



NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

WATTS NEWS

VOL 26 NO. 8

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

SEPTEMBER 2023

CEO Report

Good afternoon NIECI, I hate to say it, I'm concerned summer is slipping away from us. I helped my buddy Will with a couple of hunting sights the other day, signaling the start of fall.

I'm going out kicking and screaming! I'm just not ready for what comes next. I do enjoy fall activities, but I sure don't want to put the summer toys away just yet. I have a couple of fishing trips planned yet; I'm going to cross my fingers we have a long way to go before the flakes fall.

Working at North Itasca Electric has provided some opportunities I didn't expect. The latest excitement has been in cooperation with the Itasca

Economic Development Corporation. I have enjoyed serving on the IEDC Board for several years. Tamara Loney and her team of experts at IEDC just held the grand opening of the Forge on 8/15/23. I am very excited about the opportunities this building will bring to our communities.

The Forge is a building IEDC owned near the Grand Rapids Airport. We worked with several partners to secure funding and grants to make this vision possible. Inside the walls of the Forge, you will find welding stations, metalworking tools, and automated machines for cutting and shaping of both wood and metal. The Forge will support



Brad Dolinski, CEO

innovation, entrepreneurs, students and trades. The building has classroom spaces, shop with tools, offices, meeting spaces, art spaces and incubator spaces all under one roof.

The incubator space is available for lease; think of this as a rentable space to build your business. While a growing business begins operating, you will have access to tools you don't have to buy immediately, and professional help from CEO to p.2 >

Electric storage heating cables caused havoc

by Jerry Loney

For some years, a member of North Itasca Electric Cooperative enjoyed in-floor storage heat in the garage. A few years ago, problems started to arise with the system. The member started experiencing higher than normal energy usage.

North Itasca Electric along with electrical contractors attempted to figure out why. Not long after this, the homeowners discovered moisture building up in their electrical panels and corrosion was taking place.



Both the main power for the home and the storage heating conduits coming from the main and sub meters located next to the transformer ran underneath the garage slab of their attached garage floor to their assigned electrical panels located within the attached garage. For years, the homeowners had no problems with their in-floor heating system. Now moisture and corrosion were starting to build up

Cables to p.3>

< Corroded cables at the breakers.

Milestone for Northland Reliability Project

After months of planning and routing and revision, Great River Energy and Minnesota Power filed an application Aug. 4 for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to build a high-voltage transmission line to bolster electric reliability in northern and central Minnesota.

The Northland Reliability Project is an approximately 180-mile, double-circuit, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from northern Minnesota to central

Minnesota intended to help maintain a reliable and resilient regional power grid as more renewable energy is brought online, existing power plants are retired, electrification continues to expand and more frequent extreme weather events occur.

The companies jointly held nearly 30 public open houses and stakeholder meetings over the past year to provide opportunities for engagement with landowners, local governments,

Northland to p.7 >



Fall Round Up grant application deadline Sept. 29

Thanks to the generosity of nearly 85% of the Members of North Itasca Electric Co-op., the Board of Trustees for Operation Round-Up will have approximately \$11,000 to distribute to various communities and organizations in the area. The deadline for grant applications is Friday, Sept. 29, 2023 at the close of day.

Each month, participating members round

up their electric bills to the next highest dollar amount. The extra cents will be put in the North Itasca Electric Cooperative Community Trust which is headed by a volunteer community board separate from the cooperative. Twice a year this board meets and reviews applications for grants.

Any organization in the North Itasca Electric service area is eligible to apply for a grant from

the trust. Examples of grants would be funding for fire department equipment, youth and school programs, arts and education, senior citizen groups and other community programs and projects. Grants will generally be made to nonprofit, civic or community-based organizations that demonstrate a commitment to enhance Round Up to p.2>

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

Koochiching County Fair photos
page 16

Blue Light & Bag-a-Buck Fall Sale
page 8

Classic movies start
page 11

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

CEO Report (continued)

the IEDC. We will have the tools necessary along with professional instructors to help community members learn about trades. The Forge will team with local schools and colleges to provide workspaces and training.

The Forge will be here to foster growth and innovation in our community for years to come. If you are interested in The Forge or other programs offered by the IEDC, I would encourage you to check out their website. www.itascadv.org

Back to the business at hand. Our Board of Directors and I attended the Energy Issues Summit put on by Minnesota Rural Electric Association. Let me tell you, the name is spot on. We discussed and learned about issues we are about to face or are dealing with

currently. Power system reliability was the first item we discussed. How will we operate the system we have known and appreciated as we must rapidly change the way we operate? There isn't a short answer here, many moving parts will have to be addressed.

Safety, reliability and cost are the three major concerns I focus on daily. Cost or affordability is difficult to measure. What one of my Member-Owners is OK with, another may not be. Affordability is relative to your personal situation. Safety and reliability are very measurable but can come with significant necessary costs. We have many new laws that will also affect costs between Carbon Free by 2040, Paid Family Leave Laws, Electric Vehicle goals

and mandates. We have some issues to address.

I generally leave the Energy Issues Summit a little overwhelmed. Driving back home Director Kilian and I had four hours to discuss what we had heard and learned.

I am confident that through the cooperation among cooperatives principle we live by at North Itasca Electric, we will work with our friends and colleagues to find answers to our future. Our directors, staff, and employees are here to find the answer, how to continue to serve you in the future. It will take all of us and your support with our legislators to mold our cooperative to be future ready. I look forward to being part of the answer.

By your side! Miigwech.
Brad

Fall Round Up grants

>from p.1
the quality of life in the region.

Application forms along with instructions can be obtained by

calling the office at 218-743-3131 or 1-800-762-4048, by e-mail to jerryl@nieci.com, online at www.northitascaelectric.com.

com, by contacting your North Itasca Electric Co-op. Inc., Director or by contacting one of the Trust Board Members listed below.

North Itasca Electric Community Trust Board

District	Trust board member	Area represented	Phone #
1	Linda Dreher	Mizpah	218-897-5086
2	Meredie Rounds	Bigfork	218-743-3312
3	Bruce Steege	Effie	218-743-2649
4	Greg Anselmo	Bigfork	218-244-4648
5	Gary Chapman	Marcell	217-402-3745
6	Stacy Swedberg	Northome	218-239-0220
7	Lisa Peterson	Squaw Lake/Inger	218-659-4266
8	Kevin Grenson	Marcell	952-292-7414
9	Lisa Polchow	Deer River	218-246-9680

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

Powering our best interests

Delivering reliable, cost-effective energy may be what North Itasca Electric Cooperative is known for, but what sets us apart from for-profit companies is our dedication to the well-being of the communities where we serve, live and work.

Electric cooperatives provide an essential product. By providing electricity, businesses can expand, farms can operate more efficiently, and homes can be heated and cooled. We are motivated by service, not profit.

Being a cooperative means reinvesting into our community. Any margins North Itasca Electric Cooperative makes are returned to members through stable rates, infrastructure improvements and even back into the pockets of our members through patronage capital returns.

Every member of North Itasca Electric Cooperative is an owner and has a stake in the company. Members are encouraged to take an active role in the company by voting in elections or running for one of our board seats.

To learn more about your electric cooperative, including the latest news, programs and rebates visit our website at www.northitascaelectric.com.

