



# NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

# WATTS NEWS

VOL 28 NO. 8

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

AUGUST 2025

## CEO Report

Good morning NIECI,

Andrew in our office was kind enough to remind me yesterday that the WATTS articles are due today, 8/15/25. I cannot say enough good things about the professionals I work with at North Itasca Electric! These folks are working hard to improve our cooperative every day. I'd even go so far as to say they are having some fun doing it along the way.

Our coworker Haley just became a proud mama of a baby boy, congratulations to Haley and Leo!

Haley swung through the office this week, we got to share a little lunch, and I got to hang out with Jr. Pretty special, I was trying to tell Jr all the opportunities he would have working for a cooperative in the future, he seemed very interested but wants to pursue a golf career first.

Our Board of Directors, Dan, and I attended the Energy Issues Summit put on by MREA recently. Four of our directors led the conference off by attending a board leadership course taught by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The Energy Issues Summit is a combination of fact and thought-provoking theory. We hear from professionals in our industry about methods to consider using back home. This is my favorite conference of the year. Many ideas to consider and conversation to have back home.

Our office has been training on new software and processes from Professional Computer Services. PCS will be back in Bigfork for additional training in September. PCS has a user conference yearly, I'm proud to report



Brad Dolinski, CEO we will be attending this conference once again. This is an opportunity to learn new methods and software to deploy back home. It comes down to the age-old question, do you know what you don't know? Our office professionals will invest time away from home to look for process and software improvements to make our lives more efficient and better back home. Thank you.

I noticed on my trips south on 38 we have several maple trees starting to turn red! It's only the middle of August, I'm not ready to start thinking about months of winter  
CEO to p.2>

## Member Services Update

by Drew Francisco

Hello again everyone!

Hard to believe that these summer days are starting to fade into another fall season. Which I am OK with as it's my favorite time of year.

Over the last month I feel like I have been all over our service territory visiting membership, contractors and other

various groups about all things economic development; throw a few extended camping trips in there and the month basically vanished.

I wanted to take a second to remind all of you that this year the great rebates for Air Source

Heat Pumps, Solar and Weatherization efforts will be ending in December. Here is a snapshot of what you could utilize:

Category	Description	Tax credit amount	Date of expiration
Electric vehicle	For the purchase of a new or used EV	Up to \$7,500 for new, up to \$4,000 for used	Sept. 30, 2025
Energy efficient home upgrades	For the purchase and installation of energy efficient appliances or building envelope components	Up to \$2,000 for heat pumps and heat pump water heaters, \$1,200 for insulation/air sealing, \$600 for windows	Dec. 31, 2025
Clean energy systems	For investments in renewable energy for your home	Equals 30% of qualifying costs for rooftop solar, battery storage and geothermal heating installation	Dec. 31, 2025

Member to p.2>

## One year GRE test of 'Neurons' yields real savings

One year ago, Great River Energy started the largest dynamic line rating (DLR) deployment in the United States with the goal of getting more capacity out of its existing transmission lines. The cooperative partnered with Heimdall Power to install 50 "Neurons" on 10 transmission lines spanning 175 miles.

Now, after 12 months with the DLR

sensors at work, Great River Energy has found major capacity gains and projects \$3.175 million in avoided congestion costs over five years.

Heimdall's sphere-shaped DLR sensors collect real-time information about the line and its environment with the goal of increasing capacity, or the amount of electricity that can flow down

the line. They can be easily installed by autonomous drones or line technicians on energized high-voltage power lines to adjust the line's capabilities to current

Neurons to p.5>



## Fall Round Up grant application deadline Sept. 30

Thanks to the generosity of the Members of North Itasca Electric Cop., the Board of Trustees for Operation Round-Up will be able to distribute grants to various communities and organizations in the area. Apply during September. Applications are due at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 30 at the headquarters office in Bigfork.

Each month, participating members round up their electric bills to the next highest dollar amount. The extra cents are 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.

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



# CEO Report (continued)

ahead. Ready or not doesn't matter, winter is coming. Are you ready for this winter? This is the time of the year to ensure your homes and buildings you heat are also ready for the season ahead. Do you have windows that could use a little seal? Have you had your furnace checked out? Have you replaced your furnace filter? This is a great time of the year to hook a garden hose to your hot water heater and dump several gallons off the bottom valve. This cleans the gunk that settles in the tank out of the water heater. Doing this at least once a year can save your bottom element. You

can always contact Drew in our office to have a home evaluation scheduled.

I'm writing this article from my table in Baudette. I came up north after meetings in Grand Rapids yesterday, we are heading to Canada today. It was fun to watch out the patio door this morning at five or six deer running around. While that was happening a nice size bear wandered through the yard! I was looking for Marty from Wild America, fun to watch the fruits of the hard work planting and maintaining food plots.

