



# NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

# WATTS NEWS

VOL 26 NO. 10

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

OCTOBER 2023

## CEO Report

Good afternoon NIECI, Fall is here, and thus far the weather has been fantastic.

I had an off weekend recently and took that opportunity to enjoy a few Hwy 38 sales. Picked up a few deals I just couldn't live without. I'm not a great rummage sale guy, my attention span isn't up to the task of finding all the great deals. I did enjoy visiting with many of you at the sales though.

After that I went stomping through the woods looking for the elusive partridge. There's still plenty of cover out there. I heard/saw six birds, got a shot at one of them, now need to get a couple more for a meal. It was a beautiful weekend for walking around in the woods!

I just got back from

a meeting with GRE. Monthly I travel down to Maple Grove to hear what is going on with Great River Energy. This month we were able to meet off-site in Tower, Minn. I couldn't have asked for better weather to share the North with our friends from across Minnesota.

We absorbed several reports and I want to give you a heads up on a couple of them.

We are working with our fellow cooperatives through Great River Energy to apply for grant funding from USDA for the new ERA program. Empowering Rural America is roughly 9.7 billion dollars to invest toward zero-emissions and renewable energy systems. Cooperative principle 6 is cooperation among cooperatives. We



Brad Dolinski, CEO

are looking to partner with our fellow GRE cooperatives to get the most bang for our buck. This program is a 25% grant with the remaining funding for projects coming in low interest loans. North Itasca Electric may make investments in a solar system.

North Itasca Electric hasn't had the best luck with solar in the past. Through this partnership we may be able to site our solar investment at

CEO to p.2>

## A nip of fall has come

by Jerry Loney

A touch of frost has come, and the changing colors give us the clear warning winter is coming. Every year it seems I send out a message reminding you to get ready for winter (as if it isn't obvious), and every year I talk on how to be more energy efficient. I might even sound like a broken record, but the simplest things do make a difference. Below are some affordable and no-cost things that can be done to reduce energy consumption.

- Set the thermostat to 68 degrees.
- Run ceiling paddle fans on low, blowing upwards.
- Change furnace filter monthly.
- Ensure windows are sealed by locking them.
- Insulate exterior wall outlets and switches with foam pads.
- Caulk along windows and doors with a clear sealant.
- Close fireplace dampers when not in use.
- Caulk all exterior wall penetrations.

- Close drapes at night to keep heat in. Open during the day for solar heat.
- Insulate attic access door.
- Do not close off unused rooms that are conditioned by forced-air systems.
- Do not close supply air registers.
- Check to be sure return grilles are not blocked by furniture or bookcases.

Winter to p.3>

## October is Co-op Month

### New ERA funding

Great River Energy, a not-for-profit electric cooperative, along with a majority of its member-owners are pleased to announce they have filed a Letter of Interest with the United States Department of Agriculture to participate in the department's Empowering Rural America (New ERA) program to become eligible for nearly \$1 billion in federal funds to advance the work of Minnesota's electric cooperatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to continue modernizing the region's power grid.

“The New Era program is a historic, once in a generation investment into the country's generation and transmission infrastructure,” said Great River Energy Vice President and Chief Corporate and Member Services Officer Lisa Orpen. “The consortium made up of our member-owners allowed us to collaborate and identify worthy projects that accelerate greenhouse gas emission reductions, while keeping electricity reliable and affordable.”

The \$9.7 billion New ERA program was created as part of the Inflation Reduction Act with the goal of helping rural America transition to cleaner, reliable and more affordable electricity. Great River Energy and its 27 member-owners

ERA to p.2 >

### Funds available for income eligible members

Each year North Itasca Electric is mandated by government regulations to spend 2% of its revenue on rebate programs that reduce energy and help income eligible (I.E.) members not able to afford products or programs to reduce their energy usage. In 2023, \$9,488.57 has been earmarked for North Itasca Electric to distribute to those that cannot afford to spend money for energy efficiencies.

Because of confidentiality, it is hard to identify those members that qualify for these funds. If you fall in the income eligible requirements, North Itasca

Electric has \$6,988.57 available in 2023 for I.E. members. It could be an Energy Star appliance, air sealing around windows and doors or adding insulation to those cold spaces needing a little more. Air source heat pumps would be a great project we could help you with.

North Itasca Electric would like to hear from you. Would you like to be considered for a project to help reduce your total energy costs? Please contact Jerry at (218) 743-3131 or Jerryl@nieci.com We would like to discuss options with you.

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

Meet new employee  
**Joe Kangas**  
page 2

October Savings Sale  
pages 8, 9

Winter load control  
page 6

**Office Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
(218) 743-3131

## CEO Report (continued)

>from p.1

a cooperative further south. This will improve the performance of the system and improve the return on investment.

Through our current contract with GRE, we can self-produce 10% of our energy needs. This is a rather small system when you consider economies of scale. Cooperating with other cooperatives, we will be able to join several systems. This will drive the costs of the systems as a whole down.

I do care about the environment; I also care deeply about our bottom line and the bills you pay. I will work to find a balance between these two important issues and discover benefits for all

our Member-Owners.

The other report I want to discuss with you deals with wind purchases. As you know we are required in the state of Minnesota to be carbon free by 2040. We are working with GRE to scale this mountain.

I must be a little cautious, many of these discussions are greatly confidential. GRE is negotiating with several companies to site wind in the best interest of our Member-Owners.

Currently GRE and the cooperatives they serve have entered into power purchase agreements, PPA for short. Essentially, we do not own the equipment, we contract with the companies for all or a portion of the output from

the towers. Due to pricing increases in PPA, we may need to look at ownership of these resources in the future.

The PPA contracts have increased drastically over the past year, partly due to the supply/demand pressures from legislation and mandates. The cost of equipment and steel needed to build these wind farms have increased greatly. Land agreements and purchases have jumped substantially as well.

I hear often, NIMBY... Not in my back yard. I'm all about each of us having that choice, but if not in your backyard, where?

This debate is happening locally, regionally and nationally more and more. We will need to build a vast amount of transmission lines to carry this needed energy from source to load. The challenges are growing as we continue our ascent up this mountain. Financial constraints, materials, contracts, land agreements and social considerations all are becoming more impactful.

*By your side! Miigwech Brad*

## New co-op employee



Joe Kangas is the new face in the business office at North Itasca Electric. You may also see him at the front desk.

Growing up on a hobby farm south of Calumet, Kangas graduated from Greenway and went on to earn a business management degree from St. Scholastica. He comes to the cooperative from a large commercial/industrial environment where he supervised the

warehouse and was in customer service.

He was searching for a less stressful environment, he explained, where he could use his skills in the rural setting he enjoys most: he likes to fish, hunt and just be in the outdoors. You can also find him on the golf course!

Kangas joined North Itasca Electric in early September.



### Annual Cow/Calf and Horse Sale

All livestock consignments welcome.

**Friday, Oct. 20 ♦ 12 noon**

36336 County Road 42, north of Bigfork.

For more information, contact:

Rob Wendt (218) 244-2597

Glen Hopkins (218) 244-2870

Cimarron Pitzen (218) 244-0289

Sale managed by Bagley Livestock Exchange.

Concessions available onsite. Spectators welcome.





### Spring Lake Store

*An Old Fashioned General Store*

---

**Hours**

Mon-Thurs: 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.  
 Fri-Sat: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
 Sun. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Cheeses, deli meats,  
sandwiches, groceries, gifts,  
WiFi, post office  
Fireside Room

**218-832-3626**

## THE SHOP



**Four Season Small Engine Sales & Service**  
**306 Main Ave Bigfork, MN 56628**  
**218-743-3666 or 800-431-1477**  
[www.wearetheshop.com](http://www.wearetheshop.com)  
**M-F 8AM - 5PM, Sat 9AM - 2PM**

## WATTS NEWS

WATTS NEWS is published monthly by:  
 North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
 301 Main Avenue  
 P.O. Box 227  
 Bigfork, MN 56628

Subscriptions for Members are included as part of the annual membership dues. \$12.00 per year or partial year for non-members, billed and payable in January for the following year.

Second class postage paid at Bigfork, MN 56628. USPS 016-849 **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to WATTS NEWS, North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 227, Bigfork, MN 56628-0227

Office Hours: 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
 Monday-Friday

Telephone: (218) 743-3131

After hours (to report power outages):  
 (800) 762-4048

Website: [www.NorthItascaElectric.com](http://www.NorthItascaElectric.com)

Chief Executive Officer: Brad Dolinski  
 WATTS NEWS Editor: Sally Sedgwick

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

**Keep us up-to-date.** Please keep your contact information current with our office. Please notify North Itasca Electric of any changes in property ownership, mailing addresses, phone numbers and email addresses.

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

Chairman: Larry Salmela, District 3

Vice-Chair: Wes Waller, District 2

Secretary: Lloyd Kongsjord, District 5

Treasurer: Roy Bain, District 9

Rep. to GRE Board: Lloyd Kongsjord, District 5

James White, District 1

Mary Rahier, District 4

Todd Christensen, District 6

Bruce Leino, District 7  
 Jeff Kilian, District 8

Jeff Kilian, District 8

# Highlights from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.  
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
August 31, 2023

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

**End time: 2:15 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on August 31, 2023.

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

**Absent:** Daryl Pederson

**Also Present:** Andrew Shaw, CEO Brad Dolinski, Jerry Loney, Tina Danielson and Kim Giesen.

**Start Regular Board Meeting: 11:00 a.m.**

- o Pledge of allegiance was recited.
- o A motion was made to adopt the agenda, seconded; motion carried. A motion was made to consent agenda, seconded, motion carried.
- o A safety discussion was held. Brad reminded everyone that with fall fast approaching the sun's location changes in the sky. Be aware of the glare that this can cause. Use caution! There will also be a lot more side x sides on the roads. Watch for hunters, ATV's and UTV's that will be using our roadways.
- o Tina reviewed the Operating Reports. A motion was made to accept the Operating Reports as they were presented, seconded; motion carried.
- o A motion was made to show that Board Policy 300.40 Energy Management and Efficiency and Bylaw Article 10 were reviewed with no changes, seconded, motion carried.
- o Brad gave the Line Department report in Daryl's absence. Jessie Lake transformer is scheduled to be delivered November 10. MREA did crew observations. We had 13 new services. ROW clearing is being done in the Blackduck and Island Lake area. It looks great. We are seeing the value of the ROW clearing as there have been minimal outages when there has been wind.
- o Jerry Loney gave the Members Services report.
- o Tina gave the office report. RUS Loan was reviewed. 740C Costs Form was reviewed.
- o Brad gave the CEO report.
- o W. Waller gave the MREA report.
- o Brad gave the GRE report for Lloyd. July financials are very favorable.
- o Round Table Discussion was held.
- o A motion was made to adjourn, seconded; motion carried.