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.

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WATTS NEWS

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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

North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Directors

Chairman: Larry Salmela, District 3
Vice-Chair: Wes Waller, District 2
Secretary: Lloyd Kongsjord, District 5
Treasurer: Roy Bain, District 9
Rep. to GRE Board: Lloyd Kongsjord, District 5

James White, District 1 Mary Rahier, District 4
Todd Christensen, District 6 Bruce Leino, District 7
Jeff Kilian, District 8

Highlights from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
June 22, 2023

Start time: 10:00 a.m.

End time: 2:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on July 27, 2023.

Directors present: M. Rahier, J. White, W. Waller, L. Kongsjord, J. Kilian, R. Bain and L. Salmela.

Absent: B. Leino

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

Start Regular Board Meeting: 10:00 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 reported that MREA was here for Drivers Safety. Cell phone use was discussed as a distraction of great concern. Tired driving is also a concern. It was also noted to always check your blind spots before getting into a vehicle especially when backing up. Watch your speed. Watch your following distance.
- o Tina reviewed the Operating Reports. A motion was made to accept the Operating Reports as they were presented. Seconded; motion carried.
- o Tina gave the office report. Allocations will be on the August statements. All accounts that are inactive will have their allocations mailed to them on a separate form. Loan information was shared. Tina explained each form needed for the loan.
- o Reviewed Board Policy 300.30 Non-Standard Services and Neutral to Earth Voltage. A motion was made to show the policy was reviewed with no changes at this time. Seconded; motion carried.
- o Bylaw Article 9 was reviewed. No changes need to be made at this time.
- o Daryl gave the Line Department report. Jessie Lake transformer is scheduled to be delivered November 10. Lovdahl is clearing the Island Lake area. Daryl shared the outage report.
- o Jerry Loney gave the Members Services report.
- o Brad gave the CEO report. The Forge Grand Opening will be August 15 from 10 am to 2 pm. MREA Communication Plan is ready to be presented at the MREA Board Meeting.
- o L. Kongsjord gave the GRE report. GRE is having a great year financially.
- o Round Table Discussion was held.
- o A motion was made to adjourn. Seconded; motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

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.

Cable corrosion on in-floor heat

>from p.1

in all three electrical panels they had located in the garage. The in-floor heating system was no longer working properly.

In 2022 the corrosion was so bad that all three electrical panels needed to be replaced. It has only been a year since replacing them and already the new ones are showing the same moisture and corrosion issues as those replaced in 2022.

The homeowners had North Itasca Electric, many contractors, and even a hired consultant to investigate what might be causing this problem.

It was clear to all that it was a moisture problem, but how this was happening was the puzzling question to all.

The consultant did state some good possibilities. The actual cause was discovered by Mike Thompson, owner of Current Electric out of Grand Rapids, who was hired by the homeowner initially to install radon equipment. The homeowner shared

with Mike what was happening with his electrical panels sparking in Mike past experiences he had seen with a couple of places not far away with similar issues.

The radon installation turned into a much bigger scope of work including changing out the electrical panels for the third time. But this time it also involved pulling new cabling from the main and sub meter sockets located next to the transformer.

To feed the new cabling up to the panels, the best scenario was to cut the garage slab. Cutting the floor slab turned out to be a blessing for it exposed the most logical answer to all the problems the homeowners were having with moisture and corrosion. The photo below shows all three electrical conduits running under the slab burned from the floor heating cabling system. It was also discovered that water had been coming in under the slab and with the conduit now open, water had filled them.



(top) All three panels needed to be replaced. (below) New cabling.

With these same conduits running a foot or 2 away from the foundation wall where they turned up to feed the electrical panels (now filled with water), moisture could migrate up and into the electrical panels, causing moisture and corrosion problems. It is also believed a faulty floor drain allowed road salt from melting ice on vehicles to mix with moisture under the slab.

Mike Thompson also had the possible theory that the heating



Cable to p.4>



Burned electrical conduits that were under the slab.

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Cable corrosion

>from p.3
system cables were laid before sand was placed to separate the heating cables from the conduit. The heating system cables come encased in sheet rock to hold the wire spacing during installation.

Initially the wires would not have been directly touching the conduit, but with the dirt removed and everything exposed, a visual water line appeared on the foundation showing the floor heating cable system was clearly under water. The water coming in under the slab deteriorated the sheetrock holding the cables, leaving them lying directly on top of the electrical conduit.

When energizing the in-floor heat, the cables heated up to the point where they burned through the electrical conduit allowing water (possibly mixed with salt), to fill it. Now with the conduit full of salt water, and the law of physics showing that heat seeks after cold, the warmer moisture sought after the cooler air temperatures of the electrical panels pulling up the moisture mixed with salt from the faulty floor drain.

No more in-floor heating system, but North Itasca Electric is working with the homeowners providing electric heat in the garage by other means on the Dual Fuel program rate.

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,

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.

- 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.

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

Roxanne's Sales Talk

by Roxanne Prather, Member Services Representative

It has been quite a month with all the excitement of the road construction going on right in front of my desk. It is almost scary with all our big windows in the showroom. Our windows are old and not sealed very well anymore, so when big trucks go by, the windows rattle and the whole building shakes. It will be so nice when this is all finished.

In the meantime, I apologize for your inconvenience to get in to the Cooperative. As I am writing this you can still park in front of our building, or you can pull in behind the Co-op. and park behind one of

the cars in our parking lot. But while our sidewalks are being worked on, you might have to come in through our garage door. For those of you who do not want to deal with the construction call me, I can help you over the phone.

I want to remind you we have a good selection of appliances in stock. If you are looking for something special or need to order multiple appliances and I do not have them on the floor, I'd be happy to order what you're looking for. We offer bundling deals, the more you buy the more you save.

Purchase three appliances to take 8 percent off, four appliances for 10 percent off and with five or more you can take 15 percent off. Come check out our electric bikes that are priced to sell! I have a couple of different models for you to look at. These bikes are a wonderful way to get more exercise. Peddle when you want and use the electric when you want a break. The fat tires on the Go Express make it easy to ride off road. They also fold up so you can throw them in the car to take them on trips. The Go Eagle has smaller tires, which makes it a quieter bike when riding on the highway.

Member Warning: 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 allows people to pay their electric bills via their site.

There may be extra fees, however, and North Itasca Electric cannot control when we will receive the Member payments. To make sure you're paying North Itasca Electric directly, visit our website www.northitascaelectric.com, for our direct link to the online bill payment portal, mypcsportal.com.

Roxanne's Repair Tips:

Troubleshooting your ice or water dispenser

There are 7 things that can cause your icemaker to fail so let's run through them!

1. A faulty dispenser – disconnect the dispenser and check with an ohm meter. If there's no continuity, replace the dispenser.

2. A faulty main control board – if none of the functions on the dispenser work, it is more than likely the control board. You would need to replace the control board.

3. A malfunctioning door switch – take the door switch out and test it with a multimeter. If there is no continuity, replace the switch.

4. A faulty water inlet valve – this can be either mechanical or electrical. It is mechanical if mineral deposits are built up and prevent it from working correctly. Electrical if you test it and there is no continuity.

