



NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

WATTS NEWS

VOL. 28 NO. 7

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

JULY 2025

CEO Report

Good afternoon North Itasca Electric Member-Owners!

I always get excited for the Annual meeting, a little nervous, but always excited. I want to thank the Northhome community for hosting us this year. Thank you to Teener at the Shining Light Café for making the desserts to share.

This part of my presentation is always the easiest. Saying thank you doesn't seem like enough for all the fine employees of North Itasca. I couldn't be prouder of the team I work with. Our Line Department led by Daryl is top notch. These folks jump to action no matter the task they face, even presenting at the Annual Meeting. Thank you to our dedicated Line Department!

My office group has seen a couple major changes this year. Tina Danielson and Kim Giesen made the decision to retire from North Itasca. Dan Heinecke

has taken the reins in the office, Haley Grover took the point contact duties. We are fortunate to have an amazing team in the office to work with Dan, and for all of us. These office professionals are the best of the best! I cannot say thank you enough for your dedication and professionalism. Thank you to Tina and Kim for your years of service and leadership, enjoy your retirement!

Our Board of Directors and your attorney are my guiding light. Our board is well studied and prepared for their duties. They take the time to attend training provided by Minnesota Rural

CEO to p.2>



Brad Dolinski, CEO

From the Board Chair:

The challenge of uncertainty

by Larry Salmela, Board Chair

Greetings to all members of the North Itasca Electric Cooperative. On behalf of the board of directors, I thank you for attending the annual member meeting of our local co-op. The co-op exists for the benefit of the members, and that includes everyone here today.

The challenge in front of the board at every Annual Meeting is to help you understand the big picture of the cooperative's business and the long-term challenges and opportunities in front of us. This year discussing the long-term challenges and opportunities seems very difficult. We think trends are going one way, but then it seems that information will come along to advise a different direction and maybe even the reverse direction. The big challenge today is

uncertainty.

A good example of uncertainty is the debate between renewable energy versus the conventional fossil fuel sources. During the past several years we have seen windfarms and solar cell installations sprout up all over the regions with lots of open areas. The last time I drove through Iowa, it seemed that the windmills were getting as thick as the cornstalks.

But now things are going in a different direction in Washington, D.C. How will these new directions affect us? President Trump has signed hundreds of executive orders. But most of these orders are being challenged in the courts. Where will it all land? No one knows for sure. The uncertainty is the big problem

Uncertainty to p.6>

Member Services Update

by Drew Francisco

Hello again everyone!

Hope all of you have been enjoying the summer thus far. Our little family just returned from an extended weekend at one of our favorite campgrounds. A few bug bites and a little sunburn but more memories made!

It has been busy around the North Itasca Electric service territory for me over the last few weeks. Home evaluations, equipment upgrades and construction projects are

taking off. This last

month I attended the Minnesota Rural Electric Association's summer conference in Walker. A lot of

great topics were covered and conversations with fellow Member Services Managers were extremely beneficial. It gives us a chance to see what every other co-op

around the state has going on or may be implementing to make their member-

ship's experiences better. A lot of these conversations are based on load control programs, high efficiency equipment, communication to members and solar.

Most of the time I'm usually listening to bigger cooperatives

Member to p.3>



Spotlight on Business: Kocian's Family Market

by Sally Sedgwick

Several years ago Rob Powell and Becca Boggs decided it was time for a change. Last year, the opportunity to purchase Kocian's Family Market came up, and the couple decided this was the direction they wanted to take.

After ten months of planning and working out the details, they became the new owners of the iconic grocery store in mid February.

Started in 1947 by Bernie Kocian and continued by his son Mike Kocian, the store has a long history of serving the Bigfork community in

three different store locations. It became especially known for its meat department, and that won't change, said Rob. Kocian's double smoked hams, homemade summer sausage, beef sticks and ham

Kocian's to p.7>



Becca Boggs and Rob Powell in the Meat Department of Kocian's Family Market.

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extreme temperatures

page 4

July Refrigerator Sale

page 8

Convection ovens

page 5

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CEO Report (continued)

>from p.1

Electric Association and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Our directors are trained and up to date on the issues facing our cooperative. Thank you all for your dedication and service to the Member-Owners who are your friends, family and neighbors.

Let's get down to how 2024 went. It feels weird to talk about last year six months into the new year. 2024 finished just fine. We met our lenders' financial requirements. We kept our long-standing promise to our Member-Owners by paying out capital credits. We received a clean audit from an independent firm Brady Martz.

If you look at the graphs in the Annual Meeting edition of the WATTS, they tell the bigger story. In 2024 we sold less kWh than we did in 2023, but the expense of these purchases was higher than in 2023. Over the past several years we

have continued to face rising rates from our power suppliers. This continues to be the case in 2025; both Great River Energy and Minnkota Power raised rates. These increases forced the difficult decision to raise rates once again in 2025. I'm expecting rates to continue to climb over the next several years.

Why are rates climbing? I explained the system at previous meetings and in my article. The system works like our bodies. Our bodies can represent the centralized power grid we are accustomed to today. Our heart is the big central coal plant. The lines would be our veins and arteries. What happens when you close the big plant and replace the "pump" by wind and solar? Those resources are generally built in the country far away from the city center loads they need to serve. Like our bodies, the lines are smaller far

away from the pump. This leads to congestion on the system. We can't push all the necessary power down the current lines we have available. We need to rebuild the system we have relied on for years. This costs extensive amounts of money.

I put our board in a difficult position yearly during the budget season. There are fewer "controllable" costs we can shed to reduce rate pressures. If we look at the budget or another graph in the Annual Meeting edition of WATTS. Half of our yearly budget goes straight to cost of purchased power. Roughly 25% of the budget goes to depreciation and loans to investments made through the years. That leaves us with about 25 percent to manage.

We need to maintain and improve the system for you and future generations of Member-Owners. We can't afford to stop cutting down trees and maintaining our lines, the reliability and safety of our lines would suffer. The low hanging fruit has been picked; we also want to ensure we have a safe and reliable system for you to use.

I highly recommend you reach out to North Itasca Electric; we have



CEO Brad Dolinski addresses the annual meeting (l to r) Board Members Jim White, Tom Kallio, Lloyd Kongsjord; CEO Dolinski, Board Member Wes Waller.

tools to help you use less total energy in your homes and businesses. Drew has been doing an outstanding job working with our Member-Owners to help you save on usage and in turn reduce expenses. There are still tax incentives for air source heat pumps to condition the air in your homes.

We also started working with Zero Homes; this company helps to make recommendations and manage the work to be done. We are actively working to come up with low interest loans to help finance these projects.

We are also working with our legislators at the Capitol. If we are going to be carbon free by 2040, we need to have

a serious conversation about nuclear energy. We cannot rely on intermittent resources; Battery technology is expensive and not quite ready for everything we will need yet. We are also looking at potentially building peaking plants in Northern Minnesota through Great River Energy. These plants would need to run when the wind isn't blowing, or the sun isn't shining. Once again, these resources cost a significant amount of money.

Now I'm going to end this discussion on a high note! It's tough when I come with difficult news year after year. We have great news to report on. North Itasca was selected

for potentially two grants in the next couple years. Through the Minnesota Department of Commerce, we were selected for a \$100,000 grant to develop a wildfire mitigation plan. The remainder of the grant will be used to perform the right-of-way work called out in the plan. Also, we are very close to getting another grant to replace a substation and additional underground lines that would improve our system greatly. All these grants were made possible through the hard work and leadership of my team at North Itasca with the help of Rachel and Kristy at Star Energy Services.