*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.*

## Winter energy efficiency

from p.1

- Do not use roof-top power ventilator for attic exhaust.
- Use heavy-duty, clear sheets of plastic on the inside of windows to reduce the amount of cold air entering your home.
- Minimize use of electric space heaters.
- Ensure Air Source Heat Pumps are kept clean and free of debris.
- When using the fireplace, reduce heat loss by opening damper in the bottom of the firebox (if provided) or open the nearest window slightly.
- In basements, caulk and seal the sill plate and band joist.
- Ensure floor registers are not blocked with rugs, drapes or furniture.
- If in unconditioned space, insulate your ducts and make sure they are tightly connected to your HVAC equipment.

If you can invest in equipment that would require savings over a short period of time, hundreds of dollars each year in heating costs could be saved.

Again I need to express the benefits of Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHPs). Instead of creating heat, they move heat. Even with cold outdoor temperatures, there is heat in it, and heat pumps pull that heat into your home without creating more emissions from fossil fuel furnaces.

Electricity is needed to operate ASHPs but at a much lower amount than is needed to create heat for the space. A normal heat pump can heat your home down to 20 degrees before losing the 250% to 300% efficiencies they produce. And now today, there are ASHPs that will heat homes down to -10 degrees without starting an alternate heat source. It is true that as the temperature drops so does their efficiency, but the operating costs are still less than that of changing fossil fuel costs. Take a new Cold Climate Air Source Heat Pump (CCASHP), for instance, which the specifications say will heat down to -10 degrees (even their efficiency drops with temperature), but there are still efficiencies by moving heat than having to produce it. In Minnesota there are 69 days from October – April when temperatures are below freezing and, of those, 21.5 days that fall below zero degrees annually.

Your 2,500 square foot home has a 75,000 Btu 90% efficient propane furnace that burns 0.23 gallons per hour with temperatures at 20 degrees. This is the temperature where most ASHPs need to be turned off and alternate fuel sources used. At 0.23 gallons per hour, you would be consuming 5.52 gallons per day. With propane cost at \$2.00 per gallon, heating costs would be \$11.04 per day.

The equivalent in electricity of 0.23-gallon x 91,500

Btu's per gallon / 3412 Btu's per kW = 6.17 kW per hour or 148 kWh per day. With ASHP efficiencies between 250% - 300%, 59.2 – 49 kWh per day. On the general service rate of \$0.1288, the cost of operating that ASHP would be between \$7.62 and \$6.31 per day, or roughly half of that for \$2.00 per gallon propane.

If you would place your ASHP on the Dual Fuel rate of \$0.067 you could reduce your heating cost further from \$7.62 to \$4.02 or from \$6.31 to \$3.32 per day.

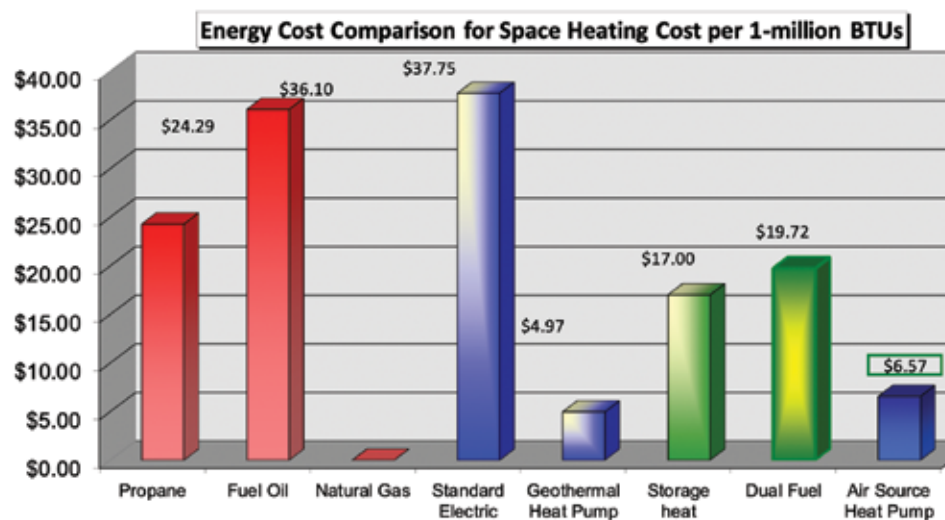
[re: chart below]

- Propane \$11.04 per day
- ASHP on General service rate \$7.60 - \$6.31
- ASHP on Dual Fuel program rate \$4.02 - \$3.32.

To learn more about saving money on your energy bills give me a call at 218-743-1313.

Until next time.

... Jerry



**WILLIAMS SEPTIC & ELECTRIC, INC.**



Licensed & Bonded

Contact:  
Brian Williams at  
(218) 659-4216

- Septic Installation Inspection Design
- Hauling & Excavating
- Residential & Commercial Wiring

P.O. Box 633 / 52034 Silk Rd. Squaw Lake, MN 56681

Highway 46,  
Squaw Lake



218-659-2131

**Happy Hour**  
Mon-Fri 4-6p  
All day Sunday

**Meat raffle**  
every Sat at 6p

**Full bar, on/off sale,**  
pull tabs, e-tabs

**Open daily**  
at 11 a.m.

**Full menu**  
including Broasted Chicken

**Kitchen is open**  
Sun-Thurs until 9p  
Fri-Sat until 10p

**Generator owners**

It may or not be that time yet to tune up your generator, but when it is, North Itasca Electric has kits available that contain synthetic oil, oil filters, air filters, and plugs to prepare your generator for another year of reliable performance.



**Cold weather rule & energy assistance program notice**

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, electric service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between Oct. 1 and April 30 if electricity is the primary heat source and ALL of the following statements apply:

- Your household income is at or below 50% of the state median household income. Income may be verified on forms provided by North Itasca Electric Cooperative or by the local energy assistance provider.
- You enter into and make reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- You receive referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce your energy bills from North Itasca Electric Cooperative. Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule does not completely stop winter disconnects before disconnecting electric service to residential members between Oct. 1 and April 30,

- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance, Kootasca Community Action (218) 999-0800. North Itasca Electric Cooperative exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please contact Sheila Hafeman at (218) 743-3131 to set up a payment plan.

**Glen Hopkins**  
**Gravel and Dirt Work**

Fill Dirt, Class Five,  
Top Soil, Road Building,  
Ditching, Culverts,  
Clearing, Grubbing

**(218) 743-3716**

**LED bulbs**  
use 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

**GUNSTOCK CHECKERING**  
All types of gunstock checkering  
We can create virtually any design or use your own  
We can recreate your worn-out checkering like new  
We refinish stocks with the hand rubbed English oil method  
Custom stocks built here. Boyds and Richards microfit blanks.

**RC Keith GUNSTOCK CHECKERING 218-897-5152**

**Kalvig & Associates**  
DWIGHT L. KALVIG  
Accountant  
EST. 1974

**• Bookkeeping and Tax Service •**

Bus: (218) 835-4546 Toll Free: (888) 888-6735 Fax: (218) 835-6590  
359 Main St., Box 309 • Blackduck, Minnesota 56630  
kalvigandassoc@paulbunyan.net

**POLAR INSULATING**  
Fiberglass • Spray Foam • Cellulose  
Waterproofing • Metal Roof Coatings

**218-659-4351**

**North Itasca Electric Cooperative must provide:**

- A 30-day notice of disconnection;
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities;
- A list of local energy assistance providers;
- Forms on which to request Cold Weather Rule protection; and
- A statement explaining available payment plans and other options to continue service.

**Energy Assistance Program**

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below 60 percent of the state median income (\$67,764 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2024. To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.

**Energy assistance**

If you cannot pay your winter heating bills, contact one of these locations for energy assistance help.

**KOOTASCA ENERGY ASS'T.**  
201 NW 4th St., Ste 130  
Grand Rapids MN 55744  
218-999-0800  
877-687-1163

**BI-COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL**  
P.O. Box 579  
Bemidji, MN 56601-0579  
800-332-7161

**ITASCA COUNTY SOCIAL SERV.**  
Itasca County Courthouse  
123 NE 4th St  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
218-327-2941

**KOOCHICHING COUNTY FAMILY SERVICES**  
615 4th St  
International Falls, MN 56649  
218-283-8405

**LEECH LAKE ENERGY ASST.**  
115 6th St, Ste E, Cass Lake, MN 56633  
218-335-8292

**ADDRESS CHANGE**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Box/Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: North Itasca Electric Co-op P.O. Box 227 Bigfork, MN 56628

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

**PS Form 3526**  
**Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation**  
**(All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)**

1. Publication Title: NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP INC/WATTS NEWS  
2. Publication Number: 16649  
3. Filing Date: 09/30/2023  
4. Issue Frequency: MONTHLY  
5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 12  
6. Annual Subscription Price: \$ 12.00  
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: PO BOX 227, BIGFORK, Itasca, MN 56628-0227  
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: PO BOX 227, Bigfork, MN 56628-0227  
9. Full Name and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: Publisher (Name and complete mailing address): North Itasca Electric Coop Inc, PO Box 227, Bigfork, MN 56628-0227; Editor (Name and complete mailing address): Sally Sedgewick, PO Box 43, Spring Lake, MN 56680-0043; Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address): North Itasca Electric CO-OP, PO Box 227, Bigfork, MN 56628-0227  
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)  
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box  None.  
13. Publication Title: NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP INC/WATTS NEWS  
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 09/30/2023  
15. Extend and Nature of Circulation: a. Total Numbers of Copies (Net press run): 0; b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail): (1) Mailed Outside County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies): 4721, 4735; (2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies): 146, 147; (3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS: 0, 0; (4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail): 0, 0; c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), (4)): 4867, 4882; d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail): (1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside County Copies included on PS Form 3541: 0, 0; (2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541: 0, 0; (3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail): 0, 0; (4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means): 25, 25; e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), (4)): 25, 25; f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e): 4892, 4907; g. Copies not Distributed: 5, 5; h. Total (Sum of 15f and 15g): 4897, 4912; i. Percent Paid ((15c / 15f) times 100): 99.49 %, 99.49 %; 16. If total circulation includes electronic copies, report that circulation on lines below: a. Paid Electronic Copies: 0, 0; b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies: 4867, 4882; c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies: 4892, 4907; d. Percent Paid (Both Print and Electronic Copies): 99.00 %, 99.00 %; 17. Publication of Statement of Ownership:  If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 10/01/2023 issue of this publication.  Publication not required.  
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Brad Dolinski, CEO, 08/25/2023, 13:20:38 PM

