and most recently, The Beatles. Jason's low range has a pitch perfect comparison to Cash, the man in black.

Mike Miller from Grand Rapids, Minn. is a multi-instrumentalist,

specializing in voice and guitar. Mike enjoys performing many styles of music including folk, country, blues and pop.

Mike has been playing music for most of his life and has played with many groups including Something Completely Different, Arcana, Friends of Yoder, Dukes of Hubbard and the Clearwater Hot Club. Currently, Mike performs solo or with his band, Jackson and the Burn.

You can find Mike playing solo shows in the Grand Rapids area and duo shows in the Brainerd Lakes area and Alexandria; and at weddings, grad parties, and even deer camps.

Join us for a special evening featuring a little bit of country, a little bit of rock 'n roll and a whole lot of fun, Saturday, September 10 at the Edge Center for the Arts in little old Bigfork. \$10 for adults, \$5 for children.



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Classic movie series

by Jack Nachbar

Clint Eastwood was the biggest movie star/director in the last quarter of the 20th century.

Of all the movies he made during this period, his Western, *The Outlaw Josie Wales* (1976) is his favorite. Living in a world of cruel violence, Eastwood's hero initially seeks revenge for the murder of his family, but slowly finds his life taking a new direction in the post-Civil War South. Josie's wanderings can be brutal, but also include a surprising amount of humor, and even romance. Made during a period of declining interest in

Westerns, *Josie Wales* was the only serious 1976 Western in the box office top 25.

The Outlaw Josie Wales will be shown at the Edge Center Theater in Bigfork Thursday, September 8 at 6:30 p.m. FREE! Rating: PG.

All are welcome, but scenes of violence may make the movie unacceptable for children.

OCTOBER CLASSIC MOVIE: Pre-Halloween Special. Bud and Lew flee from classic movie monsters in the hit comedy, *Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein* (1948). Thursday, October 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Edge.

WATTS deadlines

Deadlines for submitting WATTS News ads and content through 2022 are:

October	9/16
November	10/14
December	11/16

Effie discusses fire damaged properties

by Sally Sedgwick

At its August 8 meeting, the Effie City Council discussed two properties with extensive fire damage and two priority items for the Blandin Foundation community grant; Effie School assessment and playground enhancement.

During public comment a resident spoke about the need to move forward proactively on cleaning up and reconstructing one of the properties. He had concerns about emissions from burning and water runoff. A second fire damaged property will be served with an abatement notice if the property is not restored by Oct. 1.

The council discussed an application for an On Sale and Sunday liquor license for the Effie Café. The need for a

family friendly restaurant in the community was expressed. The license was denied on a 3-2 vote.

The council discussed the old school building, and that it needs to be secured and posted. The asbestos assessment will be made in late fall/early winter.

Two playground equipment companies will be in town to provide options and quotes during August. The improvements will use funding from the Blandin Foundation Community Development grant.

The next regular council meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 12 at the Community Center.

Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum

Hospital board sets levy

At its August meeting, the Bigfork Valley Hospital Board set the 2023 hospital tax levy at \$836,000 on a 7-3 vote. The number represents an 8.6 percent increase from 2022, and was based on recent figures for inflation. As of June 30, the hospital year to date net loss was (\$960,360).

Recent improvements noted at the Villa were work on a resident garden, new roofing and newly stained siding. The hospital also has new signage at the entrance.

The board accepted offers on listed property

for sale in Bigfork for \$139,000 and a private offer for property in Coleraine for \$80,000.

Peer awards for outstanding performance for May through July were given to: (May) Maxine Gretsche, Annette Buckingham, Jessica Anderson and Dan Heinecke; (June) Annette Buckingham, Ashlee Snyder, Jeff Temple, Mary Christensen and Caci Richards; and (July) Jenni Rissanen, Teri Lund, Lynette Lovdahl, Angie Smith, Kyle Buckingham and Alicia MacRostie.

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North Itasca Electric linemen and office staff got the lucky job of judging pies at the Pie Social fundraiser for B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork in July. Myrna Baird Busch was the winner with a rhubarb pineapple pie and was presented with the \$50 prize by Daryl Pederson (above).

And what is this? (right) Bigfoot was spotted at a second Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast Fundraiser, this time toward the 2022 Haunted House.