5. Low water pressure – you need at least 20 lbs. of pressure per square inch. To check this shut the water valve off to the line, then remove the water line from the pressure relief valve. Holding it over a bucket, turn the water valve back on. There should be a good stream of water flowing. If not check your water supply.

6. A frozen water supply hose – if the hose that is bringing your water into the icemaker is freezing up, it can be thawed with a hair dryer. But keep in mind that this is normally caused by low water pressure or a faulty water inlet valve.

7. A faulty main control valve – this is not common, test this with a multimeter and replace if necessary.

There are videos on RepairClinic.com that you can watch. These will show you how and what to test.

WWW Website highlight:
NorthItascaElectric.com

Member Guidebook

Have general questions about how to save energy, your electric service or programs offered at the co-op?

You might be able to find the answer in the members' guidebook. It's 27 pages of useful information found under Member Services.

For instance, the guidebook lists and explains load management programs and installation requirements, service rates, calculations (including design "rules of thumb"), the Wellspring program for renewable energy, and current rebates available.

You can also find energy tips to consider when remodeling or building a new structure.

Notice:

Northern Itasca Hospital District will finalize its 2024 levy in a public meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 5 at 9 a.m.
Bigfork Valley Hospital Board Room

Proposed 2024 levy:
\$1.5 million

2023 levy: \$836,220

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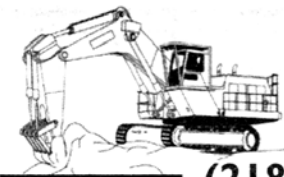


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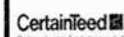


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Making electricity responsibly

Great River Energy — North Itasca Electric Cooperative’s wholesale power provider — offers reliable, affordable and safe energy while remaining focused on supporting environmental stewardship, local communities and employees.

GRE is dedicated to minimizing its environmental footprint by reducing emissions, adding renewable energy and using natural resources responsibly.

Greenhouse gas emissions

By reducing coal-based energy and more than doubling its renewable energy investment, Great River Energy anticipates that by 2035 its retail electric

sales will be provided by a 90% carbon-free power supply in alignment with the Minnesota carbon-free standard.

Air emissions

GRE’s emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides from its power plants have dropped significantly since 2005. These reductions are attributable to changes in the cooperative’s power supply portfolio and the installation of state-of-the-art emissions control systems at its facilities. Great River Energy’s commitment to expanding its use of renewable energy will lead to continued reductions in these values going forward.

Renewable energy

GRE holds power

purchase agreements for the output of several wind facilities located throughout Minnesota, Iowa and the Dakotas, totaling more than 960 megawatts of wind energy. Most recently, the Deuel Harvest and Buffalo Ridge wind farms were added to the portfolio. The cooperative is adding more wind generation power purchase agreements in the coming years. Great River Energy also works with its member-owner cooperatives to develop local renewable resources.

Water

GRE’s water withdrawal for power plants has dropped by more than 90% since 2015. The cooperative’s facilities primarily utilize closed-cycle cooling systems that recirculate



and reuse cooling water — reducing water use for cooling by more than 90% relative to systems that use once-through cooling. The end result is a fleet that uses water in a highly efficient manner, reducing the impacts on surface water bodies and aquifers.

GRE is passionate about preserving the places that make Minnesota a great place to live, explore and grow — both for people today and for generations of tomorrow. Learn more at greatriverenergy.com/sustainability.

Power in Your Hands

by Anne Prince, NRECA

Recently, one of our newer employees asked me what makes electric co-ops different than other types of utilities. This month, I thought I’d tell you of few of the things I told her.

Because we’re a co-op, we operate a little differently than other utilities. North Itasca Electric’s decisions are made locally, by directors who also live right here in our community. Everyone who pays to receive electricity from the co-op is a member. When you pay your electric bill each month, your money stays here — to pay for the electricity used, or to make improvements to our local system to strengthen service reliability. The money you pay the co-op doesn’t line the pockets of shareholders five states away. We’re a co-op, and we exist to provide a service to you, our local members.

You may notice that throughout the year, we schedule opportunities for you to attend co-op events, like the annual meeting, so we can hear from you. Our success lies in your satisfaction, which is why we like to engage and listen to what you have to say.

Because you’re part of an electric cooperative, you can count on our team to maintain local jobs, at-cost electricity and first-class service, no matter what the economy—and supply chain issues—throw at us.

North Itasca Electric is striving to keep our costs as low as possible so we can keep more money in your pocket. We want to help you maximize the value you can get from our services and offerings. For example, we can help you save on energy bills through our monthly articles and load management programs.

Please know that you—the members of North Itasca Electric—are at the heart of everything we do. Co-ops adhere to seven guiding cooperative principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service.

We exist to serve you and provide the quality, reliable, friendly service you expect and deserve. While we’ve grown over the years, we’re still driven by the same guiding principles to serve our community. We hope to see or hear from you soon. This co-op was created for you, the members. The power is in your hands.

Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

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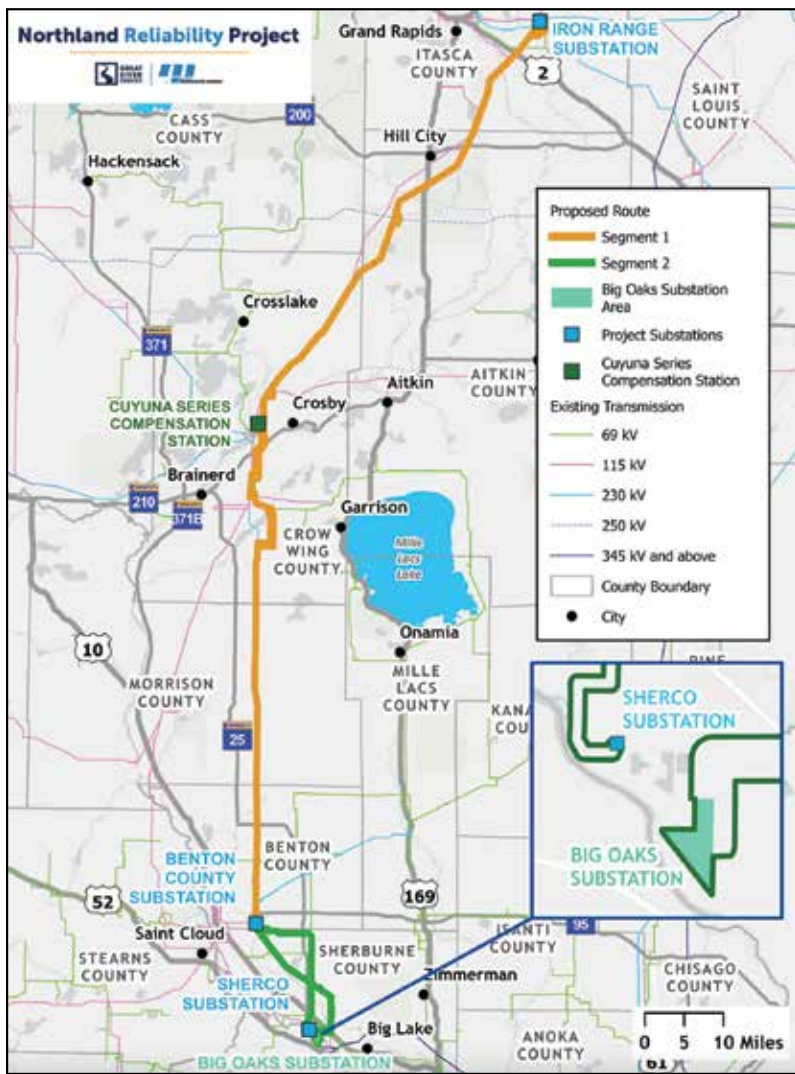
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Northland Reliability project passes milestone



>from p.1
agencies, and Tribal Nations. Public feedback is reflected in the route the utilities have proposed.