**PS Form 3526**  
**Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation**  
**(All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)**

1. Publication Title: NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP INC/WATTS NEWS  
2. Publication Number: 16649  
3. Filing Date: 09/30/2023  
4. Issue Frequency: MONTHLY  
5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 12  
6. Annual Subscription Price: \$ 12.00  
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: PO BOX 227, BIGFORK, Itasca, MN 56628-0227  
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: PO BOX 227, Bigfork, MN 56628-0227  
9. Full Name and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: Publisher (Name and complete mailing address): North Itasca Electric Coop Inc, PO Box 227, Bigfork, MN 56628-0227; Editor (Name and complete mailing address): Sally Sedgewick, PO Box 43, Spring Lake, MN 56680-0043; Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address): North Itasca Electric CO-OP, PO Box 227, Bigfork, MN 56628-0227  
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)  
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box  None.  
13. Publication Title: NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP INC/WATTS NEWS  
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 09/30/2023  
15. Extend and Nature of Circulation: a. Total Numbers of Copies (Net press run): 0; b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail): (1) Mailed Outside County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies): 4735, 4770; (2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies): 142, 139; (3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS: 0, 0; (4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail): 0, 0; c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), (4)): 4877, 4869; d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail): (1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside County Copies included on PS Form 3541: 0, 0; (2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541: 0, 0; (3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail): 0, 0; (4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means): 25, 25; e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), (4)): 25, 25; f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e): 4902, 4934; g. Copies not Distributed: 5, 5; h. Total (Sum of 15f and 15g): 4907, 4939; i. Percent Paid ((15c / 15f) times 100): 99.49 %, 99.49 %; 16. If total circulation includes electronic copies, report that circulation on lines below: a. Paid Electronic Copies: 0, 0; b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies: 4877, 4909; c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies: 4902, 4934; d. Percent Paid (Both Print and Electronic Copies): 99.00 %, 99.00 %; 17. Publication of Statement of Ownership:  If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 10/01/2023 issue of this publication.  Publication not required.  
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Brad Dolinski, CEO, 08/20/2023, 13:58:42 PM

# Roxanne's Sales Talk

by Roxanne Prather, Member Services Representative

**For October I would like to have a little contest in the appliance department!**

Here's how it will work:

Everyone who purchases an appliance for at least \$300 will be entered into a drawing. If you purchase one item you will get one entry, buy three items and you will be entered three times! At the end of the month, we will randomly draw one name; the winner will receive a \$50 credit that they can use either on their electric bill or on Open Account. Your odds of winning depend on how many appliances are sold in the month. Good luck, everyone!

Remember we do offer contracts for purchasing appliances with a 20% down payment and a very low interest rate. Not sure

whether you can afford the appliance? Call me, I would be happy to tell you exactly what it would be for your down payment as well as your monthly payments for 1, 2 or 3 years.

Keep in mind we carry appliances with the best warranties around. Speed Queen, which is built to last up to 25 years with 3-, 5- and 7-year warranty. And our Crosley appliances have a 1- year manufacturer's warranty and a 10- year limited Crosley warranty. Our prices are very competitive; stop in and check out our showroom.

For those of you who are looking to purchase multiple appliances, ask about our multiple appliance discounts. The more you buy, the more you save!

**NORTHERNAIR**  
**PLUMBING & HEATING**  
(218) 327-9861  
License #060672-PM  
33204 Shadywood Road • Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
fax: (218) 327-9283 • northernairph@yahoo.com

**Talmoon Boat & Mini Storage**  
Archie and Sandy Wass  
Phone: 218-743-3635  
Cell: 218-341-8522

- Three storage sizes available!
- Boat, RV and Snowmobile
- Pontoon Trailer Rental
- Launch to Dock Service

**TALMOON FIREARMS & SUPL'S, LLC**  
**ED J. SHEAREN**  
ENDOWMENT MEMBER NRA  
FFL  
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY  
ejshearen@bigfork.net  
P.O. BOX 12  
49635 STATE HWY 6  
TALMOON, MN 56637  
218-832-4867  
218-832-GUNS

## Meter seals

If you or an electrician is performing electrical work at your residence which requires opening meter sockets or load control receivers, you need to contact North Itasca Electric first.

This equipment is owned, controlled and maintained by North Itasca Electric. These seals may only be cut if permission is granted by North Itasca Electric in advance or deemed an

emergency by an electrician.

North Itasca Electric does realize that there could be instances where work needs to be done, in such cases; North Itasca Electric still needs to be contacted. If it is determined that loads have not been controlled during load control periods, demand charges could be applied to your billing.

## 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 a 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, possibly resulting in a late payment 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).

## Winter load control plans

Following is Great River Energy's winter load management plan. The first day under the winter control strategy for Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) and other off-peak schedules varies by program as listed below. The first day under the winter control strategy for interruptible billing peak load management will be Friday October 1st, 2023, and the last day will be Saturday April 30, 2024.

As a reminder, there are many drivers affecting load control which include: Operational Price, capacity

limitations, High MISO market prices (energy), unplanned generation outages, GRE Billing Peak (demand), MISO emergencies, GRE Critical Peak periods (energy), individual member needs and GRE's On-Peak periods for energy.

Electric Thermo Storage (ETS) schedules for water heat and space heat will be shedding load from 6:00 a.m. Central Prevailing Time (CPT) through 10:00 p.m. CPT from October 1 through April 30.

### Planned hours of load shed:

#### Electric Thermal Storage – Water Heating and Pool Heating

- a) Total estimated winter control = Every weekday during winter months of October through April, approximately 2,700 hours.
- b) Predefined load control periods – Winter control strategy:

Day	Restore Times	Shed Times	Total Daily Recharge
Mon – Fri	10:00pm*	6:00am*	8 hours
Sat, Sun, & Holidays	All GRE	Uncontrolled except for billing peaks	Uncontrolled except for billing peaks
*Times are approximate. Control schedules at individual receivers will be randomized and staggered by up to 60 minutes.			

#### Electric Vehicle and Charge Wise

- a) Total estimated winter control = Every day during winter months of October through April, approximately 3,900 hours.
- b) Predefined load control periods – Winter control strategy:

Day	Restore Times	Shed Times	Total Daily Recharge
Mon – Fri	10:00pm*	6:00am*	8 hours
Sat, Sun, & Holidays	All GRE	Uncontrolled except for billing peaks	Uncontrolled except for billing peaks
*Times are approximate. Control schedules at individual receivers will be randomized and staggered by up to 60 minutes.			

#### c) Other notes:

- i) All ETS-Charge Wise Residential loads are on the same control strategy year-round.

#### Electric Thermal Storage – Space Heating

- a) Total estimated winter control = Every day during winter months of September 27th through April 30th, approximately 3,900 hours.
- b) Predefined load control periods – Winter control strategy i) Super Group A (Standard)

#### i) Super Group A (Standard)

Day	Area	Restore Times	Shed Times	Total Daily Recharge
Sun – Sat & Holidays	All GRE	10:00pm*	6:00am*	8 hours

\*Times are approximate. Control schedules at individual receivers will be randomized and staggered by up to 60 minutes.

#### Dual Fuel and Air Source Heat Pump

- a) Total estimated winter control = 20 days/108 hours
- b) Control limits = Maximum of 12 hours/day.
- i) Maximum allowable control = 400 hours/year.
- c) Randomization: control schedules at individual receivers will be staggered by up to 30 minutes.
- d) Predefined load control periods = None

#### Road conditions:

Call 511 or visit 511mn.org for maps, cameras, weather alerts.



800-252-1166 or 811

Call before you dig.

Whenever you plan to dig over 12 inches deep, 2 days before you start, call Gopher One at 811 or (800) 252-1166. It's required by Minnesota state law and it is a free service.

### J.V. Tree & Landscaping

Tree care - Landscaping - Bobcat Work

Cell: 612-987-9992

Toll free: 866-232-5183

Free estimates - Fully insured

Tree Trimming & Removal  
Stump Grinding  
Woods & Lot Clearing



### Keep us up-to-date



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

Office 218.659.4572 Amber 218.360.5196

**PAK FIREWOOD**  
Andy Michalek Logging, Inc.

54529 Michalek Road • Blackduck, MN 56630

Firewood: Cut, Split & Delivered

LENGTHS:  
16 inch  
20 inch  
25 inch

To place an order or for pricing call or email  
a.m.logging@gmail.com

49407 State Hwy 38  
Marcell Mn 56657

**MN Up North Realty**

WWW.MNUPNORTHREALTY.COM

Call Your Local Real Estate Agents!

Dave Ritter-Broker 218-360-1200  
Cheryl Ritter-Clerk 218-360-4111  
Jason Ritter-Agent 218-244-4711  
Lisa Ritter-Agent 218-259-4249

**218-832-3121**

Buying or Selling?

**CENTURY 21**  
Land of Lakes

721 S Pokegama Ave  
Grand Rapids MN 55744

Call the *Kutschats*  
for Great Service  
and Results!

Michelle & Jim Kutschat

Jim 218.256.5773  
Michelle 218.256.5774

Visit Our Website for  
Hundreds of  
Available Properties:

www.C21LakesTeam.com

**ITASCA RELIABLE**  
insurance agency, inc

Choice You Deserve.  
Service You Trust.

Our Experienced Agents are Committed to Our Community and Your Needs!

1121 Hwy 169 East • Grand Rapids, MN  
218-326-8518 1-800-873-1471

AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS • HEALTH

Visit Our Website for On-line Quotes.  
www.itascareliableinsurance.com

# Spooky Energy Savings

by Abby Berry

This spooky season, we're sharing a few energy-saving tricks so you can treat yourself to lower energy bills. Here are four simple ways to summon the spirit of energy efficiency.

Conjure instant savings with a smart thermostat. One of the easiest ways to save energy is through thermostat control, since home heating and cooling account for a large portion of monthly energy use. Smart thermostats can help you manage heating and cooling costs by learning your daily routine and adjusting the temperature settings accordingly. You can control a smart thermostat from anywhere (through your smart phone), which allows you to prevent unnecessary energy consumption while you're away. Sorcery!