By your side! Miigwech Brad

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

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Highlights from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
May 28, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on May 28, 2025.

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

Directors present via Zoom: none

Also present: CEO Brad Dolinski, Dan Heinecke, Daryl Pederson, Drew Francisco and Gina Vickerman.

Absent: T. Danielson and Andy Shaw.

- Pledge of allegiance was recited.
- Made a motion to adopt the agenda. Seconded; motion carried. A motion was made to consent agenda. Seconded; motion carried.
- A safety discussion was held on the importance of staying away from downed power lines. Drew said when they were called out for a grass fire east of Effie a couple of weeks ago, the line blended with the terrain and could only been seen because of the fire. Although the line is down, it still may be energized. Drew also praised Daryl and the line department during this time for their fast response time.
- Dan presented the Operating Report. Motion to approve. Seconded; motion carried.
- Board Policy: none
- Daryl presented the Line Department report. MREA was on site last month to perform Pole Top/Bucket Rescue Certifications. Crews are working on the underground project over by Dixon Lake.
- Drew presented the Members Service report. The 1st round of the BRG grant has been awarded. Some recipients are utilizing \$500 of their award amount to apply for the Business Energy Retrofit Program.
- Dan presented the Office Report. The Annual meeting will be held on June 12, 2025, at 2 p.m. in Northome.
- Brad presented the CEO report. Brad asked the Board to consider approval of attending and expenses to attend the MREA upcoming meetings. Motioned to approve. Seconded; motion carried.
- Matt from Brady Martz was present to go over the Audit report with the Board. He discussed Auditor communications, timelines, new accounting standards, and corrected and uncorrected misstatements. We conducted in accordance with GAAS. After further review, motioned to approve the Audit. Seconded; motion carried.
- Wes Waller gave the MREA report.
- Lloyd gave the GRE report. Made a motion to support Resolution No. GRE R25-5-1. Supports; motion carried.
- Round Table discussion was held. Motion to adjourn. Seconded; motion carried.

Member Services

>from p.1
share their stories or accomplishments, wondering how I could utilize their success and failures to North Itasca Electric's benefit. But! This time, little ole North Itasca Electric was the one with success stories to share.

As most of you know, there were some things I was working on over the last few months to hopefully bring more opportunity to our membership and contractors. North Itasca Electric was the first cooperative in the state to make the partnership with

Zero Homes. Offering extended services related to whole house energy savings to all of you. I was able to provide Zero Homes with a local contractors list, hoping to keep the work you need done in our communities.

After I shared my presentation with Great River Energy and all these other cooperatives throughout the state, I believe four more have now made the partnership with Zero Homes. Feels good to be the "front runner" on a project of this size. If you have any questions about the Zero Homes process for

both the homeowner and contractor side of things, please let me know!

In other news, we now have Ferguson inventory added to our sales floor! It is very exciting to be able to offer a wider range of products to North Itasca Electric's membership and contractors. We are still working on the set up and inventory side of things, but very soon I hope to have this up and running. Don't forget about our on-bill financing options when you have an unexpected breakdown or failure.

Over the next month I'm pretty booked up with



Drew Francisco member appointments and other various meetings with GRE and economic development groups. But please do not hesitate to give me a call if you're in need of some help! I'll do my best to return your call in a timely manner. I hope all of you have a great month!

Until next time,
Drew Francisco



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



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How extreme summer temperatures impact reliability

by Abby Berry

When outdoor temperatures soar, our electricity use increases. That's because our air conditioners are running longer and more often to counteract sweltering outdoor temperatures. Factor in that we all tend to use electricity at the same times—in the morning and early evenings—and that equals a lot of strain on our electric grid.

At North Itasca Electric Cooperative, we work closely with Great River Energy, our local generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative in resource and infrastructure planning to ensure you have the power you need whenever you flip a switch, but the electric grid is much larger than your local co-op and G&T.

In summer months, when even more electricity is being used simultaneously across the country, it is possible for electricity demand to exceed supply, especially if a prolonged heat wave occurs. If this happens, which is rare, the grid operator for our region of the country may call on consumers to actively reduce their energy use or initiate rolling power outages to relieve pressure on the grid. North Itasca

Electric will always keep you informed about situations like this.

We work proactively with our G&T to create a resilient portion of the grid and ensure electric reliability in extreme weather, including regular system maintenance, grid modernization efforts and disaster response planning; but it takes everyone to keep the grid reliable.

To help keep the air conditioner running for you, your family and neighbors, here are a few things you can do to relieve pressure on the grid during times of extreme summer heat:

- Select the highest comfortable thermostat setting and turn it up several degrees whenever possible. Your cooling system must run longer to make up the difference between the thermostat temp and the outdoor temp.

o Pro tip: Seal air leaks around windows and exterior doors with caulk and weatherstripping. Air leaks and drafts force your cooling system to work harder than necessary.

- Run major appliances such as dishwashers, ovens and dryers during off-peak hours when the demand for electricity is

lower.

o Pro tip: Start the dishwasher before you go to bed.

- Use ceiling fans to make yourself feel a few degrees cooler. Remember, ceiling fans cool people (not rooms), so turn them off in unoccupied rooms.

o Pro tip: During summer months, set ceiling fan blades to rotate counterclockwise, which pushes cool air down for a

windchill effect.

- Close blinds, curtains and shades during the hottest part of the day to block unwanted heat gain from sunlight.

o Pro tip: Consider blackout curtains with thermal backing or reflective lining to block heat and light.