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Boot Scootin' in the Woods

"Boot Scootin' in the Woods," the 15th annual fundraiser gala for the Bigfork Valley Community Foundation will be held at the Wilderness Barn in Bigfork on Sunday, Sept. 11 from 4 to 7 p.m.

The gala will feature a silent auction, barbeque rib dinner catered by Ron Carpenter, dessert catered by Cinfully Delicious and live music by the Northern Lights Trio. A portion of the proceeds this year will benefit Bigfork Valley Hospital.

Tickets are \$45 and available at the Discovery Center in Marcell on Highway 38, at Timber Rose Floral & Gifts or by calling (218)743-4116.

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Notice of the Continuation of Ardenhurst Township Annual Meeting

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Ardenhurst Township, County of Itasca, State of Minnesota that the Continuation of the Annual Township Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 8th, 2022. The Annual Meeting will commence at 7:00 pm to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

The Continuation of the Annual Meeting will be held at the following location:

Ardenhurst Township Hall
66733 State Highway 46
Northome, MN 56661

Ardenhurst Township is also compiling an email list of those residents and property owners who would like to be added to our mailing list for events and notices. If you are interested in receiving our communications, please email Patti Mull at pxmull@gmail.com

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.

B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork

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Bingo every Thursday 1-3 p.m.



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Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills. To save energy (and money!) used for water heating, repair any leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines. When it's time to purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for models that are ENERGY STAR®-certified.

Source: Dept. of Energy

AARP Defensive Driving

The AARP Smart Driver course is the nation’s first course specifically designed for drivers age 55 and older. Drivers will benefit from a 10 percent discount on their auto insurance premium upon completing the course. Drivers learn how to manage and accommodate common age-related changes in vision, hearing and reaction time.

Courses held at the Senior Center, King Elementary School, 500 SE 5th St., Deer River,. To register, call Kayleen at 218-246-8241, ext: 60227. Participants are welcome to bring a sack lunch.

Monday, Sept. 26: 4-8 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 3: 4-8 p.m.

Monday & Tuesday, October 17/18, 4-8 p.m.

This is an 8-hour class for first-time participants. Cost for the class is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for nonmembers. Please arrive 15 minutes early for registration paperwork.

In addition, the on-line class option continues to be available at www.aarpdriversafety.org.

SAIL classes

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 water.

Following is the local schedule as of July 6::

- 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, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
- Bowstring Town Hall
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00-10:30 a.m.
- Deer River, Bethany Lutheran,
Mondays & Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

area bookmobile stops

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

Tuesdays: Sept. 20; Oct. 11

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: Sept. 1, 22; Oct. 13

11:45-12:45 Togo: Junction Bar & Grill

Mondays: Sept. 19; Oct. 10, 31

Note corrected date in September

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

Community Education

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

HIKING WITH YOUR HOUND

Date: Sat., Sept. 24. Register by Sept. 20

Time: 9:30 a.m. - noon

Location: Edge Center

Cost: \$15 per dog

Each dog will get a Portable Dog Travel Water Bottle. Include an email for weather announcements.

AUTUMN LANDSCAPE PAINTING

Date: Tues., Oct 4. Register by Sept. 29

Time: 5-6:30 p.m.

Location:Bigfork School Commons

Cost: \$25

Ages 14-adult. Class by 321 Art Studio. All skill levels welcome.

JUNGLE LANDSCAPE PAINTING

Date: Tues., Oct 4. Register by Sept. 29

Time: 3-4:30 p.m.

Location:Bigfork School Commons

Cost: \$12

Ages K-6t. Class by 321 Art Studio. Snack included.

Marcell: Register for classes online at getlearning.org or call the Family Center at (218) 832-3444.

RAPTORS RULE

Date: Sat., Oct. 1, Register by Sept. 24.

Time: 10 a.m.-noon

Location: Marcell Family Center

Cost: Free

An exciting opportunity to get a close-up view of live raptors and learn about the characteristics that make raptors different from other birds. Learn about various raptors found in Minnesota and their habitats. All ages. Program presented by Headwaters Science

NOTE If the Avian flu is still an infection danger to birds The Science Center cannot bring the Raptors, but another exciting program will be substituted.