Get rid of goosebumps by eliminating ghostly drafts. The winter chill is just around the corner, so now is the time to seal air leaks around your home. Apply caulk and weatherstripping around drafty windows and doors to make your home more comfortable and lower energy use.

Illuminate your lair with energy efficient lighting. LED bulbs use 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent light bulbs. Make the switch to reduce energy used for lighting. Remember to use LEDs when it's time to decorate for the upcoming holiday season. LED light strings offer an average of 88% energy savings compared to traditional incandescent light strings.

Stir up savings with countertop cauldrons. Cooler weather summons our favorite soup recipes. Small countertop appliances like slow cookers use less energy than cooking meals on the stovetop. Grab your book of spells (or recipes) and start stirring up savings in the kitchen.

When we look around our homes, there are many opportunities to save energy. So this spooky season, investigate your space and unlock a different kind of magic – the kind that brings real energy savings.

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

# Be ready when the power goes out.

There are many reasons for power outages, trees falling on lines breaking them, squirrels contacting energized lines, equipment failure or even routine maintenance. With a Briggs and Stratton whole house generator from North Itasca Electric, you can remain at ease knowing you're covered during an outage. With a Briggs and Stratton whole house generator, in a matter of seconds the power will come on and life can resume as normal.

These generators start automatically when utility power is lost and then turn off again when utility power is restored. Sizes sold begin with 12 kW (12,000 watts) which is more than adequate for standard homes even with electric water heaters and stoves. Larger units are available if desired.

These generators are fueled by propane and can be tied into your existing propane tank used for other appliances within your home. With the Symphony II transfer switch, homes having higher demands can get by with smaller generators, as this switch automatically transfers energy to where it's needed most. Using modules, it turns off other appliances to prevent overloading.

Cold weather kits keep the generator ready when reaching sub-zero temperatures. And battery warmers keep batteries warm and charged so they are ready when needed.

Generators come with a 6-year warranty, or you can upgrade it up to 10 years if you desire. Because of shipping regulations, batteries need to be purchased separately.

There are several options for these generators but for the basic setup one can purchase the unit, transfer switch and cold weather kits for \$6,173.47. Electrical and propane work is not included in this price and would be based on quotes from individual contractors.

For more information on these generators call: Jerry Loney at (218) 743-3131.



**PEDERSON HOVILA AGENCY**  
**INSURANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES**  
*friendly, personal service for over 40 years*

- AUTO, HOME, FARM
- ANNUITIES, LIFE INSURANCE for all stages of life
- MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS, LONG TERM CARE EXPENSE PLANS AND ALTERNATIVES

**218-743-3545**  
 Call Kevin for a no-obligation quote or policy review

401 Main Ave., Bigfork 56628 next to the post office

**SharMar Optical Solutions**  
**EYEGLASS BARN**  
 Exceptional Bargains  
**(218) 452-1134**

Marcell Family Center • Tues., Thurs. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. or by appointment

**LOVDAHL ELECTRIC**  
 PH. 218.398.2203  
 Info@lov-elec.com  
 RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

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

**EDGE OF THE WILDERNESS REALTY**  
 Serving ALL of Itasca County  
 Call us for all of your Real Estate Needs!

<b>MARCELL OFFICE</b> 48921 STATE HWY 38 MARCELL, MN 56637 218-832-4000	<b>GRAND RAPIDS OFFICE</b> 501 S. POKEGAMA AVE SUITE 102 GRAND RAPIDS, MN 55744 218-326-3411
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

[WWW.EOWREALTY.COM](http://WWW.EOWREALTY.COM)  
 love where you live

**6 & 14 REPAIR**  
**218.743.4000**

- \*FULL AUTO REPAIR
- \*FRONT END ALIGNMENT
- \*BRAKES \*TIRES \*TIRE REPAIR
- \*AC SERVICE \*SUSPENSION
- \*HYDRAULIC HOSES \*BULK OILS

Call-Email-Stop in - for Appointment  
[sixand14repair@yahoo.com](mailto:sixand14repair@yahoo.com)  
 43576 Co Rd 14 Bigfork, MN 56628

# ~ OCTOBER SAVINGS SALE ~

## Washer & Dryer Savings



**WA50R5200AW Regular \$792.05 SALE \$728.69**

Samsung 5.0 cu. ft. white washer, super speed 36 minute wash, easy access tub, deep fill option, Energy Star certified, Smart care for trouble shooting. VRT+ technology for quieter wash, 750 RPM max spin speed. 10 preset wash cycles: normal, bedding/waterproof, heavy duty, permanent press, whites, delicates / hand wash, quick wash, rinse and spin, spin only. The self-clean cycle eliminates 99.9% of germs and bacteria from the drum.



**WT7400CV Regular \$926.47 SALE \$ 852.35**

LG 5.5 cu. ft. mega capacity top load graphite washer. TurboWash 3D Technology, 6 Motion Technology, Smart Pairing and ThinQ Technology with proactive customer care, water plus option gives you the option to add extra water to any cycle with the touch of a button. Cold wash technology, never rust stainless steel drum. 8 wash programs, 16 wash options, 5 wash/rinse temperatures, 5 spin speeds, 3 soil levels.



**DVE52A5500W Regular \$816.50 SALE \$751.18**

Samsung 7.4 cu. ft. white dryer, Wi-fi compatible, Steam Sanitize+ eliminates 99.9% of germs and bacteria. Sensor dry technology adjusts dry time and temperature to protect your clothes. Vent sensor continuously monitors the condition of your air duct. SmartCare, interior drum light, reversible door, lint filter indicator.



**DLE7400VE Regular \$926.47 SALE \$852.35**

LG 7.3 cu. ft. ultra large high efficiency electric graphite dryer. Easy load door. Smart Pairing and ThinQ Technology with proactive customer care. Sensor dry, flow sense duct clogging and lint filter indicators, Energy Star.



**WT7400CW Regular \$983.45 SALE \$ 904.77**

LG 5.5 cu. ft. white top load white washer. 8 wash cycles, 950 RPM, 10 year warranty on direct drive motor, 6 Motion technology, never rust stainless steel drum, direct drive motor, TurboWash 3D technology, ThinQ Technology.



**WT7150CW Regular \$828.24 SALE \$761.98**

LG 5.0 cu. ft. mega capacity white washer. 3 wash/rinse temperatures, 3 spin speeds, 3 soil levels, 8 wash programs, 9 wash options including deep wash. Stainless steel drum. Automatically adjusts water level to load size. Add garment indicator, True Balance Anti Vibration system. End of cycle signal, status indicator lights.



**DLE7400WE Regular \$983.45 SALE \$904.77**

LG 7.3 cu. ft. ultra large high efficiency white electric dryer. Easy load door, smart pairing and ThinQ technology with proactive customer care, FlowSense duct clogging and lint filter indicators, Energy Star certified.



**DLE7150W Regular \$827.67 SALE \$761.46**

LG 7.3 cu. ft. ultra large dryer, sensor dry detects moisture and adjusts drying time. Flow Sense duct clogging and lint filter indicator lights, steel drum, low decibel quiet operation, Energy Star, reversible door, 8 drying programs, 7 dryer options, 3 temperature settings, 3 drying levels, 4-way venting.



**DVE41A3000W Regular \$612.30 SALE \$563.32**

Samsung 7.2 cu. ft. large capacity electric dryer. Sensor dry technology, reversible door, lint filter indicator, 8 preset drying cycles: normal, heavy duty, permanent press, delicates, time dry, air fluff, quick dry, wrinkle release. 3 additional drying options: wrinkle prevent, child lock and SmartCare. 4 temperature levels.



**SALE GOOD THROUGH OCTOBER!  
CALL ROXANNE WITH ANY QUESTIONS  
218-743-3132 OR EMAIL  
roxannep@nieci.com**





**WT7405CV Regular \$897.10 SALE \$825.33**  
 LG 5.3 cu. ft. mega capacity top load washer with 4-way agitator, TurboWash3D, Wi-fi, graphite. Smart Pairing and ThinQ Technology with proactive customer care. Deep fill option, cold wash technology, 8 wash programs, 15 different wash options, 5 wash rinse temps, 5 spin speeds, 3 soil levels.



**LREL6321S Regular \$842.40 SALE \$758.16**  
 LG 6.3 cu.ft. stainless electric range. Oven modes: bake, broil, keep warm, easy clean. Two 9" dual cooking elements. Easy clean technology. Large, tinted oven window. 8 cu. ft. storage drawer, front knob controls, 7 adjustable rack positions. Clock & timer.



**DLE7400VE Regular \$897.83 SALE \$826.00**  
 LG 7.3 cu. ft. ultra large high efficiency dryer with easy load door-graphite. Smart Pairing and ThinQ Technology with proactive customer care, Sensor dry, FlowSense duct clogging and lint filter indicator lights. Energy Star certified, low decibel quiet operation, wrinkle care option, 8 dryer programs, 12 drying options, 5 temperature settings, 5 drying levels. Time dry 60, 50, 40, 30, 20 minutes.



**NE63A6311SS Regular \$ 1012 SALE \$ 910.80**  
 Samsung 6.3 cu.ft. stainless smart freestanding electric range with rapid boil and self-clean or steam clean oven. Wi-fi and voice enabled, hidden bake element, storage drawer.



**DLE7000W Regular \$749.67 SALE \$689.70**  
 LG 7.3 cu. ft. ultra large dryer with Sensor dry technology. FlowSense duct clogging and lint filter indicators, Energy Star certified Low decibel quiet operation. 8 programs, 7 different options, 3 temperature settings, 3 dryness levels, 4-way venting.



**RANGES 10% OFF**

**FFEF3016VW Regular \$ 733.20 SALE \$659.88**  
 Frigidaire 5.3 cu. ft. white Frigidaire coil top range. One touch self clean and auto shut off after 12 hours, large oven window, electronic kitchen timer, store more storage drawer.



**JB655DKBB Regular \$1054.95 SALE \$949.45**  
 GE 5.3 cu.ft. white freestanding smooth top range. 5 burners, self-clean, delay start, keep warm, roast.



**FCRG3051AS Regular \$ 921.27 SALE \$829.14**  
 Frigidaire manual clean gas range. Store more storage drawer, sealed gas burners, low simmer burner, even bake technology, interior lighting, 6 adjustable rack positions, extra-large oven window, 3 continuous cast iron matte black grates on top.