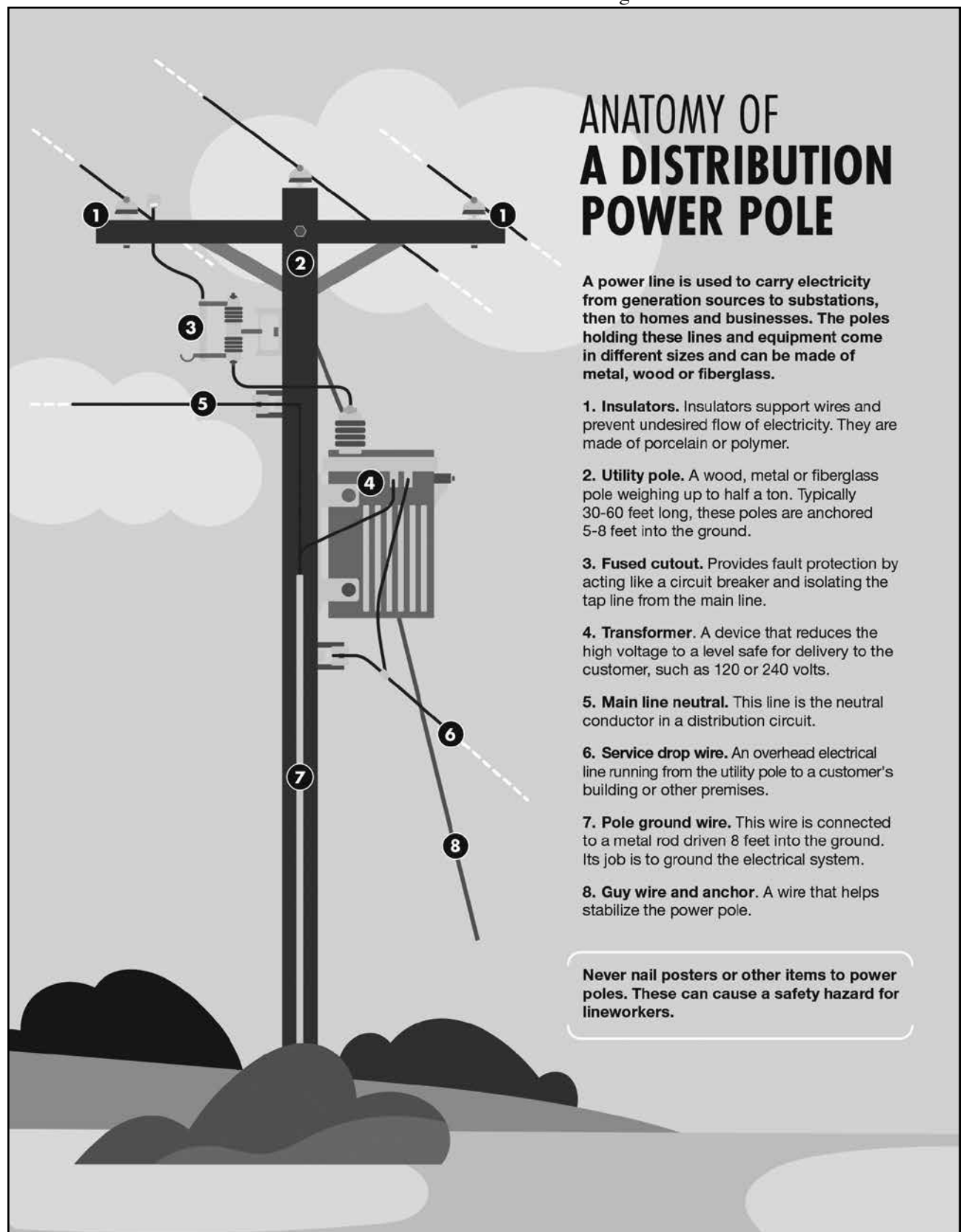
- Use smaller appliances, such as slow cookers, air fryers and toaster ovens to cook meals.

o Pro tip: Studies have shown that air fryers use about half the amount of electricity than a full-sized oven. Air fryers are smaller and use focused heat, which results in faster cooking times, less heat output and lower energy use.

As we face the challenges posed by soaring summer temperatures, understanding the impact on energy demand is crucial for maintaining a reliable

power supply. By adopting energy conservation practices during periods of extreme heat, not only can you save money on your electric bills, but you can also contribute to the resilience of the grid, keeping our local community cool and connected.

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



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Roxanne's Sales Talk

by Roxanne Prather, Member Services Representative

Convection Ovens

A convection oven works by circulating hot air around the oven's cavity with the help of a fan and exhaust system. The fan and exhaust help blow hot air over and around the food, surrounding the food so that it cooks evenly and quickly by creating a current of moving air throughout the cooking cavity. A convection oven moves relatively cold air away from the food and replaces it with hot air, resulting in quicker cooking times.

There are things that you should not cook in a convection oven; this includes anything with a delicate batter that can be altered by blowing air on it, such as quick bread, custards, delicate pastries, cakes and souffles.

Things you should cook in a convection oven: roasted meats and vegetables, casseroles, cookies, pies or anything that you want to toast or dehydrate.

When using a convection oven, it is recommended to reduce your cooking temperature by 25 degrees F. Whirlpool recommends multiplying the cooking time by 0.75. (So, if your recipe calls for 40 minutes, you should cook it for 30 minutes in a convection oven.)

Bakeware is also important. Make sure you use bakeware with low sides so that the air can circulate properly. Always use the right size pan for the amount of food you are cooking. When cooking more than one dish at a time, allow space between the dishes for air to flow evenly.

Efficient water heating options available for your home

More than 370,000 appliances owned by cooperative members like you are playing a role in managing the reliability of the regional electric grid and saving the entire membership money at the same time.

North Itasca Electric Cooperative and the other 25 member-owner cooperatives that receive wholesale electric power from Great River Energy offer voluntary programs that empower members to use the grid efficiently and economically by reducing demand during peak periods and shifting energy consumption to off-peak times.

By choosing to enroll an electric appliance, such as a water heater or air conditioner, into one of your cooperative's "demand response" programs, you are helping keep electricity reliable and affordable.

North Itasca Electric provides two ways for its members to make contributions toward helping manage the grid while receiving rebates or other incentives for their participation: 1) interruptible programs and 2) off-peak programs.

For example, a member who enrolls their electric water heater into an interruptible program allows their cooperative to temporarily reduce the demand associated with the water heater for up to eight hours when wholesale energy market prices are high.

"Through the flip of a switch, this strategy helps reduce our monthly wholesale costs," said Drew Francisco, manager of Member Services. "Water heaters enrolled in this program are required to have sufficient storage capacity to supply hot water over the peak period to ride through the demand reduction."

Participants are often alerted in advance of a control event and have access to a website that shares the schedule up to a day in advance. This strategy is employed to reduce high wholesale energy prices and lower the cooperative's monthly demand peak associated with the Great River Energy system.

If you are more interested in the off-peak program, you would receive a rebate for a high-efficiency water heater that is heated overnight and has sufficient storage capacity to supply your home's daily hot water needs. Program participants receive a lower energy rate and can expect their water heaters to recharge for eight hours, typically between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. during the winter season and 10 p.m. to 9 a.m. in summer. This strategy applies to weekdays and typically excludes weekends and holidays unless the system is experiencing peak conditions or high market prices.

"Participation in this program provides significant economic relief to the overall membership by shifting heating load to the overnight hours, resulting in more favorable rates," said Drew. "This also helps us shift wholesale energy purchases to off-peak hours that have lower cost than on-peak hours."

Contact Drew at andrewf@nieci.com or call him at (218) 743-1313 for more information on our demand response programs and how you can get enrolled.

Utility Scams Tip of the Month

Always be cautious of unsolicited calls (or in-person visits) to your home from companies claiming to conduct energy audits. These are typically telemarketing firms that claim to be a third-party company or pose as a representative from your electric utility to gain access to homes and sell services with the promise of government rebates.

Many electric utilities provide energy audit services, but they are typically scheduled at the customer's request.

Source: Better Business Bureau



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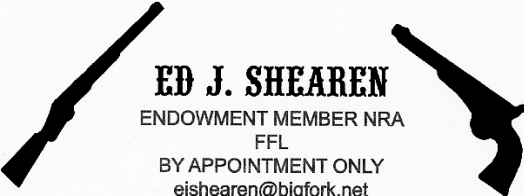
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Uncertainty a challenge for electric co-ops

>from p.1

because businesses, especially including the electric power industry, must plan investments to be successful over the long term, generally the 30-year time frame. The power sources and the systems to get the power across the country to the consumers everywhere require huge investments. The investments depend on reasonably accurate forecasts about how much power will be required and where will it be needed.

The planner is asking investors to place huge amounts of money at risk. Risk is the huge word here because when the risk can be accurately estimated, then the money can be made available to invest in the system. Uncertainty must be minimized.

As long as we're talking about uncertainty, what's going to happen with the tariff tax? Several weeks ago the president proposed a very large tariff tax, which shocked the stock market into

huge losses. But now he's backed down on some of the early proposals, which were withdrawn, and then they were brought back. Metals including steel, copper and aluminum are large components within the wires, transformers, connectors, meters and switchgear that deliver the electric power to all of us. Some of the metals won't be subject to the tariff tax, but apparently many things that we need for our systems vehicle will be.