<p>Northome Food Shelf</p> <p>12059 Main St</p> <p>Bring your own bags.</p> <p>1st Mon.: 9 a.m.-noon</p> <p>2nd Mon.: 2-5 p.m.</p> <p>3rd Mon.: 9 a.m.-noon</p> <p>4th Mon.: 2-5 p.m.</p>	<p>Northern Itasca Emergency Food Shelf</p> <p>200 Main, Bigfork</p> <p>Thursdays</p> <p>12:30-3 p.m.</p> <p>3rd Thursday</p> <p>4-5:30 p.m.</p> <p>(218) 743-3381</p>
<p>Blackduck Community Library:</p> <p>(218) 835-6600</p> <p>Tues: 1-6 p.m..</p> <p>Wed: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.</p> <p>Thurs:12-5 p.m.</p> <p>Fri: 12-5 p.m.</p> <p>Sat.: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.</p>	<p>Northome Library</p> <p>(218) 897-5952</p> <p>Mon: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.</p> <p>Tues: 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.</p> <p>Wed: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.</p> <p>Thurs: noon - 3 p.m.</p> <p>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

Northome

Northome Farmer’s Market is at the Fairgrounds on Wednesday, 5-7 p.m and Fridays, 9 a.m-1 p.m. or until sold out. Cottage license required for baked goods. Buyers and sellers wanted!

Northome Fall Festival is on Saturday, Sept. 10 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Harvest Moon Greenhouse, 12337 Town Road 425 in rural Northome. Planned are hay rides, free games, chicken race, flag pig ball, obstacle course, craft and food vendors, RubyGene’s food truck from Kelliher, ticketed games, pumpkins, mums, DIY fall potting class (Please call Bobby at (507) 456-7611 to register, there is a fee.), bounce house, live music, horse rides, corn pit, needle in the haystack, tasting bar by: The Pond and much more. Visit Facebook @harvestmoongreenhouse for more.

General Interest

Itasca County has developed a webpage, itascacountyjusticecenter.org, for information relating to the Nov. 8 referendum on whether to use a county-wide sales tax to pay for the new Justice Center – itascacountyjusticecenter.org.

Friends of the Library in Grand Rapids are holding a Pop-Up Book Sale on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 9 and 10 at the Community Presbyterian Church, 703 N Pokegama Ave. from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday.



Marcell Family Center

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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.

~ September Calendar ~

- 3-5 Spring Lake Store celebrates its 106th Birthday with treats at the store.
- 6 First day of 2022-2023 school year, all schools
- 6 Bigfork Valley Hospital Board meets, 9 a.m. Contact (218) 743-1772 for telephone or virtual attendance information.
- 6 ISD318 School Board meeting in Grand Rapids or at watchictv.org, 6:30 p.m. Open Forum, 6 p.m. Contact for information: jasmussen@isd318.org or call 327-5704.
- 7 “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
- 8 Classic Movies at The Edge Center, Bigfork. *The Outlaw Josie Wales* (1976) starring Clint Eastwood will be shown at 6:30 p.m. Free.
- 8 Continuation of Ardenhurst Annual Town Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 9 Reception for “Honest Americana,” an exhibit of the work of Bethany Jackson, 5-7 p.m. at the Edge Gallery, Bigfork. Exhibit runs Sept. 1-Oct. 1. Gallery is open Thurs.-Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 10 Northome Fall Festival at Harvest Moon Greenhouse, 12337 Town Road 425 in rural Northome. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- 10 Edge Center, Bigfork presents the Jason Waldron Band and Mike Miller in a country music concert, 7 p.m. \$10 adults, \$5 children.
- 11 Bigfork Valley Community Foundation hosts a fundraiser, “Boot Scootin’ in the Woods” at the Wilderness Barn in Bigfork, 4-7 p.m. Tickets \$45, call 743-4116. A portion of funds raised will benefit Bigfork Valley Hospital.
- 12 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 12 ISD317 School Board meets, 6 p.m., public forum 5:45 p.m.
- 12 Blackduck ISD32 School Board, 7 p.m. in the Media Center.
- 12 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 13 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.
- 13 Bigfork City Council meets at City Hall, 5:30 a.m.
- 14 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m.

16-17 Annual Bargains Are Great on Highway 38 garage sales, Grand Rapids to Effie.