“The pace of change is upon us and we are laser focused on getting this line built to ensure reliability for our members and customers in northern and central Minnesota,” said Great River Energy’s Vice President and Chief Transmission Officer Priti Patel. “We are proud to be developing this project responsibly at every juncture. We have gone to great lengths to engage with community members and critical leaders over the last year, understanding that no voice is more important than that of a cooperative member who will be hosting this project on their property.”

The jointly developed project is one of 18 transmission projects approved in July 2022 by the region’s grid operator, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), in the first phase of its Long Range Transmission Plan to integrate new generation resources and boost grid resilience as the energy transition continues. The Northland Reliability Project is the first project in this portfolio to reach this phase of the regulatory process.

The permitting project by submitting our application,” said Dan Leshner, manager, transmission permitting and land rights. “This has been a tremendous joint effort between many individuals and departments at Great River Energy and Minnesota Power and I am grateful for everyone’s dedication and commitment to get to this point.”

“We’re excited to have completed the next milestone of this project.”

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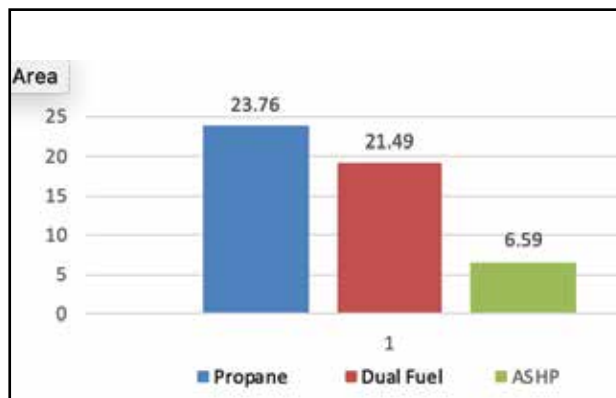
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\$/Gal	Efficiency	\$1.25	\$1.35	\$1.45	\$1.55	\$1.60	\$1.70	\$1.80	\$1.90	\$2.00	\$2.10	\$2.30	\$2.50
	55%	24.84	26.83	28.81	30.8	31.79	33.78	35.77	37.75	39.74	41.73	45.7	49.68
	65%	21.02	22.7	24.38	26.06	26.9	28.58	30.26	31.95	33.63	35.31	38.67	42.03
	75%	18.21	19.67	21.13	22.59	23.32	24.77	26.23	27.69	29.14	30.6	33.52	36.43
	80%	17.08	18.44	19.81	21.17	21.86	23.22	24.59	25.96	27.32	28.69	31.42	34.15
	85%	16.07	17.36	18.64	19.93	20.57	21.86	23.14	24.43	25.72	27	29.57	32.14
	92%	14.85	16.04	17.22	18.41	19.01	20.19	21.38	22.57	23.76	24.95	27.32	29.7

Electricity 3413 BTUs / kWh		\$.0678 Off-peak Rates at 92% Efficiency											
\$/kWh	Efficiency	0.035	0.04	0.045	0.05	0.06	0.065	0.07	0.075	0.08	0.085	0.09	0.1
	82%	12.51	14.29	16.08	17.87	21.44	23.23	25.01	26.8	28.59	30.37	32.16	35.73
	85%	12.06	13.79	15.51	17.24	20.68	22.41	24.13	25.85	27.58	29.3	31.02	34.47
	86%	11.92	13.63	15.33	17.03	20.44	22.15	23.85	25.55	27.26	28.96	30.66	34.07
	92%	11.15	12.74	14.33	15.92	19.11	21.49	23.89	25.48	27.07	28.66	31.85	
	99%	10.36	11.84	13.32	14.8	17.76	19.24	20.72	22.2	23.68	25.16	26.64	29.6

Air Source Heat Pump		\$.0678 Dual Fuel Rates using an Air Source Heat Pump											
\$/kWh	Efficiency	0.035	0.04	0.045	0.05	0.06	0.065	0.07	0.075	0.08	0.085	0.09	0.1
	150%	6.84	7.81	8.79	9.77	11.72	12.7	13.67	14.65	15.63	16.6	17.58	19.53
	200%	5.13	5.86	6.59	7.32	8.79	9.52	10.25	10.99	11.72	12.45	13.18	14.65
	250%	4.1	4.69	5.27	5.86	7.03	7.62	8.2	8.79	9.38	9.96	10.55	11.72
	275%	3.73	4.26	4.79	5.33	6.39	6.93	7.46	7.99	8.52	9.06	9.59	10.65
	300%	3.42	3.91	4.39	4.88	5.86	6.59	7.32	7.81	8.3	8.79	9.27	10.65

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MODEL NUMBER DBC026A1BSSDB \$167 **SALE \$153.64**

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Bag A Buck Freezer Sale



Chest Freezers

DCF050BLWM Regular \$379.70 SALE \$349.32
Danby 5 c.f. freezer garage ready can perform in temperatures from 0°F to 110° (-17°C to 43°C) 1 wire basket. 1 year warranty.

VFX07WWA Regular \$292.28 SALE \$268.90
Crosley Conservator 7 c.f. manual defrost, power indicator light, 1 removable wire basket, easy access defrost drain, 2 rollers & adjustable legs, Garage ready. 1 year warranty.

EFRF9003 Regular \$379.70 SALE \$349.32
Frigidaire 9 c.f. manual defrost, garage ready 0°F to 110°F. Power on indicator light. Removable basket, easy defrost drain. 1 year warranty.

DCF145A3WDB Regular \$575.90 SALE \$529.83
Danby 14.5 c.f. manual defrost with front drain. Garage ready can perform in temperatures from 0°F to 110° (-17°C to 43°C). Energy efficient design maintains optimum freezing temperatures of 10°F (-12°C) to -13°F (-25°C). 2 wire baskets, mounted on rollers, energy efficient interior white LED light. 5 year parts & labor warranty.

Upright Freezers

FFU13F2VW Regular \$785.20 SALE \$722.38
Frigidaire 13 c.f. frost free freezer with super tight seal. 4-Flexible wire racks and a wire basket inside. 5 plastic shelves in the door. Door ajar and high temp alarm.

FFU18F2VW Regular \$1028.44 SALE \$946.16
Frigidaire 18 c.f. frost free freezer. Power outage assurance for 2 days. Even Temp Cooling System. Flexible interior organization system. Door ajar and high temp alarm. Floor-projected power-on indicator. Garage ready, this unit is designed to perform in temperatures ranging from 0°F to 110°F. 4 flexible wire racks and a wire basket inside. 5 plastic shelves in the door.