Our CEO Brad has advised the board that a new truck needed by the linemen requires a two-to-three-year order time. Which of the trucks will require replacement



Larry Salmela, chairman of the North Itasca Electric Board of Directors, addresses the crowd of about 110 members plus guests that attended the annual meeting. (l to r) Directors Tom Kallio, Lloyd Kongsjord, Samela.

during that period? Should we place an order now? The manufacturer will not commit to a firm price for something that far out into the future, especially when they can't forecast their costs with certainty either. How will Brad

know the exact dollar hit on the budget? How will he know when the budget hit will occur? As of now, he can only guess. The uncertainty problem is huge for Brad, the Board and for the entire co-op membership. He might recommend keeping older trucks a little longer, but the parts to fix an older truck might also get much more expensive because of the tariff tax.

There is one other topic to discuss here. A few years back, I wrote an article in the WATTS News about the flat growth in electric power sales. At the time the flat load growth had been noticed by several co-ops across the region. Well, today that situation has changed in many, many places. New and very large electric power growth is happening almost everywhere across the nation-wide grid. The power growth is being driven by very large data processing centers operated by large distributors such as Amazon, Walmart

and Target. These data processing centers are a very new type of electric power consumer which were not a part of anyone's plans 20 or more years ago. The huge computers keep track of all the stuff flowing through the distribution chains. Nowadays the health care system also requires huge amounts of data for patient records and for the payment systems run by the insurance companies. When any of us gets medical treatment at the hospital or the clinic, insurance is almost always involved. The insurance might be Medicare, a policy provided by your employer or private insurance that you carry yourself. The data involved to track the health care provided in the hospital or clinic all the way through to the insurance company and the money flowing to make all this work requires hundreds of computers humming in many dozens of offices and data centers. They all require electric power.

Most of us have heard about artificial intelligence. Most of the time we just shorten it to AI. Few people understand what exactly AI is or what it does. What does it do? How is it helpful? Should we welcome this new development, or should we be afraid of it? It's clearly the latest technological advancement. AI is beginning to show what it can do. In fact, we're already using it when we depend on some sort of electronic device to help us get where we're going. It might be an app on our phone or a system in our car. Some gizmo on my phone knows how to find the best way, the

Uncertainty to p.8>



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Member Appreciation Open House



The Member Appreciation Open House featured CEO Brad Dolinski on the grill, door prizes and a variety of vendors highlighting energy savings equipment and processes. About 155 enjoyed brats and hamburgers with all the fixin's, and browsed the vendor stations in the headquarters garage. To follow up on any of the vendors, contact Drew Francisco at andrewf@nieci.com or call him at (218) 743-1313.



(l to r) Tony Kassa, Star Energy Services; David Diugan, Briggs & Stratton.

Loren Larson from Electro Industries, Monticello, brought a NorAire® heat pump boiler that is 200-250% efficient (l) and Mini-Boiler especially good for radiant floor or base-board operation.



Jeff Borling of Great River Energy shared information on the GRE Resource Plan to meet the state mandate to be carbon free by 2040, large battery development to even out loads and how much the business model has changed as GRE has moved from mainly generation to mainly transmission.

Steffes from North Dakota brought literature on their electric thermal storage (ETS) products using ceramic bricks and hydronic furnace that transfers stored heat to water for space heating. The company also has remote temperature control via the internet.

New owners at Kocian's Family Market



Part of the family of employees at Kocian's: (l to r) Jesse Porter, Bradley Foss, Greg Griffith, Jessica Graham, Aleycia Crowley, Yvonne Elkins, Rob Powell, Becca Boggs, Scott Olson.

>from p.1
salad ... and particularly the periodic meat sales where shoppers can buy large cuts and have them cut to order ... will still be featured in the store. The meat department also processes and cuts wild game.

Along with new faces, there will be new things for customers to discover. Becca discovered a two gallon pot on an internet marketplace, and now that pot holds different homemade soups each day that often sell out - including Rob's Chicken Wild Rice. The deli, too, offers homemade hot lunches and sal-

ads daily. Upcoming specials can always be found on the store's active Facebook page.

Wish the store would carry a favorite brand? The couple said to be sure to ask. They regularly carry some trial brands as well as locally produced products like maple syrup,

barbecue sauce and honey. For the future they plan on adding new services gradually as they learn the business, but high on their list are upgrading the sidewalk and installing a new sign. They are also looking forward to the annual Anniversary Open House in August.



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David Rossini came in from Colorado to explain Zero Homes goal to use local contractors to design systems for the efficiency and comfort of the home. The review is done remotely over the phone.

Hill Brothers Electric

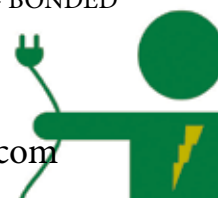
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Uncertainty

>from p.6
fastest route to get to a desired destination. These systems are examples of AI, and they’re getting more sophisticated all the time. The AI system owners already need very large buildings filled with computers humming away. And the AI revolution has only just begun.

The AI systems will need larger and larger data processing capability. There are new proposals for data processing centers within or nearby most all of our nation’s population centers including the Twin Cities. These proposals have already caused negative reaction. People complain about the noise from all the fans required to keep the computers cool. Some of the data centers will use large amounts of water for cooling, and people object to that; and they complain to their representatives in the state legislature. Some people complain about the new and very large power consumption for purposes they don’t understand.

North Itasca Electric is a member-owner of Great River Energy. GRE is making very large investments in new and cleaner power supply sources for all of the needs I’ve discussed here today and for countless other needs. Very large investments are also required for the electrical grid which connects the power sources to the destinations where the power is needed for homes and businesses including data processing centers. These investments must be paid back one way or another. We can only hope that the uncertainties discussed here will be resolved so that the investments will prove to be wise over the long term.



Speed Queen model comparison

Speed Queen Washers Comparison				
Product	TR7003WN	TR5003WN	TR300WN	TCS003WN
Wash Tub	Stainless Steel	Stainless Steel	Stainless Steel	Stainless Steel
Outer Tub	Porcelain	Porcelain	Porcelain	Porcelain
ADA Compliant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Balancing System	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic
Agitator	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Exterior	Durable 3 Coat Finish	Durable 3 Coat Finish	Durable 3 Coat finish	Durable 3 Coat finish
Color	White	White	White	White
End of Cycle Signal	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wash Action	Speed Queen Perfect Wash	Speed Queen Perfect Wash	Speed Queen Perfect Wash	Speed Queen Classic Clean
Motor	Variable Speed 1 HP	Variable Speed 1 HP	Variable Speed 1 HP	Two-Speed 1/2 HP
Cycles & Features				
Preset Cycles	16	6	4	6
Temperature Selections	4	4	3	4
Load Selections	4	3	3	2
Soil Level Selections	4	2	2	2
Quiet Agitation (43db)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Pre wash	Yes	No	No	No
Extra Rinse	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Warm Rinse	Yes	No	No	No
Soak Cycle	Yes	No	No	Yes
Max Spin Speed	820	820	820	710
Time Remaining Display	Yes	No	No	No
Favorite Cycles	Yes	No	No	No
Speed Cycle	Yes	No	No	No
Delay Start	Yes	No	No	No
Dimensions				
Capacity	3.2 c.f.	3.2 c.f.	3.2 c.f.	3.2 c.f.
Width	25 5/8"	25 5/8"	25 5/8"	25 5/8"
Height	42 3/4"	42 3/4"	42 3/4"	42 3/4"
Depth	28"	28"	28"	28"
Warranty	7 YEARS	5 YEARS	3 YEARS	5 YEARS
Built to last 25 years.				
Speed Queen is 29.7% faster - 50% quieter & 75% gentler on your clothes than competitors.				
Ranked #1 by Women!				
#1 three years in a row by Consumer Reports!				