**OLD SCENIC COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
 25747 County Rd 340, Bigfork  
 Pastor Frank Knoop  
**218-743-3953**  
*A Bible Based, Christ Centered Fellowship.*  
 Come and join us in worship, and a study of the Word.  
 Sunday School: 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
 Sunday Worship Service: 9-10 a.m.  
<https://www.oldscenic.com>



**Edward Jones** Member SIPC

**Retiring soon? Let's talk.**



**Brad Johnson, AAMS™**  
 Financial Advisor  
 72 S.E. 7th Street Suite A  
 Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
 218-327-7280

MKT-5894N-A [edwardjones.com](https://www.edwardjones.com)

218-256-7316  
 cozyairhp@gmail.com



**Cozy Air**  
 Heating and Plumbing

# Edge Center features Monroe Crossing

Bluegrass band Monroe Crossing performs on Saturday, October 21, at 7 p.m.: Tickets available online (beginning September 23) and at the door: Adults: \$10; Students: \$5.

Monroe Crossing performs an electrifying blend of classic bluegrass, bluegrass gospel, original bluegrass and some surprising selections outside the bluegrass genre. Named in honor of Bill Monroe, the Father of Bluegrass Music, Monroe Crossing's superb musicianship and on-stage rapport have entertained audiences throughout the United States, Canada and Europe.

For over 20 years this Minnesota based band has averaged over 100 shows a year performing in

intimate rooms, community theaters, major venues and outdoor festivals. They are favorites among bluegrass connoisseurs and non-bluegrass audiences alike. They love introducing newcomers to bluegrass music!

Monroe Crossing consists of four distinct personalities with differing musical backgrounds. When combined, their individual histories make for a unique sound. The three original members are: Mark Anderson (bass), Lisa Fuglie (fiddle & lead vocals) and Matt Thompson (mandolin & harmony vocals). Derek Johnson (guitar & lead vocals) joined in 2011 and also provides the booking duties for the band. The group utilizes a cadre of very talented banjo players, all of whom are alumni of the group. They are: Benji Flaming, David Robinson and Graham Sones.

In 2007, Monroe Crossing was inducted into the

Minnesota Music Hall of Fame. They have twice been selected to showcase at the annual World of Bluegrass convention hosted by the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA). They have also appeared twice at Carnegie Hall in New York City. In 2016, Monroe Crossing had the honor of being the first Minnesota bluegrass band to perform in South Korea.

Monroe Crossing has released 17 albums to date. The band's diverse discography consists of traditional bluegrass, original bluegrass, bluegrass gospel, a tribute to Bill Monroe, classic country, Christmas music and two collaborations with the award-winning choir Vocal Essence.

Whether playing bluegrass or material outside the genre, Monroe Crossing is one of the most entertaining acts in bluegrass today!

**UPCOMING SHOW:** The Jason Waldron Band: Saturday, November 18, 7 p.m. Tickets available at the door.

The Edge Center is located at 101 2nd Ave, Bigfork, MN 56628. Contact us at: (218)743-6670 and at [www.edgecenterarts.org](http://www.edgecenterarts.org).

## Bigfork hears e2ip (Bergquist) building has been purchased

by Sally Sedgwick

At its September 12 meeting, the Bigfork City Council heard that Lee and Char Ramsey have purchased the e2ip (Bergquist) building north of town and are seeking community input for development to create jobs. They can be contacted at Ramsey Contractors, (218) 398-4073 with ideas.

During public comment Matt David discussed 2024 funding cuts from the county affecting the Riverside Residence and Sarah Stone presented a proposal for winter multi-use trail grooming on the east loop of the RiverWalk.

A resolution was passed for a preliminary levy of \$203,940.25, an increase of 1.5 percent over 2023. The preliminary budget is \$908,227.

The council voted to accept quotes for the two retaining walls totaling \$36,675. Widseth is still accepting quotes for the trestle and pedestrian bridge projects.

ISD318 Business Manager Kara Lundin spoke on the two operating levies and one capital projects levy going before District voters this fall. The District has cut 70 administrative positions and elementary art, music and Spanish, she said. An operating levy for \$1,100 per pupil would avoid further cuts, a \$2.5 million capital projects levy would restore cuts and invest in technology and buses, and an additional \$300 per pupil operating levy would maintain class sizes and enhance career education. The second levy can only pass if the first is passed, and the third only if the first two are passed. The levies are in place for seven years; the operating levies can be extended an additional seven years by the school board. More information is on the district levy website, [www.weare318org/plan](http://www.weare318org/plan).

The school/community building project is under construction. Football field updates are being assessed. The total project costs have increased to \$4.5 million.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, Oct. 16 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. Note the change in date.

Excerpted from an article in Scenic Range NewsForum.

**Spring Lake**  
Heating and Air



WE SERVICE ALL MAKES & MODELS  
"OUR SPECIALTY IS HEATING AIR CONDITIONING VENTILATION"

Charlie Hazzard  
218-259-8903

RESIDENTIAL-COMMERCIAL-INDUSTRIAL  
SERVICE-REPAIR-REPLACEMENT-RETROFIT  
Over 27 years of personal experience in HVAC/R  
LICENSED, BONDED, INSURED & LOCALLY FAMILY OWNED  
[Springlakeheating@gmail.com](mailto:Springlakeheating@gmail.com)

**HUSKY**  
**SELF STORAGE**

RESERVE A NEW STORAGE SPACE  
12' X 30' 10' X 10' DOORS

\* Available by end of August  
\* Shelving Available \* Security Lights  
\* Boats \* ATV \* Security Cameras

Smaller units available  
**218-743-4025**  
Located 1/4 mile south of Bigfork Fire Hall

**Wound Care Center** Bigfork Valley

Quality Wound Care  
Bigfork Valley Hospital

Begin healing in your community

Jeff Temple  
Nurse Practitioner & Wound Care Specialist

258 Pine Tree Drive | Bigfork, MN 56628  
[www.BigforkValley.org](http://www.BigforkValley.org)  
**218.743.4317**

**Little Turtle Lake STORE**  
TALMOON, MN • 218-832-3804

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR GASOLINE, ON ROAD DIESEL, OFF ROAD DIESEL, LIVE BAIT AND TACKLE, GIFT SHOP, PROPANE, GROCERY, AUTO PARTS, AND YOUR LOCAL FEED STORE.

U.S. POST OFFICE BOXES AND STAMPS AVAILABLE HERE

WE ARE LOCATED AT: 49926 STATE HWY 6 / P.O. BOX 26 TALMOON, MN 56628 (218)-832-3804

**LITTLEHAWK SERVICES LLC**

Stump Grinding  
Tree Removal

218-341-8291 (Call or Text)  
JEREMIAH LITTLEHAWK [littlehawkservices@gmail.com](mailto:littlehawkservices@gmail.com)

**Poenix Contracting LLC**

218-246-2740  
[poecon@paulbunyan.net](mailto:poecon@paulbunyan.net)

42298 Co Rd. 48  
Deer River,  
MN 56636

You PLAN it,  
we'll NAIL it!

**We specialize in building homes, not just houses.**

Remodels • roofing • ICF basements...

Serving Itasca County for over 25 years.

MN #BC637472



## Classic Movie Series

by Jack Nachbar

1953 was a memorable year for Westerns with at least two classics, *Shane* and *Hondo*. But a third film from that memorable year also deserves some recognition as a great Western movie. *The Naked Spur* stars James Stewart as a confused and angry bounty hunter desperately trying to get outlaw Robert Ryan back to the town where he is wanted for murder. The movie features huge natural vistas that often symbolize the emotional state of the characters. It is one of five great Westerns with Stewart in the 50s directed by the master of the genre, Anthony Mann. Critic Leonard Maltin named *The Naked Spur* "one of the greatest Westerns ever made."

*The Naked Spur* will be shown at the Edge Center Theater in Bigfork on at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 12. FREE!! SADDLE UP!

NOVEMBER CLASSIC MOVIE: *Key Largo* (1948) with Humphrey Bogart and Edward G. Robinson facing off against each other during a tropical hurricane. Thursday, November 9 at 6:30 p.m. at The Edge.

## Bigfork Valley seeks \$1M levy

by Sally Sedgwick

The Bigfork Valley Hospital board of directors listened to three hours of public testimony in a public meeting on Aug. 30 and in public comments at the Sept. 5 board meeting before deciding on a \$1 million levy request for 2024 on a 5-4 vote with 3 abstentions.

The levy request was reduced from the \$1.5 million proposed and tabled at the Aug. 1 meeting. The 2023 levy was \$836,220.

Later in the meeting, CEO Aaron Saude requested a meeting with the board executive team to explore terms of a mutual separation; there are three years left on his contract with the hospital. In a phone interview, Chair George Rounds said he had tendered his resignation from the board. Acknowledging that there are things that have to be changed, he felt the board will do a good job, and the hospital will thrive.

During the board meeting, CFO Darla Anderson spoke directly to the need for the levy in meeting loan covenants. However, she believed that the debt service ratio and cash could be maintained for four years at the present levy amount. In response to a question, she said that \$1.5 million was in bad debt status out of \$3.1 million owed to the hospital for services.

A revised analysis of the tax impact on residents included an increase in number of parcels and one large value parcel addition. These changes would significantly lower the impact on residents.

After discussion, the board voted to purchase equipment for an Ear, Nose and Throat specialty for \$193,000. A new physician would start Dec. 1 and will train a mid-level assistant.

The next regular public meeting of the hospital board is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 3 at 9 a.m. in the Board Room.

Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewForum.

## Edge Gallery: The Art of Collage

by Gail Blackmer

Karlyn Atkinson Berg is well known within the Itasca County community as a educator for understanding wildlife populations, particularly the wolf, as she has shared her knowledge in this area with workshops and discussions on environmental issues. Karlyn's expertise extends to other canids, as she lovingly cares for and trains her own dogs and teaches others how to get maximum companionship from their dogs through obedience and tracking training.

While these skills are particularly well suited to a Northwoods community, Karlyn is also an artist who graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design. She declares she is fascinated by arranging colors and shapes which led her to embrace the medium of Collage which has been the main focus of her work as an artist for 55 years.

As a mixed media artist, Karlyn collects materials that seem to connect individually or in groups. An interaction between shapes and forms starts to emerge and change as pieces are added or taken away. Karlyn plans to meet with Bigfork School students during the month when she will be the featured exhibitor at the

Edge Center Gallery, in order to introduce them to the basics of Collage as a non-linear, associative form of creating.