FFUE2022AW Regular \$924.30 SALE \$850.36
Frigidaire 20 c.f. auto defrost freezer. Interior LED lighting. 4 adjustable glass shelves, 1 wire basket, 5 fixed door bins. High temperature alarm. Door ajar alarm.

WHS-772FWE Regular \$991.90 SALE \$912.55
Midea 21 c.f. convertible freezer. Energy Star compliant, slide out bulk storage basket, automatic interior LED lighting, frost free, 4 adjustable wire shelves. 4 plastic bins in the door.

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

Bigfork Valley Hospital proposes \$1.5 million levy

by Sally Sedgwick

Bigfork Valley Hospital is proposing raising its levy by almost 80% for 2024, to \$1.5 million. The final levy request for hospital districts must be submitted to the county in September.

The proposal, made by the board's finance committee at the August 1 meeting, took many on the 13-member board by surprise. After some discussion, the board tabled the motion until the Sept. 5 meeting.

In presenting the levy request, Chair George Rounds said that the board had a responsibility to equip the CEO and staff by erasing a negative margin in order to keep the employees and facility in place. The year-to-date net margin for the first half of 2023 was -7.9%.

Financials presented through June showed that the hospital had a first half operating loss of just over a million dollars with a net income loss of about \$524,000. The largest first half losses against budget were patient revenues, labor costs (employee salaries, wages and benefits), and utilities/maintenance. In response to a question, CFO Darla Anderson said that typically financials do improve in the second half.

Materials presented in support of the increase included increased discounts in insurance reimbursements, increased costs in labor and medical supplies, expected capital spending needs, and need for improvement in debt service coverage required by loan covenants.

Anderson said that average capital spending needs seen over the next three years were \$1.1 million, with an additional \$700,000 annually to maintain debt service coverage. Age of plant also needs to be addressed, sitting at about 21.7 years, or almost eight years higher than the average critical access hospital in the state.

Several board members expressed dismay at the increase; comments included the opinion that the levy should not be relied on to tax the hospital's way out of financial difficulties, that the hospital should stop shutting down services but add them instead, that the levy increase would need to be sold to constituents, and that the board needed time to look over the materials. It's "a hard pill to swallow," said one board member, and another questioned how much increase the area could take. The idea of a one-time boost to improve service offerings and financials was suggested.

In an analysis of the impact of the tax increase, the hospital levy for a parcel with an estimated market value of \$50,000-\$75,000 would increase by \$68.29 to an average of \$154.31 annually. A parcel at an EMV of \$100-125,000 would increase by \$107.70 to an average of \$243.38, and a parcel at an EMV of \$500,000-\$750,000 would increase by \$462.46 to an average of \$1,045.07.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Sept. 5 at 9 a.m. in the hospital Board Room.

Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum.

CNF finalizes scoping on updated Forest Plan for north section

The Chippewa National Forest is planning an extensive forest management and harvest as part of its update to the 2004 Chippewa National Forest Land and Resources Management Plan. The update is being done in sections; scoping has been completed in the northern section of the Forest which includes the Cut Foot Experimental Forest, Lost Forty/Dora Lake and Bowstring areas. In 2019, the CNF and the Leech Lake Band agreed to collaborate in

managing the Forest with a primary objective to move the Forest toward the Band's desired vegetative conditions and the outcomes described in the 2004 Forest Plan.

The project activities are scheduled to start in May 2024 and will extend 10-15 years.

The plan for this area covers about 17,142 acres of harvest (or about 30% of National Forest lands in the project area), including 12,492 acres of commercial thinning, 1,440 acres of clearcut

with reserves, 1,066 acres of seed tree with reserves, 1,025 acres of group selection, and smaller acreages of other types of harvest. About 1,875 acres are planned for forest type conversions (to pine, spruce/fir, pine/hardwood and cedar), and will involve about 6,800 acres of prescribed burning and 10-15 miles of temporary road construction as well as other activities.

A map of the project and further information is available at www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57340 Maps and the project description are available at the bottom of the page. For more information, contact Samuel Ainsley, samuel.ainsley@usda.gov or (218) 246-2362, or visit the Deer River Ranger District at 1235 Division Street, (218) 246-2123.

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Classic Movie Series

by Jack Nachbar

The Classic Movie Series at Bigfork is beginning its new season with a movie many critics consider Walt Disney's best film of all time. *Mary Poppins* was the top grossing movie of 1964, and was nominated for a fabulous thirteen Academy Awards. Julie Andrews, one of the 1960s most popular stars, made her movie debut and won a Best Actress Oscar. The film, made to delight both children and adults, is still praised for its wonderful melding of animation and live action as well as several hit songs.

Mary Poppins will be shown at the Edge Center Theater in Bigfork at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 14. FREE and open to all.

OCTOBER CLASSIC MOVIE: Leonard Maltin calls it "One of the Best Westerns ever made." *The Naked Spur* (1953) starring Jimmy Stewart, Robert Ryan and Janet Leigh will be shown at the Edge, Thursday, October 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Edge Center September events feature Charlie Parr and Gaelynn Lea

by Sandra LeBlanc-Boland

Folk musician Charlie Parr performs on Friday, September 1, at 7 p.m.: Tickets available online and at the door: Adults: \$10; Students: \$5.

Parr is a Minnesota-based roots musician whose organic style is deeply tied to the blues and folk traditions of an earlier era. He is an incorruptible outsider who writes novelistic, multi-layered stories that shine a kaleidoscopic light on defiant, unseen characters thriving in the shadows all around us.

Parr has released 14 studio albums and tours

the globe performing at legendary venues like Newport Folk Festival, The Kennedy Center, The Troubadour, and Bowery Ballroom.

But he hasn't moved to LA or Nashville; he's stayed in the cold grey north of Minnesota, because that's his home. This is a show you won't want to miss!

Gaelynn Lea: Violinist, Songwriter, and Disability Rights Advocate performs on Friday, September 22, at 7 p.m.: Tickets available online and at the door: Adults: \$10; Students: \$5. Masking will be required for

this event.

Gaelynn Lea won NPR Music's Tiny Desk Contest in 2016. Since then, she has captivated audiences around the world with her haunting original songs and traditional fiddle tunes.

Gaelynn Lea has opened for Wilco, The Decemberists, LOW, and the industrial rock supergroup Pigface. Most recently, Gaelynn Lea composed and performed the music for *Macbeth* on Broadway, starring Daniel Craig and Ruth Negga. This iconic Shakespeare play was directed by Sam Gold and was nominated for three Tony Awards, including Best Sound Design.

Gaelynn Lea is a sought-after public speaker about Disability Rights and accessibility in the arts. She has shared her perspective on PBS NewsHour, On Being with Krista Tippett, The Moth

Radio Hour, NowThis, The Science of Happiness Podcast, and via two widely-viewed TEDx Talks. Gaelynn Lea is a Co-Founder of RAMPD: Recording Artists and Music Professionals with Disabilities. The mission of this fast-growing, disability-led coalition is to amplify disability culture, promote inclusion and advocate for accessibility in the music industry. She is currently writing a memoir about her touring adventures and disability advocacy.

Upcoming shows:

Monroe Crossing: Saturday, October 21; **Jason Waldron Band:** Saturday, November 18. Both shows, 7 p.m.