Speed Queen Dryers Comparison				
Product	DR7003WE	DR5003WE	DR3003WE	DC5003WE
Dryer Cylinder	Galvanized	Galvanized	Galvanized	Galvanized
Heat Source	Electric 5350 W	Electric 5350 W	Electric 5350 W	Electric 5350 W
Heavy-Duty Fan	220 CFM	220 CFM	220 CFM	220 CFM
ADA Compliant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Exterior	Durable 3-Coat Finish	Durable 3-Coat Finish	Durable 3-Coat Finish	Durable 3-Coat Finish
Color	White	White	White	White
End-Of-Cycle Signal	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Motor	1/3 HP	1/3 HP	1/3 HP	1/3 HP
Multiple Vent Options	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Door Hinge Location	Reversible	Reversible	Reversible	Reversible
Cycles & Features				
Preset Cycles	10	9	3	4
Temperature Selections	4	5	3	4
Sanitize	Steam	Sanitize	Sanitize	Sanitize
Time Remaining Display	Yes	No	No	No
Favorite Cycles	Yes	No	No	No
Speed Cycle	Yes	No	No	No
Delay Start	No	No	No	No
Pet Plus Cycle	Yes	No	No	No
Steam Refresh	Yes	Yes	No	No
Steam Boost	Yes	Yes	No	No
Anti-Static	Yes	No	No	No
Extended Tumble	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Moisture Sensor	Yes	Yes	No	No
Adaptive Cool-Down Technology	Yes	Yes	No	No
Energy Star	Yes	Yes	No	No
ECO Dry	Yes	No	No	No
Cylinder Light	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Reversible Door	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Up-Front Filter	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dimensions				
Capacity	7 c.f.	7 c.f.	7 c.f.	7 c.f.
Width	26 7/8"	26 7/8"	26 7/8"	26 7/8"
Height	42 3/4"	42 3/4"	42 3/4"	42 3/4"
Depth	28"	28"	28"	28"
Warranty	7 YEARS	5 YEARS	3 YEARS	5 YEARS



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July Refrigerator Sale

FFTR2045VW- \$776.10 Sale \$698.49

Frigidaire, white 20.4 c.f. top mount refrigerator, auto defrost, reversible door, LED lighting, door storage, adjustable racks, gallon door storage, glass shelves.



FFTR1822UW-\$643 Sale \$578.70

Frigidaire, 17.6 c.f. top mount refrigerator, white, auto-defrost, reversible door, LED lighting, door alarm, leveling legs, adjustable door bins, adjustable racks, dairy compartment, interior light, gallon door storage.



FFTR1835VB- \$695.59 Sale \$639.94

Frigidaire black 18.3 c.f. top mount refrigerator, glass shelves, ADA, optional icemaker, EvenTemp cooling system, flexible interior storage system, humidity controlled crisper drawers, auto close doors, optional slim icemaker, LED lighting, frost free freezer, reversible door.



GRFC2353AF-\$2021.50 Sale \$1909.35

Frigidaire, stainless steel, 22.6 c.f. counter depth, French door refrigerator with ice and water dispenser, smudge-proof stainless steel. Auto defrost, 2 drawers, LED lighting, adjustable racks, door storage, gallon door storage and adjustable door bins, air filter, basket divider, power failure alarm.



MRF29D3AST- \$1560-\$175 DENT= \$1385 Sale \$1300

Midea, stainless steel, 29 c.f. jumbo capacity, standard depth. Ice and water dispenser, instant water filtering, optimized internal space, smart control, easy lift door bin, LED lighting, Interior adjustable cabinet shelves, Energy Star certified. Door storage, gallon door storage



GRFS2853AF- \$1985.19 - \$175 dent = \$ 1810.19 Sale \$1665.37

Frigidaire, stainless steel, 27.8 c.f., French door refrigerator, ice/water dispenser, LED lighting, Energy Star, child lock, door alarm, Sabbath mode, SpaceWise organization system, PureAir filtration, automatic door closing, water filtration, power failure alarm, interior light, doorstop, adjustable door bins.



MRB19B7AST- \$957.77 Sale \$861.99

Midea, stainless steel, 18.7 c.f. bottom mount 30" wide refrigerator. 2 level freezer drawer, full width door shelves. humidity controlled crisper bins, LED lighting, frost free freezer, Energy Star certified.



FRSS2623AS- \$1151.33 Sale \$1036.20

Frigidaire 25.6 c.f. 36"wide stainless-steel side by side refrigerator. frost free, LED lighting, door alarm, gallon door storage, door storage, dairy compartment, temperature alarm, power failure alarm, water dispenser, ice dispenser.



If you have questions, please call Roxanne
at (218) 743-3132;
email roxannep@nieci.com

Arts on the Edge

"Move It" into summer with *Madagascar*!

July 18-19 at 7 p.m. and July 20 at 2 p.m.

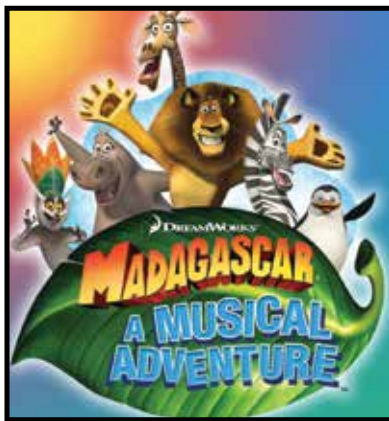
at the Edge Center, Bigfork

Recommended for: All ages

The Edge Center hosts the Stages Theatre Company for three live musical productions especially for young people on July 18 and 19 at 7 p.m., and July 20 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 adults and \$5 for children, and can be purchased online, at the door or by calling the Edge Office (218) 743-6670 Wed-Fri between 10 a.m and 2 p.m. Online sales are at edgecenterarts.org/events.

With outlandish characters, adventures galore and an upbeat score, Madagascar will leave you with no choice but to "Move It, Move It!" Join Alex the Lion, Marty the Zebra, Melman the Giraffe, Gloria the Hippo and, of course, those hilarious, plotting penguins as they bound onto our summer stage in the musical adventure of a lifetime.

Madagascar – A Musical Adventure – TYA Version is presented



through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI, www.mtishows.com.

Book by Kevin Del Aguila

Original Music and Lyrics by George Noriega & Joel Someillan.

Directed by Sandy Boren-Barrett.

Haataja, Prato awarded scholarships

Anastasia Haataja has been awarded a Royale B & Eleanor M Arvig Memorial Scholarship. This year \$3,000 scholarships were awarded by Arvig to 36 high school seniors planning to study technical or physical sciences. Haataja plans to study engineering.

Arvig is a local, employee-owned broadband and full-service telecommunications provider headquartered in Perham, Minnesota.

Eleanor Prato of Marcell was awarded the Minnesota Extension - Itasca County Master Gardeners Scholarship. She plans to attend St. Olaf College, majoring in biology.