Karlyn's exhibit titled "Unfolding Odyssey" will be on display during the month of October, with an artist's reception from 5-7 on Friday, Oct. 6. The Gallery is now open to the public on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Please note this is a change from previous hours.

The Gallery committee will be presenting one more exhibit this season during the month of November, then we will be placing our ever-growing permanent collection throughout the winter months as we begin to seek out new and interesting exhibitors for the 2024 season. We are always interested in meeting new artists from near and far as we continue our mission to bring visual art to our community. Thank you to all the patrons who have visited the Gallery this season!

**FIRST STATE BANK**  
OF BIGFORK

BIGFORK OFFICE: 218-743-3145  
www.fsbbigfork.com  
KELLIHER OFFICE: 218-647-8222

**THE PILLARS OF GRAND RAPIDS**  
SENIOR LIVING | ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE

**CALL TODAY!**  
Take a tour (218) 999-4999  
PillarsSeniorLiving.com/grandrapids

**M.A.D. GUTTERS**  
Office: 218-743-6448 SEAMLESS GUTTER INSTALLATIONS  
Cell: 218-929-7134 www.madgutters.com

**THE ULTIMATE GUTTER PROTECTION SYSTEM**

- Keeps leaves, pine needles and seed pods out of your gutters
- Fits on your existing gutters
- Gutterglove's patented design eliminates gutter cleaning forever!
- Strongest & most durable gutterguard on the market today!

**Gutterglove PRO** HEAVY DUTY GUTTER PROTECTION FREE ESTIMATES

**Bob Ellies**  
Broker/Realtor®

www.GOwithBOB.com  
(218) 259-3403  
Bob@GowithBob.com

Homes, Lakes & Acreage  
**RE/MAX THOUSAND LAKES**  
Grand Rapids, MN (218) 326-8200

**WILD PINE BUILDERS**  
Tom Urman 218-244-3553  
Dustin Ritter 218-256-8598

Keep your investments safe by hiring your local hometown licensed contractor.

- New construction
- Garages
- Remodels
- Reroofs

Check us out on Facebook  
License # BC706317 WildPineBuilders@msn.com

**Powell Excavating & Tree Service**

www.robpowellexcavating.com

- Landscaping
- Excavating
- Land Clearing
- Boulder Walls
- Site Prep
- Food Plots
- Road Building
- Driveways
- Culverts
- Tree Planting / Removal
- Paving Stone
- Gravel
- Class 5
- Sand
- Top Soil
- Black Dirt
- Septic Install
- Stump Grinding
- Wood Chips

218-244-7152

## Preview of Hunter's Suppers

[tentative schedule]

### Friday, Nov 3

#### Bigfork Improvement Group

Location: BIG Community Center Bigfork

Tie: 4-7 p.m.

Cost: Free will donation

Menu: Swedish meatball dinner & dessert  
*Silent Auction*

#### Northwoods Saddle Club

Location: Effie Community Center

Time: 4-7 p.m.

Cost: Suggested donation

Menu: Turkey dinner & dessert

#### Mustang Volleyball

Location: Northome Senior Center

Time: 4-7 p.m.

Cost: Free will donation

Menu: Beef stew dinner & dessert

### Saturday, Nov 4

#### Balsam Volunteer Fire Dept.

Location: Balsam Community Center

Time: 5-8 p.m.

Cost: Suggested donation

Menu: Roast beef dinner & dessert

## SAIL classes

For more information or to register (required), contact ElderCircle at (218) 999-9233. New attendees may start anytime. Weights are provided but please bring your own water.

Following is the local schedule:

- 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.

## AARP Defensive Driving

An 8-hour first-time participant class will be held on Oct 2 and 3, 3:45-8 p.m., and a refresher course will be Oct 30, 3:45-8 p.m. Cost for the class is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for nonmembers. To register, call (218) 246-8241, ext: 60227.

## Defensive Driver courses by Zoom

For driver's age 55 and older that have already completed the beginner's course.. Cost of the course is \$14. The instructor is retired Minnesota State Trooper Mike Flatley. Pre-register by calling 218-750-3189 or by email to mnflats@hotmail.com

Tues., Oct. 10: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 23: 5 p.m.-9 p.m.

## Effie votes "yes" on cell tower

by Sally Sedgwick

In an unanimous vote at its September 11 meeting, the Effie City Council approved a conditional use permit for a 400 ft. cell tower to be constructed in the city by Verizon at a cost of \$500,000. The service radius would be five miles.

About 40 people attended the meeting, offering a dozen public comments. Those in favor pointed out that it would benefit the whole community and that children needed the technology to be available; and that those living by themselves needed it in case of emergency.

Emergency and medical services were also represented, saying that there was a dark zone north of Effie with no service for GPS ambulance directions or confidential communications with the hospital; and that there was no medical proof that cell towers harm people.

Those opposed said that the city should benefit instead of one landowner; the technology was too new; and that a pause should be considered for safe siting with adequate setbacks. Tammy Hartman, Verizon network outreach manager, Great Plains, said that safety issues were covered by the FCC license, and the project also had FAA clearance with relation to the Bigfork Airport.

Hartman said the project had been underway since 2021, with construction slated for 2024. She was asked why the zoning request and city notification were just happening now, and replied that objections were not expected. Stopping the project now would effectively cancel it, she indicated.

The council decided to proceed with purchase of a remote monitoring system which would take sewer system daily readings for approximately \$5,700 plus the cost of cell service.

A resident asked the city to check the easement on the road to the sewer plant crossing his property.

The council voted for a proposed levy amount of \$40,425.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 9 at 6 p.m. in the Community Center.

*Excerpted from an article in Scenic Range NewsForum.*

## area bookmobile stops

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

Tuesdays: Oct. 3, 24; Nov.14

12:00 - 1 p.m. Bowstring Store

2:30-3:30 p.m. Effie: Effie Cafe

4:00-5:30 p.m. Bigfork: City Hall

Thursdays: Oct. 5, 26; Nov.16

11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Togo: Junction Bar & Grill

Mondays: Oct. 2, 23; Nov. 13

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

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

ASTRONOMY NIGHT – *The Skies Above Us*

Date: Fri., Oct 13, Cloud date Oct. 14

Time: 8-10 p.m.

Location: Marcell Town Hall

Cost: Free, but must register

Bring lawn chairs and binoculars. Presented by The Range Astronomy Club.

COFFEE CHAT – *Artists and Art Lovers*

Date: Weds. Oct. 11

Time: 10 a.m. - noon

Location: Marcell Family Center

Cost: Free, but but preregister by Oct. 6

Bring a favorite art piece to share

MY DOG ATE MY HOMEWORK

*Dog and puppy obedience*

Date: Sat., Oct. 21

Time: 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Location: Marcell Family Center

Cost: \$28

Learn handling skills and experience Rally-O.

Dogs and puppies must be up to date in shots, bring certificate. Ages 15 and up.

**Blackduck** Register online at [blackduck.k12.mn.us/CE](http://blackduck.k12.mn.us/CE). Questions? Contact [mcleveland@blackduck.k12.mn.us](mailto:mcleveland@blackduck.k12.mn.us) or call(218) 835-5206 .

FIELD TRIP TO SEE CAT KID THE MUSICAL

Date: Sat. Oct. 28

Time: 11 a.m. - about 6 p.m, Door #5

Location: Grand Forks Chester Fritz Auditorium

Cost: \$30

Students first grade and up, parents welcome. Limited space. Bring own snacks and lunch.

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

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

Bingo every Thursday 1-3 p.m.

### Northome Food Shelf

12059 Main St

Bring your own bags.

1st Mon.: 9 a.m.-noon

2nd Mon.: 2-5 p.m.

3rd Mon.: 9 a.m.-noon

4th Mon.: 2-5 p.m.

**Blackduck Community Library:**  
(218) 835-6600

Tues: 1-6 p.m..

Wed: 9 a.m.-noon.

Thurs:12-5 p.m.

Fri: 12-5 p.m.

Sat.: 9 a.m.-noon.

### Northern Itasca Emergency Food Shelf

200 Main, Bigfork

Thursdays

12:30-3 p.m.

3rd Thursday

4-5:30 p.m.

(218) 256-4170

**Northome Library**  
(218) 897-5952

Mon: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Tues: 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Wed: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Thurs: noon - 6 p.m.

Fri: 9 a.m.- noon

### Resource Centers:

Blackduck:  
(218) 835-5768

Northome:  
(218) 897-5952

# Community News

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

## ~ October Calendar ~

### Bigfork

Northern Cattlemen's Association will resume their annual Cow/Calf Sale at the cattle barn on Co. Rd. 42 off of Highway 38 north of Bigfork starting at noon. The indoor auction handles as many as 500 animals and spectators are welcome. Lunch concessions are available onsite.

### Marcell

Marcell Town Hall will be the site of giant telescopes on Fri. Oct. 13 for an Astronomy Night presented by the Range Astronomy Club, 8-10 p.m. Cloud date is Oct 14. Families welcome, bring lawn chairs. You MUST register with Community Ed (see p.12) and have an active email. Free.

### Sand Lake

Save the date! The Festival of the Nativities will be held at the Sand Lake Alliance Church the afternoon and evening of the Saturday after Thanksgiving, Nov. 25. Over a hundred Nativity scenes from around the world and in many different media are displayed from the collection of Susan Devries. Live Christmas music and refreshments are also featured.