19 ISD318 School Board meeting in Grand Rapids or at watchictv.org, 6:30 p.m. Open Forum, 6 p.m. Contact for information: jasmussen@isd318.org or call 327-5704.

23 Deadline for Operation Round Up grant applications, 4:30 p.m. at the headquarters building in Bigfork.

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

Area Church Directory

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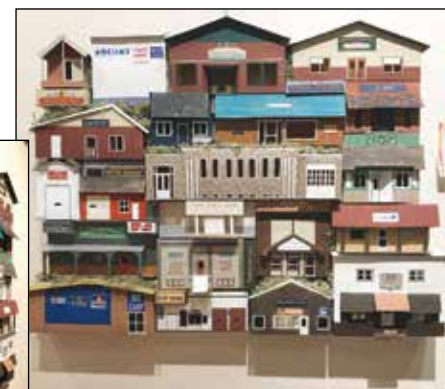
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Bigfork Medical 135 Pine Tree Dr (218) 743-3232 Open Mon-Sat	Northome Medical 12052 Main St (218) 897-5222 Open Mon-Fri
Bigfork Dental 303 Main Ave (218) 743-3600 Open Mon-Fri	Big Falls Medical 410 2nd St NW (218) 276-2403 Open Mon, Wed, Fri


www.ScenicRiversHealth.org

Awards from the Edge Gallery annual juried art show (from above left, clockwise) Kristen Anderson, "Emerging Spring," wool, Award of Excellence. Delaine Clausen, "Main Avenue Mashup," an architectural assemblage of Bigfork Main Ave., People's Choice Award. Becca Mulenburg, "Mirador," oil, Best in Show. Sandra Thompson, "Queen of the Finnish Festival," oil, Award of Excellence.

Authors Lorna Landvik and Sarah Stonich to speak

The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to present Road Tripping Writers with Lorna Landvik and Sarah Stonich, a free program being offered at the Grand Rapids Library on Tuesday, Sept. 20 at 6 p.m. For other locations, visit alslib.info.

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



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Zucchini Hash Browns

Thank you to Nancy Gross for this September recipe!

2 cups coarsely grated zucchini
1/2 cup grated cheddar cheese
2 Tablespoons minced onion
1/4 cup flour
1 egg, slightly beaten
salt and pepper to taste



Mix all together. In 10" skillet, heat 3 Tablespoons oil and 3 Tablespoons butter over medium heat.

Drop 4-6 patties in pan. Fry until golden, flip and brown other side.

Serve with sour cream or salsa, or eat plain.

A very good way to use zucchini!

Broccoli Grape Salad

Thank you to Janet Kogler for this September recipe!

2 heads broccoli
1 cup chopped celery
1 1/2 lbs. red grapes
1/2 bunch green onions

Combine: 1 1/2 cup Hellman's mayonnaise
1/3 cup sugar
3 Tablespoons fresh lemon juice

Pour over salad mix and let stand overnight.

Add 1/2 lb. bacon, browned and crumbled. Top with toasted, sliced almonds

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 OCTOBER – Friday, Sept. 16

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Free! My grandkids are now in college, so this very sturdy bunk bed can now be yours (mattresses, sheets included). Call (218) 743-2320

-SALES-

Big sale, 3 weekends! Fri. & Sat., Sept. 16-17 & 23-24 and Sept. 30 & Oct. 1, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., 1 mile W of Hwy 38 at 38797 County Rd. 14, Bigfork. 2 vintage 1930s Singer sewing machines in wooden cases, 1930s Eureka tabletop electric stove/oven, vintage pictures, household, books, craft items, cookbooks, decor, houseplants, old and new and free stuff, baked goods, more.