Outdoor skills & stewardship webinars

Want to sharpen your outdoor skills over the lunch hour? Try these Department of Natural Resources "Outdoor skills and Stewardship webinars."

Each webinar begins at noon on Wednesdays and lasts less than an hour. More information and to register, visit dnr.state.mn.us/fishwildlife/outreach.

Fishing with live bait: July 16

Minnesota anglers have a culture of using live bait. Live bait is critically important to the \$5.94 billion contribution recreational angling makes each year to Minnesota's economy. Join Sean Sisler to learn about where minnows come from in Minnesota and some of the regulations related to harvesting and using live bait in Minnesota.

Buckthorn management: July 23

Buckthorn is one pesky plant! Sascha Lodge, terrestrial invasive species coordinator, will cover the two buckthorn species found in Minnesota, their impacts on forests, and a variety of methods to manage these invasive plants.

Walleye genetics and survival: July 30

Minnesota DNR's hatcheries stock millions of walleye in lakes across the state each year. Recent research on walleye has revealed how local genetics play an important role in survival after stocking. Learn how fisheries biologists are changing tactics based off these findings to improve the self-sustainability of many walleye fisheries.



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Edge Center Gallery

July 10 - Aug. 2

Off the Beaten Path:

Oil Paintings of Nelia Harper French

Gallery hours: Thursday-Saturday 1-4 p.m.

Artists' Reception: Thurs. July 10, 5-7 p.m.

Workshop: Aug. 2, 1:30-3 p.m.



by Tina Appleby

The Edge Center for the Arts is proud to display the landscape and portrait oil paintings by Nelia Harper French, a classically trained artist who draws her inspiration from the wilderness and people of Northern Minnesota. Nelia is a fiscal year 2025 recipient of a Creative Individuals Grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board.

Last year she was also awarded a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council to create 'plein-air' "paint-outs" in the Grand Rapids area with other artists. (Plein-air is pronounced "plain-air" or "plen-air", a French phrase for "in the open".)

As for the "Off the Beaten Path" display she states, "...[this exhibit] shows my work over the last two years as I explore Northern Minnesota and meet the people that are connected



to the land. Each excursion is an attempt to understand and depict form and space and humanity's relationship to nature while sharing the beauty ... and looking for ways to hold on to ... a misty sunrise on the lake, the silence of a snowfall, or the burst of energy in the spring. Working from life outdoors or with a model is an opportunity for understanding and connection. All life comes from nature. We are not separate from one another or the world in which we live."

Nelia Harper French feels strongly that arts improve the quality of life in our region. As such, she shares her talents via workshops, getting involved in community art projects, and encouraging others to create.

We feel blessed to have her offer a workshop here at the Edge Center in Bigfork on August 2 from 1:30-3:00 p.m.. There is no cost for the participation or materials, which will be provided. What a wonderful opportunity to try some simple nature sketches outdoors (inside if it rains) under the guidance of someone so accomplished! But don't procrastinate --- the workshop is limited to 20 students. Registration must be made through holly@edgecenterarts.org or calling 1 (218) 743-6670.

Bigfork Valley Community Foundation makes donations

The Bigfork Valley Community Foundation, through Itasca County ARP funding, recently contributed \$10,000 to the Edge Center and Bigfork School for a new building that will act as storage space for the Edge Center. The \$10,000 in funding was in addition to other funds previously contributed to the project by the foundation.

(Right, 1 to r) Terry Snyder, Itasca County Commissioner; Meredie Rounds, Secretary, BVCF; Holly Thompson, Administrative



Assistant, Edge Center; Stu Ostendorf, Industrial Arts Teacher, Bigfork High School; BHS Students, Industrial Arts & Project Management classes.

(left) The Bigfork Valley Community Foundation recently contributed \$4,000.00 to the Bigfork Valley Physical Therapy Department. (l to r) Mike Olson, DC; Meredith Morneau, BVCF board member; Courtney Olson, DPT; Michal-la Dunaj-Compo, DC; Melissa Nelson, OT; Ivory David, Rehab Asst.; Alan Dettmer, DPT.



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2025 Naturalist Programs

Many of the following programs include hands-on activities & crafts. They are interesting, interactive, and intended for all ages!

Program	FREE to the Public	Day/Date	Time	Speaker
The Common Loon		Tuesday, July 1	11 am	E. Prato
Scatology 101		Saturday, July 5	11 am	S. Horak
The Bald Eagle		Tuesday, July 8	11 am	E. Prato
Turtle Tales		Saturday, July 12	11 am	E. Prato
Water Bug Detectives		Tuesday, July 15	11 am	S. Horak
Ample Amphibians		Saturday, July 19	11 am	E. Prato
Interesting Insects		Tuesday, July 22	11 am	E. Prato
Minnesota's Pollinators (Bees and Butterflies)		Saturday, July 26	11 am	E. Prato
Wild Flowers		Tuesday, July 29	11 am	E. Prato
Backyard Birds		Saturday, August 2	11 am	E. Prato
Outstanding Owls		Tuesday, August 5	11 am	E. Prato
Smokey Bear's Birthday		Saturday, August 9	11 am	EOWDC
Minnesota's Forests (Trees)		Tuesday, August 12	11 am	E. Prato
Undercover Critters (Camouflage and Mimicry)		Saturday, August 16	11 am	E. Prato
Naming the Night Sky		Tuesday, August 19	11 am	E. Prato
Have a Berry Good Day (Wild Edibles)		Saturday, August 23	11 am	S. Horak
Water Bug Detective		Saturday, August 30	11 am	S. Horak
Scatology 101		Saturday, September 6	11 am	S. Horak

*For the birding program, if you have them, please bring binoculars.

Discovery Center summer hours

The Edge of Wilderness Discovery Center just north of Marcell on Highway 38 is open Thursday-Monday during the summer, 10 a.m to 6 p.m. Visit the center for interpretive displays and a gift shop. There are indoor and outdoor educational facilities, trail, pier and naturalist programs. You can also rent a kayak for a day on the water! Located at 49554 State Highway 38. Call for more information: (218) 832-3161.

Edge
of the **WILDERNESS**
DISCOVERY CENTER

PO Box 93
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2025 Drop In Naturalist Programs

Hands-on activities & crafts. They are interesting, interactive, and intended for all ages!

Program	Programs and materials are FREE	Days	Time
Paint a Hiking Stick Join in the fun at the Edge of the Wilderness Discovery Center in Marcell, MN and paint your own hiking stick! Unleash your creative side and add string, beads, feathers and more. Afterwards, hike the short interpretive trail to the fishing dock and more. Stop inside the visitor center to discover more about the fish and wildlife inhabitants. Bring a favorite stick to decorate or choose one from our assortment.		Friday, July 4 Friday, August 8	Stop in between 10 am to 2 pm
Tree Cookie Crafts Head to the Edge of the Wilderness Discovery Center in Marcell, MN to craft a tree cookie! Make a spider web. Paint a design or scene. Create a cup coaster.		Friday July, 11 Friday, August 15	Stop in between 10 am to 2 pm
Nature's Sun Catchers Come explore the Edge of the Wilderness Discover Center in Marcell, MN and make a souvenir nature's sun catcher to take home. Hike the trail and discover more about the surrounding wilderness.		Friday, July, 18 Friday, August 22	Stop in between 10 am to 2 pm
Nature Journaling Visit the Edge of the Wilderness Discovery Center and make your own Nature Journal to take home! Collect, record and delve into the nature around you. Wander the interpretive trails at the Discovery center to start your journaling adventure.		Friday, August 1 Friday, August 29	Stop in between 10 am to 2 pm

Learn Geocaching: Geocaching program at Bigfork City Hall, 2-4 p.m. Learn about geocaching and then "Go on the Hunt" at a second session. Space limited. Sign up with Nanci at (309) 256-0923 or zeinester@gmail.com. Free. Sponsored by Bigfork AGE to age.