**Marcell Family Center**  
218-832-3444  
49023 State Highway 38 Marcell, MN 56657

**Halloween Bash**

**Oct. 31 ♦ 5-7:30 p.m.**

**Candy, food, bouncy tent, games, music, bingo, more.**

**Children must be accompanied by an adult.**

#### 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.

- 3 Bigfork Valley Hospital board meets in public meeting, 9 a.m. For information on joining the meeting online, call (218) 743-1772.
- 4 "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, Grand Rapids. More info with Lynn (218) 832-3612, [lynn\\_ettl@msn.com](mailto:lynn_ettl@msn.com)
- 4 DNR Open House at Squaw Lake Community Center on fishing regulation changes on Lake Winnibigoshish (sunfish) and Balsam-Haskell-Scrapper lakes (northern pike), 5-7 p.m.
- 5 First Thursday online programs over the lunch hour with Itasca Waters. September program is "Supernatural lakes: monsters, ghosts, witches, fairies, and aliens" with Dr. John Downing, professor of biology at UMD and director of the Sea Grant program. Register at [itascawaters.org](http://itascawaters.org).
- 8 Edge Center Gallery in Bigfork hosts Karlyn Atkinson Berg, collage artist during October. Artists reception Fri. Oct. 6, 5-7 p.m. Gallery is open Thursdays-Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. (Note change of hours.) For more information (218) 743-6670.
- 9 Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day
- 9 Winter wear clothing swap at Northome School, 1-6 pm Questions, contact [sskaret@northome.k12.mn.us](mailto:sskaret@northome.k12.mn.us)
- 9 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 9 ISD 318 School Special Board meeting at Admin. Board Room Grand Rapids or at [watchictv.org](http://watchictv.org), 6:30 p.m. Information: [jasmussen@isd318.org](mailto:jasmussen@isd318.org) or call (218) 327-5704. Livestream from link at [isd318.org](http://isd318.org).
- 9 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 9 Blackduck ISD 32 School Board meets, 6 p.m. in the Media Center.
- 10 Stop & Stitch meets at the Marcell Family Center the 2nd Tuesday of every month, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. More info, call Debbie at (218) 360-1503.
- 11 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
- 12-13 Community Build at the new Northome playground, To volunteer, contact Northome City Hall at 218-897-5762 or [northome@paulbunyan.net](mailto:northome@paulbunyan.net)
- 12 Classic Movies at the Edge Center in Bigfork presents *The Naked Spur* (1953) starring James Stewart, 6:30 p.m. Free.
- 16 Bigfork City Council meets at City Hall, 5:30 p.m. Note the change of date.
- 16 ISD 317 School Board meets at Deer River HS, 6 p.m. Public forum 5:45 p.m.
- 19-20 Fall break. No school, all schools (MEA)
- 20 Annual Cow/Calf and Horse Sale at the sale barn just north of Bigfork on Co Rd. 42, 12 noon All consignments of livestock welcome Concessions available.
- 21 The Edge Theatre in Bigfork presents the Bluegrass band Monroe Crossing, 7 p.m. Adults \$10, students \$5.

## Area Church Directory

**Alvwood Community 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

**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**  
50539 Mushgee Rd. (corner of Co. Rd. 622)  
Deer River 56636 218-659-2784

**Old Scenic Community Church Sun 9:00a**  
25747 Co. Rd. 340  
Bigfork 56628 218-659-2727

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

**Wilderness Church Sun 9:30a**  
City Hall  
200 Main Ave.  
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3500  
[wildernesschurchMN@gmail.com](mailto:wildernesschurchMN@gmail.com)

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

- 23 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 23 ISD 318 School Board meeting at Bigfork School or at [watchictv.org](http://watchictv.org), 6:30 p.m. Open Forum, 6 p.m. Information: [jasmussen@isd318.org](mailto:jasmussen@isd318.org) or call (218) 327-5704. Livestream from link at [isd318.org](http://isd318.org).
- 31 Trick or Treat through the Haunted House at the B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork, 4 p.m.-7 p.m. Free for all ages.
- 31 Halloween Bash at the Marcell Family Center, 5-7:30 p.m. Children First! free family event.

### NOVEMBER

- 2 First Thursday online programs over the lunch hour with Itasca Waters. with "Ice formation and melting on lakes: What we know and why it matters" with Dr. Lesley Knoll, freshwater ecologist and assistant professor at Miami University (Ohio) Register at [itascawaters.org](http://itascawaters.org).
- 4-5 Hunter's Suppers
- 5 Daylight Savings ends, set clocks back one hour.



## Itasca Waters Practical Water Wisdom series

Would you like to leave a legacy of clean water for future generations? If so, then Itasca Waters has the series for you.

Wisdom: A Virtual Learning Series” runs for an hour beginning at noon on the first Thursday of each month. It is FREE, online, open to all, and includes an interactive Q&A session.

On October 31st Dr. John Downing, director of the Sea Grant College Program, a research scientist at the Large Lakes Observatory on Lake Superior, and a professor in the Department of Biology at the U of M, Duluth, will present a unique program titled “Supernatural lakes: monsters, ghosts, witches, fairies, and aliens”.

For centuries, people have looked at lakes and ponds as places of mystery, wonder and the unknown. Perhaps this is because they can't easily

see beneath the surface, so they let their imaginations run wild - or is it a mystery? As a Halloween treat, Dr. Downing will talk about supernatural lakes and tell stories of lake monsters, lake ghosts, lake witches, wicked water fairies and even aliens harbored beneath the seemingly serene waters of lakes around the world. .

Then on Nov. 2, Dr. Lesley Knoll, assistant professor at Miami University (Ohio) and a freshwater ecologist with a focus on how global

change affects freshwater systems, will present “Ice formation and melting on lakes: What we know and why it matters.” Some of her recent work focuses on warming winters and lakes showing that lakes are biologically active in the winter, that what happens in the winter can shape lake dynamics in the summer, and that lakes provide important cultural ecosystem services to

people during the winter. Register at [www.itascawaters.org/water-wisdom-2023](http://www.itascawaters.org/water-wisdom-2023).

This series is supported by Itasca Waters' members, Minnesota Sea Grant, Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations, Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District, KAXE/KBXE, Rapids Radio, and Grand Rapids Herald-Review.

## Anglers invited to comment

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will hold an open house to collect public comments and share information on two proposed fishing regulation changes related to sunfish in Lake Winnibigoshish and connected waters, and northern pike in Balsam, Haskell and Scrapper lakes in Itasca County.

The open house will be 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 4, at the Squaw Lake Community Center. On Lake Winnibigoshish and the connected Mississippi River to Cass Lake, the daily limit would be reduced to five sunfish. In the connected lakes of Balsam, Haskell and Scrapper (Itasca County), a 24- to 36-inch protected slot limit, with a three-fish possession limit, would be applied to northern pike. Currently, Balsam Lake has this limit, but the other two connected waters do not.

If adopted, the proposed sunfish regulations would be effective beginning March 1, 2024, and the northern pike regulations would be effective May 11, 2024. Comments will be accepted through Friday, Oct. 20.



**Construction Services Inc.**  
*"Serving the excavation needs of Itasca County and beyond since 1968"*

**Ray V. Kongsjord & Sons**  
[www.rkconstructionservices.com](http://www.rkconstructionservices.com)  
 email: [rkconstructioninc@gmail.com](mailto:rkconstructioninc@gmail.com)

Office: (218) 832-2842 • Demolition roll off service  
 Cell: (218) 244-6201 • Site preparation • Landscaping  
 39335 State Highway 286 • Basements • Septics • Shoreland  
 Marcell, MN 56657 • Gravel • Road construction  
 Bonded and licensed - MPCA Lic. 1204

# GENERATORS



## IN STOCK

# THE SHOP

306 Main Ave Bigfork, MN 56628  
 218-743-3666 or 800-431-1477

## Bigfork Mini-Storage

37944 Hwy 14  
 Bigfork, MN. 56628  
**Call 612-240-2610**

Located off of Hwy 14 and 38 North of Town.

- Gated Entry/driveway.
- Engineered all Steel Buildings
- Insulated ceilings
- 24 hour access / 7 days a week.
- Many Small and Large sizes available.
- Only 1 mile north of town.
- Several payment options available.


Go to [BigforkMiniStorage.com](http://BigforkMiniStorage.com)  
**24/7 for sizes and availability**

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

## Pita Pocket Sandwiches

*Thank you to Janet Kogler for this October recipe!*

- 1 lb. ground turkey (93% fat free)
- 1 1/4 cup chopped onions
- 1/4 cup chopped parsley
- 3 big cloves of garlic, minced
- 2 1/2 teaspoons leaf oregano



Brown turkey, onions, parsley, garlic and oregano in one Tablespoon olive oil.


Serve in pita bread with more chopped onion, tomato, peeled cucumber and feta cheese. Dress with a ranch salad dressing.

## Apple Coleslaw

*Thank you to Delores Stafford for this October recipe!*

- 3/4 cup Miracle Whip dressing
- 1 Tablespoon honey
- 1 16 oz. package coleslaw blend
- 2 apples (1 red, 1 green)

Mix dressing and honey, add remaining ingredients. Refrigerate one hour.



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.

# CLASSIFIEDS

**AD DEADLINE**

for the NOVEMBER issue: Weds., Oct. 18

**-SERVICES-**

**Dahlke Dumpsters**  
218-929-7228  
DahlkeForestry@hotmail.com  
DahlkeDumpsters.com  
Flat rates on dumpster rentals!  
Flexible rental times!  
Great Customer Service!

**Bigfork Mini-Storage**  
Many sizes  
24 hour access.  
For rates/pricing, call 218-743-6566 Ext #202  
Located off Hwy 14 just west of Hwy 38  
For immediate service, call Keith at 612-240-2610

**Storage space available at Husky Storage in Bigfork**  
218-743-4025

*For sale:* Beautifully handcrafted cremation urns made by local craftsman. Larger size made from Maple, Oak, Birch, Walnut, Pine or other woods. Price start at \$150 and up according to wood used. Call (218) 812-9794 12/23

**Gus's Auto and Recycling of Bigfork**  
Used auto parts, steel, tires and bridge beams.  
A buyer of metals.  
**Snowplowing**  
Over 20 years experience  
(218) 929-7117  
Hm: (218) 743-3598  
Gus David

**-SERVICES-**

**Lepinski Painting interior/exterior**  
Call for free estimate  
20 yrs experience  
218-248-0717  
or 218-743-3613

**Monuments and Markers**  
Available in granite and bronze.  
Also do final dating, foundation work and cleaning.  
FREE estimates.  
Serving your area.  
Jerry Pula, sales rep.  
Call (218) 743-3711

**Dahlke Forestry Services, LLC**  
218-929-7228  
DahlkeForestry@hotmail.com  
DahlkeForestry.com  
√ Storm Cleanup  
√ Tree Removal  
√ Trail Development  
√ Habitat Improvement  
√ Private Forest Mgmt.  
√ Firewood processing

**-FREE-**

*Free:* Yamaha Electone Organ. Call (218) 398-4680 11/23

*Free!* 16' Glastron fiberglass boat on Four Winns trailer. Open bow boat on trailer in Bigfork. Call Maiska (612) 231-3530 10/23

**Ads are a service** to our members. North Itasca Electric and the WATTS NEWS do not endorse advertisements. Please use your good judgment.