*By your side! Miigwech  
Brad*

# Member Services

>from p.1  
Other than that, just yesterday I attended the Lender Forum Luncheon in Grand Rapids. It was a great meeting. Presenters from various companies that help guide small business owners through the challenges of start-up or maintaining your current operations. The idea behind this meeting was to learn about the resources around our region and how to access them – that's where North Itasca Electric comes in. We may not be the lead lender or provide all the funding, but we can be the entity that walks beside you getting the correct

individuals together to make sure our local businesses have all they need to start something new, keep operating or renovating/revitalization efforts. A phone call to us could potentially open a lot of doors and provide the necessary dollars to bring more opportunities to the communities we proudly serve. Gap funding for down payments, equipment grants, low to no interest loans, CARES grants for childcare in small towns, hospitality loans (nursing home / assisted living / resorts) and business evaluations are some things that we can help you get access to.




Drew Francisco

So, if you're reading this please reach out or share with some of your friends and neighbors. North Itasca electric is here to serve in more ways than energy delivery. I hope all of you have a great month and enjoy the remaining summer days.

*Until next time,  
Drew Francisco*

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## 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. You can send in a change of address using the form on page 5.

## Electrical Inspections

Except for minor repair work, all electrical work you do at your home, cabin, or property is required to be inspected by a State Electrical Inspector. A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. Please visit [www.electricity.state.mn.us](http://www.electricity.state.mn.us) for more information.

The inspectors can be reached weekday mornings between 7:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

- **Itasca County** – Eric Kluge (612) 772-6659
- **Koochiching County** – Brian Johnson (612) 757-9458
- **Beltrami County** – Wade Koons (218) 580-8589

# WATTS NEWS

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Rep. to GRE Board: Lloyd Kongsjord, District 5

James White, District 1      Mary Rahier, District 4  
Todd Christensen, District 6      Tom Kallio, District 7  
Jeff Kilian, District 8



# Highlights from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.  
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
July 24, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on July 24, 2025.

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

**Directors present via Zoom:**

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

**Absent:** M. Rahier.

- Pledge of allegiance was recited.
- Motion to adopt the agenda. Seconded; motion carried. A motion was made to consent agenda. Seconded; motion carried.
- A safety discussion was held by Daryl and Drew on unauthorized solar installations. This type of system is dangerous to our linemen. Daryl said a shut-off should be installed within 10 ft of the solar panel so the linemen can shut it off for their safety.
- Dan presented the Operating Report. Motion to approve was made. Seconded; motion carried.
- Board Policy: Andy presented Policy 300.20 – Service Standards and 300.40 Energy Management & Efficiency for discussion. No modifications are needed at this time. Motion of both policies being read and reviewed. Seconded; motion carried.
- Daryl presented the Line Department report. Rachel from Star Energy was on site to help reprogramming OCRs on the Scenic and Bigfork Sub. Dixon Lake project is completed. The crew has begun plowing cable along County Rd 43 from Becker Rd to Daley Larson Rd. There were 4 new services this month.
- Drew presented the Members Service report. Ferguson in-house HVAC & plumbing is all set up. Home Evaluations are on the rise and for June we were able to connect with 10 new members about whole house savings. We now offer central air source heat pumps.
- Dan presented the Office Report. We are continuing to review processes after having PCS here for the Connect side of our software. Insight side scheduled for mid-September. We also are moving to the new Springboard software.
- Brad presented the CEO report. He reviewed the upcoming meeting dates with the Board.
- L. Kongsjord motioned to approve the CEO fees & expenses. T. Christensen seconded; motion carried.
- Wes Waller gave the MREA report.
- Lloyd gave the GRE report. Motion to sign the Resolution Form Approving NEXTRA Dodge Co. Amendment. Supports; motion carried.
- Round Table discussion was held. Motion to adjourn. Seconded; motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

## Apply to Operation Round Up by Sept. 30

>from p.1

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 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,

## 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

by e-mail to [andrewf@nieci.com](mailto:andrewf@nieci.com), Itasca Electric Co-op. Inc., Director online at [www.northitascapower.com](http://www.northitascapower.com) or by contacting one of the Trust com, by contacting your North Board Members listed above.



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**To be placed on the board meeting agenda:**

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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## 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 (\$71,999 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2026. 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. -Itasca  
822 NE 5th Ave.  
Grand Rapids MN 55744  
218-999-0800; 877-687-1163

KOOTASCA ENERGY ASS'T. - Koochiching  
900 5th St. Suite 304  
International Falls, MN 56649  
218-283-9491

BI-COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL  
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800-332-7161

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Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
218-327-2941

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615 4th St  
International Falls, MN 56649  
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115 6th St, Suite E  
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[www.NorthItascaElectric.com](http://www.NorthItascaElectric.com)

Get updates on Facebook!