The Edge Center is located at 101 2nd Ave, Bigfork 56628. For more information, call: 218-743-6670 or visit www.edgecenterarts.org.

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Thank you to all the people who donated funds for the Effie Daze activities during the Rodeo, especially Nancy and Shea for helping with the Effie Community Rummage Sale, and Mark who took all the leftover souvenir shirts for a Waseca festival in return for having the Boot Hunt next year. Watch for this!

I appreciate everyone who helped to make it happen in three weeks! I will be more organized next year.

Thank you! *Lil Longtine*



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Edge Gallery

Wonder – Abstracts by Terry Leinbach

by Gail Blackmer
Have you ever stared at a blank wall, an unfinished room, a plain piece of paper, or a white canvas and “wondered” what it would look like when it was painted, decorated, written, or turned into a piece of art that reflects your style, your mood, your emotions, your thoughts, or your reaction to whatever is going on in the world at that moment?

Terry Boal Leinbach has, many times, and the results usually show up as a large scale abstract painting produced in her rustic second story studio on her family’s homestead in rural Blackduck, Minnesota.

Terry and her husband Ray moved onto a wooded piece of wilderness back when the back to the land movement was happening – many years ago – and found a way to create a home, a garden, raise two sons, and become embedded in the community. She recently retired from working in early childhood education as a Head Start teacher, where she delighted in watching children learn to play with art and

express their feelings through drawing and coloring.

Head Start families often require comprehensive involvement with community resources where Terry also became empathetic to the struggles of low income and inequality. All these emotions are inside and waiting to come out when paint is applied to canvas.

Terry Leinbach has agreed to bring her first public exhibit to the Edge Center Gallery in Bigfork during the month of September. Her art is abstract, and the viewer is challenged to see in it what their eyes tell their mind about what is going on. There are color and dark, shapes and lines, whimsical and meditative. Terry has titled her show “Wonder” because each blank canvas makes her wonder what it is going to become, and when it is going to say all it needs to say.

There will be an artist’s reception on



Portion of an abstract by Terry Leinbach

September 8 from 5-7 p.m. at the Edge Gallery attached to the Bigfork school. Light refreshments will be available, the artist will be there to visit with friends and the community. The Gallery committee hopes you will take advantage of this opportunity to see something different, and inspire someone to just let yourself paint!

Juried Exhibit winners



Winners of the 17th Annual Juried Exhibit at the Edge Gallery include (from top left, clockwise) Best of Show: **Good Night Pool Room** by Allison Smith sponsored by Kocian’s Family Market, Award of Excellence: **Blue Jay** by Chris Tolman sponsored by

Amanda Dick from Glorvigen Tierney and Co., People’s Choice Award: **Barred Owl #2**, by Elaine Rasmussen, Award of Excellence: **Superior Reflections** by Becca Mulenburg sponsored by First State Bank of Bigfork.

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North Country Gardeners

by Tom Renquist

The North Country Gardeners met on Monday, August 21, at the Laurentian Divide and did some late summer pruning and cleanup at the rest area. A group of nine of us made short work of the project.

We will be meeting again on Monday, September 18, 5:30 p.m., at the Marcell Family Center. For years now the garden club has been responsible for the landscaping at the Center. This will be the time for an early fall outdoor cleanup. Bring gloves, pruning shears, etc., and we will prepare the landscape for its winter hiatus. Any and all are welcome!

Community Cafe in Deer River

The Community Cafe is available to anyone who is in need of a meal. There is no income or financial qualification to receive a free meal. Each Monday through Thursday from 4:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. (or until gone), a nutritious three-course meal is served. Location: King Elementary School door #9. For more information, visit communitycafemn.org.

Deer River Tech Hub

The Tech Hub is a weekday youth center at Goodall Resource Center, 1049 Comstock D. in Deer River for ages 12-20 to explore technology after school hours. Technology available onsite includes a recording studio, virtual reality, drone piloting, 3D printers, Xbox and computers. Tech can also be used in art, creative projects and design at the Hub. Snacks and meals are provided daily. Open starting Sept. 5. Questions, call 218-246-2188.

Bigfork seeks bridge quotes

by Sally Sedgwick

At a rescheduled meeting on August 15, the Bigfork City Council heard about water issues and discussed the bridge and school projects.

Resident Stan Hunter brought a bucket of water from his tap. The water in the last month has turned the filter black, and he asked what was in it and if the water was fit to drink. Public Works Director Aaron Gould said the water would be tested and treated and the line flushed to correct the problem. Water use will not be charged from May through September.

Two bridge projects and the canoe landing retaining wall under the Blandin Foundation Community Grant have been sent out for quotation by the city engineer Widseth with a closing date of Aug. 25. Widseth's estimate for the two bridge projects is about \$58,000.

In other business, the council:

- Approved two change orders presented by Widseth for \$4,500 on the Golf Course Road lift station. The project is complete.

- Heard that the application to the Minnesota Department of Commerce for a Petro Fund reimbursement for the cost of removal of contaminated soil during the Ash Street/Rajala Mill Road project was approved for \$31,540.63 and will be received in 6-8 weeks.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. The levy will be discussed.

Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum.

Itasca Waters Practical Water Wisdom series

The free lunchtime virtual series Practical Water Wisdom continues at noon on the first Thursday of the month with "How healthy is your well?" presented University of Minnesota Extension Educator Anne Nelson on Sept. 7. Nelson works primarily with private well owners to manage their wells for drinking water. The presentation will cover proper private well construction, what issues to be aware of and when to test your drinking water. Register at itascawaters.org.

The Oct 5 program has been canceled, but on Oct 31, a special Halloween presentation by Dr John Downing director of the Sea Grant College Program, research scientist with Large Lakes Observatory and professor of biology at the University of Minnesota, Duluth will look at "Supernatural Lakes: monsters, ghosts, witches, fairies and aliens."

SAIL classes

ElderCircle has replaced Bone Builders with "Stay Active & Independent for Life (SAIL)" For more information or to register (required), contact ElderCircle at (218) 999-9233.

New attendees may start anytime. Weights are provided but please bring your own water.

Following is the local schedule as of July 6:

- Virtual via Zoom video conference
Mondays & Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
 - Virtual via Zoom video conference
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00-10:30 a.m.
- In person at:**
- Bigfork Old Scenic Church,
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 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.

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.

Resource Centers:

Blackduck:
(218) 835-5768

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

— Community Education —

Children First! Register for classes at getlearning.org or (218) 246-8241, Ext. 60227

FAMILY FORT NIGHT

Date: Thurs., Sept. 28

Time: 5-7 p.m

Location: King School

Cost: Free

Bring sheets or blankets to make your best fort! All ages, everyone leaves with a free book.

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

KIDS ART & CRAFT

Date: Thurs., Sept.14 and 28

Time: 4-5:30 p.m.

Location: Blackduck School

Cost: \$5

PK to grade 6

Defensive Driver courses by Zoom

For driver's age 55 and older that have already completed the beginner's course and want to continue receiving the discount on their insurance. Classes fill up fast so early registration is recommended. Cost of the course is \$14. The instructor is retired Minnesota State Trooper Mike Flatley.

Monday, Sept.11: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 25: 5 p.m.-9 p.m.