**-SALES-**

*Joyce's New and Used Shop:* Huge end of season sale! Everything must go! Lots of bargains - new fabric, sewing machines, misc. plants and more Free stuff, too! Friday, Oct. 6 and Saturday, Oct. 7, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 4.5 miles east of Highway 6 or one mile west of Bigfork (Highway 38) on 14. Call (218) 929-9138 10/23

**-WANTED-**

*Wanted:* Single rollaway bed. Call (218) 832-3208 11/23

**-FOR SALE-**

*For sale:* 5 ft. Woods finishing mower with 2 extra new blades. \$500. Call (218) 910-6610 11/23

*Firewood for sale:* Cut, split, seasoned birch and maple firewood. Call (218) 910-6610 11/23

*For sale:* Coffee table and 2 end tables. Amish made. Excellent condition. \$200 Text to (320) 493-2699 11/23

*For sale* Craftsman 42" Lawnmower. Kohler Pro 16.5 engine. Works great! \$350 Text to (320)493-2699 11/23

*For sale:* Cleaning out unused items! Shop Vac \$40, Film camera w/200 zoom \$30, 2 wetsuits \$30 each, coat rack \$20, antique mirror \$35, bike rack \$20, red/black checkered jacket \$20, large backpack \$35. Text to (320) 493-2699 11/23

**-FOR SALE-**

*For sale:* Leupold Spotting Scope 12x40-60mm. Includes case and tripod. Like New! \$1,000. Text to (320) 493-2699 11/23

*For sale:* Craftsman tool box cabinet comb 3-drawer top and 2 drawer bottom with storage, on wheels. \$75. Call (612) 300-7705 10/23

*For sale:* Aspen & Birch firewood cut and split into stove length. 2 cords delivered to the Wirt, Dora Lake and Spring Lake areas. \$200. Call (218) 659-2901 11/23

*For sale:* 7 gas lights, \$125 for all. Duotherm oil heater, \$100. R/V refrigerator/freezer w/ 12v/gas operation, \$150. 85 year old hunting camp being dismantled. Call (763) 331-1220 11/23

*For sale:* DR Power Wagon Dump Cart, sulky and 2 beds. Like new. \$500. Call (612) 719-4259 10/23

*For sale:* Recumbent workout bike, \$50. Call (218) 256-6820 10/23

*For sale:* Browning Citori over/under 12 ga. \$1,475. Benelli Montefeltro Super 90 12 ga \$990. Call (218) 368-9328 10/23

*For sale:* 44" round high top table with black metal legs and matching 4 high top chairs. \$200. Call (218) 966-2052 10/23

**-VEHICLES- TRAILERS, ATVs**

*For sale:* 1994 Chev Silverado ext. cab pickup. 130,000 miles V8, 4WD, clean. Stored inside. \$8,000. Call (507) 383-9957 11/23

*For sale:* 2012 Polaris 500 HO 4 wheeler, 910 miles, adult ridden with a winch and brush guard bumper. \$5,500. Talmoon Call (218) 910-5566 10/23

**-MOTORHOME- CAMPERS**

*For sale:* Featherlite 26' pull behind camper by R-Vision. Queen bed and set of bunks, microwave, 3 burner electric stove top and AC. Sway bars, hitch, and space for 2 propane tanks and 2 batteries. Decent condition. Would need tires replaced if used as a travel camper again. Pick up near Marcell. \$1,500. Call (218) 341-4235 10/23

**-WATER SPORTS- MOTORS, DOCKS, GEAR**

*For sale:* Vexlar Fish Finder, \$100. Text to (320) 493-2699 11/23

*For sale:* 5' sled with ice auger, fishing equipment, etc. \$100. Text to (320) 493-2699 11/23

*For sale:* 1994 Merc 25, long shaft, runs well, extra new prop. \$500. Call (612) 719-4259 10/23

**-WATER SPORTS- MOTORS, DOCKS, GEAR**

*For sale:* 6 - 10 ft long wood dock sections. 3 of the sections are 27" wide and 3 sections are 36" wide. Poles not included. \$20. Call (952) 456-1085 11/23

*For sale:* Cedar decking for a metal dock. Total of 11 - 4 ft square sections plus 2 - 4 ft x 6 ft sections. \$20 Call (952) 456-1085 11/23

*For sale:* Super waterfowl rig: 14' boat, trailer, blind, 15 hp 2 cycle o.m.c., all in great condition. \$1,300. Call (218) 659-4546 10/23

*For sale:* 16' Lund fishing boat, 18 hp Merc., trailer, seats, trolling motor & cover. \$1,200. Call (612) 300-7705 10/23

*For sale:* 40 ft. roll-in steel L shaped dock with bench. Call (218) 244-5246 10/23

**-FARM-**

*For sale:* Hay, square bales. Some for cover. Call (218) 832-3208 10/23

*For sale:* Small cattle herd to farm. 5 cows and 1 heifer calf. Call (218) 659-2779 10/23

**Check your ad!** Email editor to correct errors before the next due date.

Emails will be answered If no reply, please resend.

**Place a Classified Ad Today!**

If you are an individual member of the cooperative, classified ads are free as a service from your cooperative. If you are advertising for a business or are a non-member, please remit \$5 per ad per month.

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

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

## Community invited to help build playground

A new playground is coming soon to Northome! The Northome Playground Committee has been working towards replacing the aging playground equipment located about two blocks north of City Hall.

Before its removal earlier in September, the playground equipment that was installed in the 1980's had deteriorated, was bordering on unsafe and was not ADA compliant. Replacing the playground will provide safer and more engaging equipment, will be more attractive to residents and visitors, and will be ADA accessible to better serve children of all abilities.

### Double Your Donation:

As the installation nears, the final push to complete the fundraising received an exciting boost when Deerwood Bank offered a \$2,500 matching donation challenge. The bank will match donations that come from the community, up to \$2,500, essentially doubling private donations. Donations may also be made in donation canisters at area businesses.

### Volunteer:

Volunteers are encouraged to

**NEW PLAYGROUND**  
Community members are invited to contribute to Northome's new playground.

**DOUBLE YOUR DONATION**  
with a match from Deerwood Bank up to \$2,500 in total donations from community members.

**HOW TO DONATE**  
**IN PERSON:** Northome City Hall or in canisters at area businesses.  
**POSTAL:** mail your donation to Northome Playground Committee PO Box 65, Northome, MN 56661

**HOW TO VOLUNTEER**  
**Community Build - October 12-13**  
City Hall at 218-897-5762  
northome@paulbunyan.net  
Karen Olson at 218-766-5693

**DEERWOOD BANK**  
EST. 1910  
Nice & Simple

participate in the community build installation scheduled for Thursday-Friday, October 12-13. Groups of 12-15 volunteers are needed for each 4-5 hour shift during the two-day build, and shifts are flexible depending on the volunteer's availability. All ages and skill levels are welcome as there are a variety of tasks to complete. Training, supervision, tools and materials are provided.

To sign-up, contact Northome City Hall at (218) 897-5762 or northome@paulbunyan.net, or Karen Olson at (218) 766-5693. Snacks, meals and water will be provided for volunteers. "The playground committee has been working on this project for a long time," said Northome Mayor Karen Olson. "We're very excited to see this finally come together."

## October is National Co-op Month

October is National Co-op Month, and North Itasca Electric Co-op is joining cooperatives across the U.S. to celebrate. Co-ops come in all shapes and sizes, but they each have a common goal: to provide goods or services for the members of the co-op.

Electric co-ops, including North Itasca Electric, exist to serve their members. Our priority is to provide affordable, reliable energy to our local communities. Because we are led by you, the members we serve, we can evolve to meet your needs.

This October, as we celebrate Co-op Month, we're focusing on the ways "Co-ops Grow" for their members.

### Co-ops Grow Communities:

Co-ops help communities grow by promoting economic empowerment, fostering community engagement and supporting the unique needs of co-op members. "Concern for Community" is one of our core principles—and being community-focused is essential to everything we do.

### Co-ops Grow Together:

Co-ops are all about cooperation, not competition. That's why electric co-ops work together to share lessons learned, successful strategies and better ways to serve our members. We're better when we grow together!

### Co-ops Grow Tomorrow's Leaders:

Electric co-ops serve as fertile ground for growing tomorrow's leaders through a variety of youth engagement programs such as school demonstrations and community events. We're committed to providing opportunities for local youth to learn and thrive in our community and beyond.

### Co-ops Grow for You:

At North Itasca Electric, your satisfaction is our number one goal. It's why we were formed many years ago to fulfill a uniquely local purpose. We've come a long way since then, and your needs continue to evolve. That's why we'll never stop growing for you!



**Greta Nelson**  
Real Estate Associate  
License #497500759

United Country Bold North Realty & Auctions  
218-368-8057  
greta@ucboldnorth.com  
www.UCBoldNorth.com  
11522 Bartlett Avenue  
Mizpah, MN 56660

*Independently owned & operated*

**Lakeside Lumber & Hardware**

Office 218-832-3300 Cell 425-233-1835

**Eric Elhardt**  
Owner

www.lakesidemarcell.com | 49208 State Hwy 38  
eric@lakesidemarcell.com | Marcell, MN 56657

**LITTLEHAWK SERVICES LLC**

Stump Grinding  
Tree Removal

218-341-8291 (Call or Text)  
JEREMIAH LITTLEHAWK littlehawkservices@gmail.com

**Scenic Rivers**  
HEALTH SERVICES

MEDICAL • DENTAL • BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

**Medical Clinics**

**Bigfork** 135 Pine Tree Dr. (218) 743-3232  
**Northome** 12052 Main St. (218) 897-5222  
**Big Falls** 410 Second St. NW (218) 276-2403

**Dental Clinic**

**Bigfork**  
303 Main Ave.  
(218) 743-3600

WWW.SCENICRIVERSHEALTH.ORG

**Creek Bank Printing**

\*Banners\* Mugs  
\*Plaques\* Magnetic Signs  
\*Photo Panels\* Tumblers  
\*Apparel\* Signs & More  
\*ATV License Plates\* Boat License \*Signs  
\*Stainless Steel Mugs & Tumblers  
Personalized with logos photos etc.

**218-259-9041**  
Bigfork, MN  
creekbankprinting.com

**Itasca Services LLC**  
Fighting hard against stick-er shock.

**Furnace Tune and Clean Special**  
**\$50**

Clean cabinet, burners, flame sensor, condensate lines and traps. Adjust gas pressures to proper level. Evaluate pressure switches and air flow.

Also: No trip fee on this or any repair services.  
Now through December 1st, 2023

**Call or text: (515) 868-8303**