Playstations are located at McGarry Park in Bigfork with sporting gear and park art supplies to use and return for other visitors to enjoy.

Effie Adult Softball Schedule
at the Effie Ballfield

Week 5: July 9 Power House vs. Old School
 July 11 Effie vs. Swamp Donkeys
 Week 6: July 17 Old School vs. Effie
 July 18 Power House vs. High School
 Week 7: July 23 Old School vs. High School
 July 24 Swamp Donkeys vs. Power House
 Week 8: July 30 Effie vs. High School
 July 31 Old School vs. Swamp Donkeys
 End of year League Tourney: Sat., Aug. 2

B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork
Coffee Club/Cribbage, Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m.
Bingo every Thursday, 1-3 p.m.
B.I.G. meetings 1st Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.
Crafting Group 3rd Wednesday, 5-7 p.m.

Community Cafe in Deer River
 The Community Cafe is available to anyone who is in need of a meal. Each Monday - Thursday, 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.

Electrical Inspections

Except for minor repair work, all electrical work you do at your home, cabin, or property is required to be inspected by a State Electrical Inspector. A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. Please visit www.electricity.state.mn.us for more information.
 The inspectors can be reached weekday mornings between 7:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.
 ▪ **Itasca County** – Josh Dehn (612) 772-6659
 ▪ **Koochiching County** – Brian Johnson (612) 757-9458
 ▪ **Beltrami County** – Wade Koons (218) 580-8589

area bookmobile stops

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

Mondays: July 14; Aug. 4, 25
1:45 - 2:30 p.m. Northome; Apartments
3:15 - 4:15 p.m. Alvwood; Hoot-n-Holler
4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Squaw Lake; Community Ctr
Tuesdays: July 15; Aug. 5, 26
12:00 - 1 p.m. Bowstring Store
2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Effie: Country Store
4:00 - 5:15 p.m. Bigfork: City Hall
Thursdays: July 17; Aug. 7, 28
11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Togo: Junction Bar & Grill

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

— Community Education —
Bigfork: Register for classes at www.getlearning.org.

LITTLE LEAVES GENEALOGY WORKSHOP
Date: Saturday, July 19
Time: 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Location: Edge of the Wilderness Discovery Center
Cost: Varies: youth, \$12; youth with adult \$28; and family \$40 (4 people).
Climb your family tree! Register by July 14, ages 7 and up.

Deer River: Register for classes online at (218) 246-8241, Ext. 60227 or www.getlearning.org
LIFE SKILLS FOR SUCCESS
Date: Tues & Thurs, 7 weeks starting July 10
Time: 9 a.m. - noon
Location: Deer River High School, Rm 101
Cost: free

Students entering grades 9-12. Career prep. and skills for independent living.

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.
Online 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.

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.	Northern Itasca Emergency Food Shelf 200 Main, Bigfork Thursdays 12:30-3 p.m. 3rd Thursday 12:30-4:30 p.m. (218) 256-4170
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	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: <div> <div> Blackduck: (218) 835-5768 </div> <div> Northome: (218) 897-5952 </div> </div>	

Rodeo Weekend in Effie

Reserve the last full weekend in July, July 25-27, for the 70th year of the North Star Stampede, “Minnesota’s largest open rodeo” where a contestant could be your neighbor or a well-known competitor.

The rodeo opens with a parade at 5 p.m. on Friday and 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Gate prices are \$20, children ages 6-13, \$10. A 3-day pass is available. Entries open July 14. For more information, call (218) 743- 6463.

All the traditional events will be held: Saddle Bronc and Ranch Bronc Riding; Bareback Riding; Dally Calf and Team Roping; Steer Wrestling and Bull Riding; Cowgirls Barrel Racing. There also will be Novice Bareback Riding, Junior Bull Riding and Wild Cow Milking (with a 3-man team).

Of course, there are also cowboy wearables, vendors and food trucks at the rodeo, and primitive camping on the ranch is available with a weekend pass.

Rodeo Daze

During the North Star Stampede, July 25-27, the city of Effie will host vendors, food, children's games and the Boot Hunt.

The Neighborhood Bar will sponsor the Boot Hunt: clues will be posted starting on Saturday morning. There will be children's games and the American Legion Auxiliary Bake Sale at the Community Center starting at 10 a.m. The Pie Social at the Fredheim Lutheran Church will begin at 2 p.m. and the parade line up is at 6:30 p.m. To become a vendor or for more information call Lil at (218) 743-3836 or email cityofeffie@arvig.net.

~ July Calendar ~

- 2 “The Club I Never Wanted to Join” breast cancer support group meets 3:30 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in the chapel, south entrance, Grand Rapids. More info with Lynn (218) 832-3612, lynn_ettl@msn.com.
- 2 Music Jam at Deer River Community Center, Co. Rd. 19 and 48. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Come to play or listen. Every Wednesday
- 3 Jesse Lake Lutheran hosts a Grief Support Group at 10 a.m. on Thursday mornings. For more information, call Marion at (320) 293-5741.
- 4 Independence Day
- 5 Music & Art Festival at Spring Lake Store, 48501 Co. Rd. 4, 1:30-4 p.m.
- 8 Stop & Stitch meets at the Marcell Family Center the 2nd Tuesday of every month, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. More info, call Debbie at (218) 360-1503.
- 8 Bigfork City Council meets at City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 10 Edge Center Gallery hosts "Off the Beaten Path: Oil Paintings of Nelia Harper French." through Aug. 2. Artist's Reception July 10, 5-7 p.m. The gallery is open Thursday-Saturday, 1-4 p.m. More information, call (218) 743-6670.
- 10 “Practical Water Wisdom” online programs over the lunch hour with Itasca Waters. Topic: Biology and Management of Starry Stonewort with Dr. Daniel Larkin of the U of Minn and Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center.
- 11-13 Wild Rice Festival in Deer River. Live music, events, food, Midway, parade and fireworks. For full schedule, visit wildricefestival.com.
- 14 ISD 317 School Board meets at Deer River HS, 6 p.m. Public forum 5:45 p.m.
- 14 ISD 318 School Board meeting at Educational Services Center Board Room, 601 SW 7th St, Grand Rapids 6:30 p.m., open forum 6 p.m. Livestream at watchictv.org. Information: jrasmussen@isd318.org or call (218) 327-5704.
- 14 Perry Heide VFW Post 9703 meets the second Monday of the month, 7 p.m. at the Marcell Family Center. Everyone is welcome.
- 14 Women of the Woods, 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Comm. Center. Call Lori Dehn, (218) 659-4796.
- 14 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 15 Free Community Meal at Jesse Lake Lutheran Church, 45834 Co. Rd. 4 in Talmoon 4-6 p.m. Takeout available. Pulled pork sandwiches, chips and cole slaw.
- 16 Stitch-n-Bitch meets at the B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork the 3rd Weds of every month, 5-7 p.m. More info, call Krista at (218) 410-2258.
- 16 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m. at Northome School
- 18-20 Madagascar – A Musical Adventure (TYA Version) is presented by Stages Theatre Company on stage at the Edge Center in Bigfork. July 18-19, 7 p.m. and July 20, 2 p.m. Tickets online or at the door; \$10 adults, \$5 children.
- 21 Blackduck ISD 32 School Board meets, 5 p.m. in the Media Center.