Flea and Farmers Market: 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-

Wanted: Effie Fredheim Lutheran Church is in need of a piano or organ player. Please call Dora at (218) 743-3803 10/22

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

-FOR SALE-

For sale: Sears 8 watt all-purpose box light model #09-89301 and spare bulbs. Winter blues helper. \$25. Call (218) 832-3453 10/22

For sale: 1908 long handled hay scythe with two handles. Great condition. \$90. Two man crosscut saw in excellent condition \$90. Open to negotiate. Call (218) 659-2797 10/22

For sale: 20 vintage zinc canning lids with milk glass inserts. \$40 for all 20. Call (218) 659-2797 10/22

For sale: Ten old Minnesota car license plates. 1932/33/36/38/50/55/56/60. 1938, 1960 are matching plates. \$45 takes them all. Call (218) 659-2797 10/22

For sale: Very rare pair of Mallard duck decoys from 1930s made from canvas. Drake and hen in excellent condition.. \$160 for pair. Open to negotiate. Call (218) 659-2797 10/22

For sale: Gas wood splitter, 6 hp newer Tecumseh motor. 16 ton ram recently rebuilt. original owner. Marcell area. \$650. Call (218) 246-2230 or cell (612) 205-4225 10/22

Firewood: Seasoned black ash: cut, split 16", \$210 a cord delivered Marcell area. Call (218) 832-3324 10/22

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 10/22

For sale: Solid oak ice box, probably antique. Rare 4 door with brass hardware, white porcelain and galvanized interior, three woven metal shelves. 50" high x 36" wide x 20" deep on casters. May have been refinished 50 years ago. \$1,950. Call (218) 308-1335 10/22

For sale: 9 piece 45 lb. weight set with lifting bar \$125. Eureka Super Air Flow 12 amp upright vacuum cleaner, nearly new, \$75. Staffordshire ware Myott Royal Mail 9 piece dish set plus extra pieces, \$150. 1952 children's folding table and chairs \$75. Call (218) 910-6610 9/22

For sale: Cut, split, seasoned birch ash, maple, aspen firewood. Call (218) 910-6610. 11/22

For sale: Ditch Witch trencher, 13 hp. Honda all hyd. 3 ft bar. \$900. Call (612) 300-7705 10/22

For sale: Router & router table, some bits \$30. Sawzall \$20. 3/8" impact drill \$25. 3/8" Drills \$10. Jigsaw. Call (218) 832-3564. or (218) 856-8876 10/22

For sale: Cover hay. Septic gardens, etc. \$2.50 /bale Call (218) 256-3829 10/22

For sale: Bear Cat chipper-shredder. 8 hp Honda Motor pull behind with 15" tires. Used twice, like new. \$2,695. Call (218) 743-3933 10/22

For sale: 10 ft. hyd. stump & rock digger. Fits on skidsteers. 2 ft. bucket. Like new, \$2,895 Call (218) 743-3933 10/22

For sale: Ruger Mini-14 with (2) 5 round magazines and (3) 30 round magazines. Red Dot sight, soft case, and some ammunition. \$1,000. Cash only. Call (612) 940-6922, ask for Ken 9/22

For sale: 16 inch split seasoned birch firewood, U-haul. \$60 per face cord; \$180 per logger cord Call (218) 659-2726 for appt. 9/22

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 10/22

-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

-MOTORHOME-CAMPERS

For sale: Mobile home, 1974 Marshfield Manor house, 14' x 65', 2 bedroom plus 1 - 10' x 12' add-on. Metal gable roof with 12" lap siding 16' x 16' 3-seasons porch with 16' x 11' deck. Good condition. Fully furnished. \$2,000. You move it. Marcell area. Call (612) 860-1480 9/22

-REAL ESTATE-

For sale: 3 bedroom/1 bath cabin. 40'x64' machine shed. Oversized double car garage. 41.57 acres – great hunting! Northome, MN. \$175,000. Call Curt (507) 456-1671 9/22

-BOATS-

MOTORS, FISHING

For sale: Boat lift. Accommodates 16' boat. Needs new canvas canopy cover. \$700. Call Dan, (612) 308-7090 10/22

For sale: 1994 16 ft. Lund fishing boat. 18 hp Merc., Elect. trolling motor, swivel seats with trailer. \$1,600. Call (612) 300-7705 10/22

For sale: Two person paddle boat, \$200. 9 foot, one person inflatable pontoon boat. Oars, electric motor transom, padded seat. Never used. \$300. Call (612) 710-6028 9/22

For sale: 2004 21- foot Premiere Leisure Pontoon. Storm damaged. Sea legs and 2005 50 hp Honda 4-stroke motor. Pontoon and deck in good shape, the rails and benches have some storm damage but mostly intact. Hosier trailer included. \$10,000. Call (651) 410-0408 or (651) 324-1825 9/22

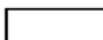
-FARM-

Hay for sale: Small square bales – timothy, clover field hay mix. Nice hay. Call (218) 256-3829. 10/22

For sale: 5 ft. pull behind disc. 8" tire, 8 discs, exc. cond. Pull with tractor or 4-wheeler. \$249.95. Call (218) 743-3933 10/22

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If no response, please resend.