## Saving energy during peak times benefits all

*Article provided by NRECA*

Conserving electricity during peak energy use times not only lowers your monthly bill—it can benefit our entire community.

“Peak times” refer to periods of the day when the demand for electricity is highest. Think early mornings when people are getting ready for work or school and evenings when families return home, cook dinner and unwind with electronics. When everyone uses energy at once, it adds pressure on the electric grid.

North Itasca Electric Co-op works around the clock to ensure that electricity flows to your home whenever you need it. Behind the scenes, an enormous and intricate system is at work—one of the most complex machines in the world: the U.S. power grid. The grid is made up of three major interconnections that span the country, each managing supply and demand

through regional authorities to keep the lights on and our economy running smoothly.

Electricity comes from a diverse mix of sources—hydropower, natural gas, coal, solar, wind and more. Some power plants can respond quickly to spikes in demand, while others are less flexible. Once energy is generated, it travels through high-voltage transmission lines to local utilities, like North Itasca Electric, which then delivers it to your home or business through distribution power lines.

When electricity demand surges during peak times, it’s more expensive to generate or purchase power. If supply can’t keep up, the risk of outages increases. That’s why using less energy during peak hours is more important than ever. It not only eases strain on the grid but also helps you save money.

So how can you “beat the

peak”?

✓ Start by adjusting your thermostat a few degrees during peak hours. Smart thermostats can automate this for you.

✓ Delay using energy-hungry appliances like ovens, clothes washers and dishwashers until later in the evening.

✓ Charging your electric vehicle overnight instead of right after you get home can also help.

Small actions taken by many households can lead to big results. When we all work together to reduce energy use during peak times, we protect our power grid, help control costs and ensure reliable electricity for our communities.

*The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association is the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.*

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## Cooperatives: By the members, for the members

Electric cooperatives like North Itasca Electric Cooperative are connected to their members by more than just the lines that power homes, farms and businesses.

This connection is demonstrated through the “cooperative difference” — or, the various ways the cooperative business model benefits members and their communities. Electric cooperatives are member-driven organizations guided by several principles that set them apart from other utilities.

One of the central principles is “Democratic member control,” meaning members actively participate in setting policies and

making decisions. Members also have equal voting rights, which they can exercise yearly at the cooperative’s annual meeting.

Each cooperative is required to conduct an annual meeting of the membership. The event’s main purpose is to hold the election of the board of directors as well as share important financial information and occasionally vote on other matters such as bylaw changes.

The annual meeting serves as an opportunity for the membership to let their voices be heard through open conversation with cooperative representatives as well as their votes to help shape the organization’s

future. The board of directors is comprised of members who live and work in the communities served by the cooperative, so they are in the best position to know where community investments are most needed. They also have a say in helping direct where co-op dollars are spent.

Electric cooperatives serve both an economic and social purpose. While providing safe, reliable and affordable power is crucial to their mission, improving the quality of life for all members is at the core.



Now is the time to see if your planned energy efficiency home upgrades qualify for a federal tax credit before they expire.

## Meter seals

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

By contacting North Itasca Electric, you can help prevent possible problems which could occur when North Itasca Electric finds that seals have been cut. These problems would mostly be on sub meters where load control meters are installed.

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

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

## Neuron test positive

>from p.1  
weather conditions.

“We are laser focused on achieving our mission of providing affordable and reliable electricity to our member-owners,” said Great River Energy Vice President and Chief Transmission Officer Priti Patel. “This technology will help us unlock grid congestion and achieve additional transmission capacity from our existing infrastructure, which our members have already invested in.”

*Ed. note: The equipment operates on the principle that the capacity of a transmission line changes with environmental conditions, for instance, a line can carry more power at cooler temperatures. Instead of using generic estimates, having real-time information can allow operators to use extra capacity when conditions are right. Read more at <https://spectrum.ieee.org/power-line-sensors-smart-grid>.*

## Grant program for Bigfork area businesses available

Applications are open for the second round of Business Revitalization Grants, a program available to business owners in Bigfork and surrounding communities. The application period closes Oct. 31 with awards distributed in November.

The purpose of the grant funding is to match your

business investment in improving either external or internal aesthetics or structures.