- 22 Northwoods Quilters meet 4th Tuesday of the month through October at Marcell Town Hall, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Show ‘n Tell and quilting techniques.
- 23 Public Kick-Off Meeting for the development of the plan for One Watershed, One Plan for the Big Fork River watershed, 5-7 p.m. at the Pizza Parlor in Bigfork. Hosted by the Itasca Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 24 Flea market at Little Turtle Lake Store, Talmoon.
- 25-27 North Star Stampede Rodeo at the rodeo grounds north of Effie on Co.Rd. 5. Fri. 5 p.m., Sat. and Sun., 2 p.m., rain or shine. Minnesota's largest open rodeo. Tickets \$20 adults, \$10 children 6-13. 3 day passes available.
- 25-27 Rodeo Daze in Effie with vendors. Events on Saturday; boot hunt, bake sale at 10 a.m. and pie social at 2 p.m. The parade will start at 6:30 p.m.
- 26 41st annual Blackduck Woodcarvers Festival, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Wayside Park. Woodcrafts and more.
- 28 Women of the Woods, 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Comm. Center. Call Lori Dehn, (218) 659-4796.
- 29 Bigfork Valley Hospital board meets, 9 a.m.



Marcell Family Center

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49023 State Highway 38 Marcell, MN 56657

MFC hours:

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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

Alvwood Community Church Sun 10:00a 58712 Co. Rd. 131 Blackduck 56630 218-659-4681	First Presbyterian Church, BF Sun 10:15a 109 Ash St. Bigfork 56628 218-743-3783
Balsam Bible Chapel Sun 10:00a 41516 Scenic Hwy 7 Bovey 55709 218-245-1960	Gemmel Community Church Sun 10:00a 10609 Town Rd 34 Gemmel 56660 218-897-5966
Bear River Lutheran Church Sun 10:00a 11141 Hwy 22 Cook 55723 218-376-1012	Good Hope Church - Bigfork Sun 10:00a 101 Golf Course Ln. Bigfork, MN 56628 218-556-9856
Bethesda Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a Mizpah 56660 218-897-5654	Grace Community Church (ELCA) Sun 10:15a 401 State Hwy 38 N Bigfork 56628 218-743-3368
Bowstring Chapel Sun 10:15a 45114 Co Rd 133 Deer River 56636 218-832-3171	Hope Lutheran Church Sun 10:30 a.m. 12234 Third St. Northome 56661 218-897-5654
Calvary Covenant Sun 10:30a 54764 Co. Rd. 31 Northome 56661 218-897-5684	Jehovah's Witnesses Tu 7:00p., Sun 10:00a Hwy 38 Bigfork 56628 218-743-3275
Centennial Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a Hwy 46 Squaw Lake 56681 218-259-0115	Jesse Lake Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a 45834 Co. Rd. 4 Talmoon 56637 218-832-3883
Deer River Bible Church Sun 10:00a 33276 State Highway 6 Deer River 56636 218-246-9570	Marcell Community Church Sun 10:30a 49103 State Hwy 38 Marcell 56657 218-832-3200
Dora Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a 59329 Co Rd 145 Northome 56661 218-659-4551	Northome Community Church Sun 10:00a 12071 Bartlett St. Northome 56661 218-897-5040
Effie Fredheim Lutheran Church (ELCA) Sun 8:30a Hwy 1 Effie 56639 218-743-3368	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 218-743-3953	Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church Sun 9:00a Mass also Tu, W, 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 12026 Lake St Northome 56661 218-743-3255	Suomi Evangelical Lutheran Church Sun 10:30a 42935 Co. Rd. 48 Deer River 56636 218-832-3883
True Life Church Sun 10:00a 45976 Terry Talmoon 56637 218-244-7089	

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



Help shape the future of the Big Fork River Watershed

Residents and landowners in the Big Fork River Watershed are invited to take part in a new, locally driven planning effort focused on the long-term care and management of our

water and land. The Big Fork River One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) process is now underway, and public input is an important part of developing a plan that reflects local priorities and knowledge.

A public kickoff meeting will be held **Wednesday, July 23 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.** at

the Pizza Parlor in

city of Bigfork. This is an informal, open-house style event where you can learn about the watershed planning process, ask questions, and share your thoughts about what matters most in your part of the watershed. Light snacks and refreshments will be available.

The 1W1P process is a collaboration among local and Tribal governments. Together,

these partners are working to create a voluntary, non-regulatory plan to guide how local water and land-related projects are prioritized and carried out across the Big Fork River Watershed.

This plan does not create new rules, regulations or ordinances. Instead, it helps coordinate existing efforts across the watershed, identifies shared

goals and supports landowners and communities in maintaining the natural resources we all depend on, whether for recreation, forestry, agriculture or daily living.

If you live, work or spend time in the Big Fork River Watershed, we encourage you to join the conversation at the kickoff event on July 23. If you're unable to attend, you can still share your input by completing a brief online survey at www.ItascaSWCD.org/programs/1W1P.

To learn more about the Big Fork River One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) process, contact your local SWCD or water management office or visit www.ItascaSWCD.com.

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New York Burger

Thank you to William Tracy for this July recipe!

Note from William: *This hamburger will make your mouth water after you are done reading the recipe. But there are some ground rules you must follow! Rule 1, 2, 3 and 4. Absolutely No (1) ketchup, (2) no mustard, (3) no pickle and (4) no 'knock-off' brand. If you don't follow these it will ruin the flavor and the burger.*

- 1 hamburger patty
- A-1 Steak Sauce
- Fried onion crisps
- Pepper Jack cheese
- Bacon

Cover both sides of the patty in A-1 sauce while cooking. When almost done, first put on a good amount of fried onion crisps, then add Pepper Jack cheese with 3 or 4 slices of bacon....enjoy!

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.

Cream of Herb Soup

Melt 3 Tablespoons butter or margarine in a large saucepan.

Saute 1 cup chopped green onions until tender, about 10 minutes. Add 1 cup chopped spinach (frozen or fresh), 1/4 cup chopped fresh basil and 1/2 cup chopped parsley.

Cover and simmer 10 minutes.

Add 5 cups chicken broth and 1 teaspoon sugar. Cover and simmer 30 minutes.

Remove cover and slowly stir in a cup of half-and-half.

Blend together 2 Tablespoons soft butter or margarine and 2 Tablespoons flour. Whisk in some hot soup, beating until smooth.

Add this mixture to the soup, stirring constantly. Bring just to a boil and remove from burner.

Serve in warm soup bowls with chopped parsley or chives as garnish.

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DEADLINEfor the AUGUST issue: **Friday, June 18****-SERVICES-****Bigfork
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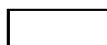
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Put WATTS AD in subject line.


If no response, please resend.



(left) Roxanne Prather serves pastries provided by Shining Light Cafe. \$50 electricity certificates were won by Sydney Williamson (top) and Karen Christensen for Dixon Lake Resort (top right). \$100 Grand Prize electricity certificate won by Larry Garbow (right). Flower basket winners below (l to r) were Jodi Ellison for Wildwood Township Hall, Terrance Jaeger, Nanci Zeine and Lauren Ellison.

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