Pre-register by calling 218-750-3189 or by email to mnflats@hotmail.com

For more information on Mike Flatley's upcoming courses visit www.mndefensivedriving.blogspot.com

AARP Defensive Driving

Learn how to manage and accommodate common age-related changes in vision, hearing and reaction time in the AARP Smart Driver course held at the Senior Center, King Elementary School, 500 SE 5th St., Deer River. Plus, you may qualify for a 10% discount on your car insurance! To register, call 218-246-8241, ext: 60227.

Next class is Monday, Sept. 18: 3:45-8 p.m. Cost for the class is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for nonmembers. In addition, the on-line class option continues to be available at www.aarpdriversafety.org.

area bookmobile stops

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

Tuesdays: August 1, 22; Sept. 12

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: August 3, 24; Sept. 14

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

Mondays: August 21; Sept. 11

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

Community News

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

~ September Calendar ~

Bigfork

Bituminous paving operations from Bigfork to the Scenic State Park will begin mid-September and be completed under traffic.

The 17th annual fundraiser for the Bigfork Valley Community Foundation is being held at the Wilderness Barn in Bigfork on Sept. 17, 4-7 p.m. It's a fun evening, with dinner and dessert catered by the Timberwolf Inn, a silent auction that always has interesting themed baskets, and music by the High Flying Turkeys. Tickets are \$45, with a portion of the proceeds going to the Bigfork Ambulance (BASA) and the Wilderness Wheelers ATV Club. Throughout the year, the foundation contributes to needs in the communities throughout the Northern Itasca Hospital District as well as acting as the 501(c)3 nonprofit that can accept grants and other contributions to the hospital as a fiscal agent.

Northome

A Candidate Forum for Koochiching County District 5 Commissioner will be held on Wednesday, Sept 27 at the Northome City Hall. Candidates in the general election on Nov. 7, 2023 at Dale Erickson, Birchdale and Rich Mastin, Big Falls. Each will introduce themselves and respond to prepared questions. For questions, call Lisa Randall at (218) 259-0326 or email lisa.randall@cedausa.com.

Wirt

A public meeting will be held on Thursday, Aug. 31 at the Wirt Town Hall to hear about the Bigfork Valley Hospital levy and ask questions. Hospital staff will be present.

- 1 Folk musician Charlie Parr performs at the Edge Center, Bigfork, 7 p.m. Adults \$10, students \$5.
- 2 Naturalist program on wolves with Karlyn Berg at Edge of the Wilderness Discovery Center just north of Marcell, 10 a.m. Last program of the season.
- 2 Last Farmer's Market at Northome Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Flea and Farmer's Market at Talmoon Little Turtle Lake Store, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 4 Labor Day.
- 4 Spring Lake Store celebrates its 107th Birthday with treats at the store.
- 5 First day of school, all schools.
- 5 Bigfork Valley Hospital board meets in public meeting, 9 a.m. For information on joining the meeting online, call (218) 743-1772. Final levy will be set.
- 5 ISD 318 School Board meeting at Admin. Board Room Grand Rapids or at watchictv.org, 6:30 p.m. Open Forum, 6 p.m. Information: jasmussen@isd318.org or call (218) 327-5704. Livestream from link at isd318.org.
- 6 "The Club I Never Wanted to Join" breast cancer support group meets 3:30 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in the chapel, use south entrance, Grand Rapids. More info with Lynn (218) 832-3612, lynn_etl@msn.com
- 7 First Thursday online programs over the lunch hour with Itasca Waters. September program is "How healthy is your well?" with Extension Educator Anne Nelson. Register at itascawaters.org.
- 8 Edge Center Gallery in Bigfork hosts Terry Leinbach, painter Thurs., Sept. 7 - Sat. Sept. 30. Artists reception Fri. Sept. 8, 5-7 p.m. Gallery is open Thursdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information (218) 743-6670.
- 11 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 11 ISD 317 School Board meets at Deer River HS, 6 p.m. Public forum 5:45 p.m.
- 11 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 11 Blackduck ISD 32 School Board meets, 6 p.m. in the Media Center.
- 12 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.
- 12 Bigfork City Council meets at City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 13 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
- 14 Classic Movies at the Edge Center in Bigfork presents *Mary Poppins* (1964) starring Julie Andrews, 6:30 p.m. Free.
- 14 Continuation of Ardenhurst Annual Town Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 15 Last day for public comments on parcel transfer in the Chippewa National Forest.
- 15 ISD 318 School Board meeting at Bigfork School or at watchictv.org, 6:30 p.m. Open Forum, 6 p.m. Information: jasmussen@isd318.org or call (218) 327-5704. Livestream from link at isd318.org.
- 16-17 Bargains Are Great on Highway 38 Garage Sales, Grand Rapids to Effie. More information, call (218) 832-3161 or see Facebook.
- 17 Annual fundraiser for the Bigfork Valley Community Foundation, "Boot Scootin' in the Woods," Wilderness Barn, Bigfork, 4-7 p.m. Tickets \$45, call (218) 743-4116, Timber Rose in Bigfork or Discovery Center in Marcell.

- 18 North Country Gardeners meet, 5:30 p.m. at the Marcell Family Center. All are welcome.
- 21 Last Flea and Farmer's Market at Talmoon Little Turtle Lake Store, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 22 The Edge Theatre in Bigfork presents Gaelynn Lea in concert, with original songs and traditional fiddle tunes. 7 p.m. Adults \$10, students \$5. Masking required.
- 23 Women's Expo and Community Flea Market in Northome at the Northome Fairgrounds.
- 25 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 27 Candidate forum for Koochiching County Commissioner, Northome City Hall, 6 p.m.
- 29 Fall Round Up grant applications due at headquarters in Bigfork, 3:30 p.m.

Marcell Family Center



218-832-3444

49023 State Highway 38 Marcell, MN 56657

MFC hours:

Fitness Center, gymnasium, multi-purpose room, public computer room and WiFi hotspot.
 Mon: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 4-7 p.m.
 Tues, Thurs: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 4-7 p.m.
 Fri: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Area Church Directory

Alwood 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

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

Church directory sponsored by North Itasca Electric Cooperative, send changes to editor, sedgwick@paulbunyan.net

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BVCF donates to Career Pathways

The Bigfork Valley Community Foundation recently contributed \$500 to the Itasca Area School Collaborative for Career Pathways. Shown are (l to r): Meredie Rounds, BVCF board member; Scott Patrow, IASC for Career Pathways; Meredith Morneau, BVCF board member.

CNF to transfer 11,760 acres to Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

In December 2020, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation Restoration Act was passed by Congress, which recognized that tribal allotments in the reservation were sold illegally by the Department of the Interior from 1948 to 1959.

On Aug. 11, the Chippewa National Forest announced it had completed its work with the Leech Land Band to identify 11,760 acres to be transferred back to the Secretary of the Interior to be held in trust as part of the reservation.

The map of parcels affected is available at fs.usda.gov/Chippewa. At the Story Map page, click on Transfer Land Parcels. In the North Itasca Electric service area, parcels generally are clustered in the Rice Lake, Cedar Lake, Squaw Lake and Inger areas. The selection, according to the CNF, is to “limit fragmentation of ownership boundaries while honoring private property rights.” Easements and permits will also be honored.