Scenic Substation dedicated

by Sally Sedgwick

North Itasca Electric, Great River Energy and STAR Energy came together in July to celebrate the successful installation and operation of the new Scenic Substation.

Started up last summer, the \$870,000 substation has proved its mission; to improve the reliability for customers in the southern portion of the North Itasca Electric system off Scenic Highway 7.

Development of the project actually began eight years ago when John Pierson of STAR Energy came on board as the cooperative's engineer. He noticed that some of the data from system operations was not making sense. The board decided to invest in engineering studies so that they could understand what was going on and develop a plan to address it. When it

became certain that the Scenic area load needed support, they hoped to use a substation about 4 miles away owned by another cooperative.

Then that substation was retired. More options were needed: alternatives included a new 25kV line, parallel circuits or a new substation. The last was selected as the best choice.

It was a good decision. The load on the new substation is about 2.5 MW, said Pierson, and may run even higher. Side benefits to the improved reliability are time and cost savings when linemen working on outages in the Scenic area don't have to travel back and forth to Bigfork to control the power feed as they work.

“Providing electricity to communities is vital,” said STAR Energy CEO Lois Croonquist. “STAR Energy Services

of legacy systems with current technologies. We are happy to be a part of such an important project for North Itasca Electric.”

The finished substation has lightning protection and fiber communication with Great River Energy.

GRE and North Itasca Electric crews worked on the project hand-in-hand, said GRE Vice-President of Transmission Priti Patel, who keynoted the ceremony. GRE appreciates the easy collaboration with North Itasca Electric in this and other projects, she said, especially in an industry where there is no option but to be successful for the life and health of the community.

GRE, itself a cooperative owned by North Itasca Electric and 27 other Minnesota rural electric cooperatives, plans, builds and owns the infrastructure that brings energy from its source to the electric distribution system. Patel summarized the long range planning that GRE undergoes which saw the need to collaborate on the new substation.

In its planning, GRE looks for the right project at the right time at the right cost, she said. In addition, local community is always considered in any project.

GRE keeps a laser focus on reliability and resiliency, maintaining a transmission system which is continually ageing, she explained. Older infrastructure is a national problem. A wood pole, for instance, has a 72 year life, and at end of life operation becomes riskier. GRE develops an annual budget to upgrade or replace transmission lines, looking at a blend of age and

Photos, from top right, clockwise: Great River Energy; (front) Marsha Parloa, permitting; (back from left) Dale Aukee, land rights; Chuck Lukkarila, project manager; Brad Dolinski, North Itasca Electric CEO; Larry Salmela, North Itasca Electric chair; Priti Patel, VP Transmission. John Pierson, engineer STAR Energy addresses attendees. STAR Energy; Lois Croonquist, CEO, Salmela, Dolinski, Pierson, Rachel Hockert. Daryl Pederson explains substation equipment to board members. North Itasca Electric Line Department: Dick Lind, Chris Larson, Cody

Eischens, Bruce Carlson, Trevor Michienzi, Josh Hubbard, Noah Troumbly, Cole Serfling, Chuck Peck, Jake Bowers and Daryl Pederson. not shown: John Rahier.



condition.

Weather is another factor in planning. Weather events are increasing, and climate assessments are looked at 30 to 50 years out. Transmission lines are now designed for 110 mph wind, or 1 inch of ice and 50 mph wind. In northern Minnesota, wildfire is also a consideration.

“We invest at GRE to keep costs down,” said Patel, pointing out the importance of smoothly operating infrastructure. New construction to meet growing needs is also important. A recently announced project will build a transmission line running from the Iron Range to central Minnesota’s Cassie’s

Crossing Substation, scheduled for completion by 2030.

Dolinski thanked GRE for its participation in the substation development and construction. "Although North Itasca Electric is small," he said, "in the co-operative style we have always been treated as a priority with GRE."





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