A public comment period extends to September 15. Online comments can be made at fs.usda.gov/main/chippewa/workingtogether/tribalrelations.

Effie will vote on 5G tower permit in September

by Sally Sedgwick

In a lively and lengthy meeting on Aug. 14, the Effie City Council addressed issues that ranged from the 5G cell tower proposal to furnace replacement. It also lost an employee.

“It’s a Catch 22,” said Mayor Greta Drewlow about the Verizon response to a request for a presentation on its proposal to place a 5G tower in the middle of the city. Verizon has said it will need to know that a conditional use permit filing will be accepted and approved before coming to a council meeting, but Drewlow pointed out that the council is divided and people can’t be reassured without a presentation. The council can accept conditional use permit applications.

Stuart Ostendorf, the owner of the property, reported that a Verizon representative said that the company had \$60,000-\$70,000 into the site, but would just “pull the plug” if the city was against it rather than consider another site. Ostendorf said the signal would cover the rodeo grounds as well as Effie, and would not have a dead spot under the tower. The company has told him that a cell phone or microwave would emit more radiation than the tower.

A vote will be taken on the permit at the next meeting.

Kassie Hall of AUS, the city sewer operator, reported that on a scheduled mid-month check, the sewer pumps had not automatically kicked on and the system had started to back up. However, the screens looked fine and the UPS was working. Later in the meeting the city clerk was asked to update the quote for the equipment to automatically take and send remote readings.

The city found that cities could erect their own speed limit signs within city limits. Effie will purchase and install two 30 mph signs and two 55 mph signs on Co. Rd. 5 and State Highway 38.

The city received three quotes for furnace replacement and awarded it to Spring Lake Heating and Cooling for approximately \$7,500. There is about \$18,000 available for the furnace and roof repairs.

In a sometimes heated exchange, city employee Lindsey Foss and council members discussed issues on the job. Foss resigned effective immediately.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday Sept. 11 at 6 p.m. in the Community Center.

Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum.

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 Call Kevin for a no-obligation quote or policy review
 401 Main Ave., Bigfork 56628 next to the post office

recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes

Zucchini Sandwich

Thank you to Janet Kogler for this September recipe!

Lightly toast 2 slices heavy wheat bread (such as Brownberry). Spread mayonnaise on both slices.

Grate 1 Tablespoon onion and mix with 2/3 cup grated zucchini. Divide and spread on bread.

Season with Lawry’s seasoned salt.

Broil until steaming. Remove and top with tomato slices and sprinkle with pepper.

Grate mozzarella cheese over sandwich, enough to cover tomatoes, and broil until cheese is melted, about 2 minutes.

My husband asks for this all the time!



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 OCTOBER issue: Fri., Sept. 15

-SERVICES-

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) 897-5918 12/23

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 - √ Private Forest Mgmt.
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just west of Hwy 38*
For immediate service, call Keith at 612-240-2610

-SALES-

Joyce's New and Used Shop: Plants and miscellaneous. Open the first Fri. and Sat. of the month. July through Sept. 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 9/23

-FREE-

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

-FOR SALE-

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

For sale: Hulk ladies right handed golf clubs. 3-9 irons, driver, 3 and 5 fairway woods, pitching and sand wedges, cover and bag. Like new. \$75. Call (218) 832-3329 9/23

For sale: New DR Lawn Vac with 9.5 motor, \$1,995. Bear Cat chipper shredder, exc. cond. 8 hp Honda motor. \$2,195. Husquavarna pole saw, extends 14 ft. 327-PT5S, \$300. Exc Ryobi gas leaf blower, exc. cond., \$50. Call (218) 743-3933 9/23

-FOR SALE-

For sale: Tempur-Pedic Queen size mattress, 11" Hybrid Pro Adapt Medium with head lift. Seldom used. \$1,000. Call (218) 966-2052 9/23

For sale: LG 29 cu.ft. French door refrigerator, 2015 model LFXS29626 in white, used for 5 years, exc. cond., new cost was \$2,500 then, sell for \$1,050 now. Home Comfort wood cook stove, gray with warming bins, \$250. Coleman 5kW generator \$495. Genesys automotive scanner, needs update, \$275. Frigidaire 25 pt. dehumidifier, \$35. Two Servel gas fridges, \$250 for both. Howard Miller tall clock w/Westminster chimes, \$400. Call (218) 308-1335 9/23

-VEHICLES- TRAILERS, ATVs

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

For sale: 6'4" x 12', 2 ramp trailer. Some rust. \$500. Call (218) 743-3933 9/23

For sale: 2005 John Deere Trail Buck 650 EX ATV. Excellent cond., 600 miles. Includes winch. Stored inside. \$4,000 or best offer. Call (651) 746-9454 9/23

Notice of the Continuation of Ardenhurst Township Annual Meeting
Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Ardenhurst Township, County of Itasca, State of Minnesota that the Continuation of the Annual Township Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 14th, 2023. The Continuation of the Annual Meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.
The Continuation of the Annual meeting will be held at the following location:
Ardenhurst Township Hall
66733 State Highway 46
Northome, MN 56661
Ardenhurst Township is also compiling an email list of those residents and property owners who would like to be added to our mailing list for events and notices. If you are interested in receiving our communications, please email Patti Mull at pxmull@gmail.com

-VEHICLES- TRAILERS, ATVs

For sale: 1958 Cushman Eagle motor scooter, stored almost 60 years – like a barn find. \$4,500. Call (218) 244-5002 9/23

-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, BOATS

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

-WATER SPORTS- MOTORS, BOATS

For sale: Lund boat. 2002 Lund 1775 Pro V tiller. 75 H.P. Yamaha 4 stroke engine. 70 lb. trolling motor 24 volt. Shorelander roller trailer. Very good condition. \$11,000. Call (218) 832-3329 9/23

For sale: Floe dock sections. 4x16 feet sections with cedar decking. Adjustable wheels. 6 pieces available. \$900 per piece. Good condition. Call (218) 832-3329 9/23

-FARM-

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

For sale: 1944 Ford 2N tractor. New rubber; runs great! Includes plow, spring rake, lift and 360 degree blade. \$6,000. Call, come and look, make an offer. Call (218) 743-4025 9/23

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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.
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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.

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

Koochiching County Fair

(from top right, clockwise) Part of the Honor Guard in parade, winner of the Medallion Hunt (photo by Karrie Gieser), Northhome Volunteer Fire Department joins parade, sand pile (photo by Emily Lindley), a few of the winners of the Olson's Kid's Pedal Tractor Pulls (photos by LaVon Weidenborner), face painting, fireworks (photo by Diana Swalboski), enjoying a treat, Huffu bike winner (photo by Karrie Gieser), pony rides (photo by Emily Lindley), parade Grand Marshals Jack and Karen Ungerecht. All photos not credited taken by Rena Troy.



Parade winners: Float: (1) Bob Malterud (2) Mizpah Community (3) Clear Lake. Auto: (1) Carol Skoe (2) Gene Weidendost (3) Don Nagel. Tractor: (1) Jerome Smischney, (2) Diane Smischney (3) Buzz Gehler. Kiddie Parade: (1) Northhome Community Church. For more Fair winners, see the Koochiching County Fair Facebook page.

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