Need to replace an awning or signage? Make your investment go further by applying for this grant. Call or email Drew Francisco for more information at (218) 256-4142 or [andrewf@nieci.com](mailto:andrewf@nieci.com)

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## AI Tools for electric cooperatives

*from the NRECA*  
Artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming an increasingly popular tool for many industries and even in our daily lives. AI is a hot topic—sometimes exciting, sometimes a little scary. It has the potential to bring many opportunities—and a few challenges—to the electric utility sector. But machine learning takes time, and we’re still in the process of determining how AI can really be utilized.

Many electric cooperatives are already exploring emerging technologies like AI, virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR). Most of AI’s current applications are task-specific—like using chatbots to answer common questions from co-op members or analyzing data to better understand members’ needs.

Contrary to what Hollywood would have you believe, AI can’t think for itself. Its abilities depend on how it’s programmed, the quality of its training and the data it receives. AI is essentially about learning from patterns and making decisions based on that input—not about having thoughts or opinions of its own.

Because AI interacts with both internal systems and external networks, cybersecurity is a top

priority. As North Itasca Electric looks to adopt tools powered by AI and other tech, we will ensure our systems are safe from potential cyber threats. Strong digital defenses are essential to using any new technology safely.

As we consider emerging AI tools, our focus won’t be so much on the technology itself as on solving real problems. If AI can streamline a process, predict an issue or improve service for our members, it’s worth considering. As the technology evolves, AI may eventually be built into smart meters to help members track their energy use more effectively. It could even help our staff better manage the local grid or predict storm damage to deploy crews more efficiently.

Another exciting area is AR and VR. Many electric utilities are currently testing AR for training, giving lineworkers a hands-on experience to prepare for dangerous situations before facing them in real life. In the future, smart glasses may help crews instantly identify and troubleshoot equipment in the field.

Ultimately, AI, AR and VR are tools that can help utilities like North Itasca Electric serve their communities better.

## The challenges of AI

The rapid growth of artificial intelligence, particularly energy-intensive technologies like generative AI and large language models, is presenting several challenges for electric utilities. One of the biggest concerns is the dramatic increase in energy demand. AI relies heavily on data centers, which require massive amounts of electricity to operate. As these technologies expand, power consumption is expected to rise significantly.

This growing demand is also creating a strain on our nation’s electric grid, which can lead to instability and a higher risk of outages, especially in areas that are already dealing with high energy use or aging infrastructure.

While AI tools offer great potential in improving utility operations, these challenges highlight the growing tension between AI advancement and the long-term capability of the grid.

*The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association is a national trade association.*

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# Roxanne's Sales Talk

## All-In-One Laundry

by Roxanne Prather, Member Services Representative



Ever wonder how the All-In-One Laundry works? It's hard to imagine how you can wash and dry clothes without there being a vent to get rid of all the moisture. With a regular dryer the moisture is pushed outside. The All-In-One Laundry utilizes a combination of heat and airflow to dry the clothes efficiently.

Here is how it works:

**The wash cycle:** in this cycle the machine agitates and cleans your clothes just like a standard washing machine would.

**The drying phase:** this takes place after the washing phase is done; the machine uses heat and airflow to dry the clothes. Most

models use condensation drying, which doesn't require an external vent. This process involves:

**Hot Air:** The hot air from the washer is used to dry the clothes

**Cold Air:** the cold air is used to dehumidify the moist air, as warm air holds more moisture than cold air. This cooling process forces the water out of the clothes.

**Recirculation:** The cooled air is recirculated back to the heater to continue the drying process.

This method helps ensure that the clothes are dried effectively while minimizing heat generation and energy consumption thus saving you money.

Stop in and check it out! I have one on the floor.

## Heat your home efficiently and cost-effectively

from the NRECA

Heat your home efficiently and cost-effectively this winter

As the summer heat begins to fade away and cooler air returns for another season, members may find themselves considering how to efficiently and cost-effectively heat their home throughout another Minnesota winter.

Advances in electric heating technology, particularly air source heat pumps (ASHP), are helping to make electricity the go-to choice. They perform well in cold climates and have quickly become cost competitive with conventional furnaces — even beating them in upfront cost when coupled with federal, state and local utility incentives.

ASHPs are three to five times more efficient than most traditional heating systems because it takes less energy to move heat around than to produce it. With a natural gas furnace, heat must first be created by burning gas and then additional energy



distributes it throughout your home.

With an ASHP, the heat energy itself is taken from the air outside (even when temperatures drop well below freezing), meaning energy is only needed to transport and distribute that heat indoors. As a result, ASHPs are often far less expensive to run than other heating systems, translating to hundreds of dollars in annual savings for an average household.

While the annual expected cost of heating a home with a natural gas furnace can be slightly cheaper in some areas, ASHPs are far more affordable than propane. Members could expect to save \$600 annually to deliver the same amount

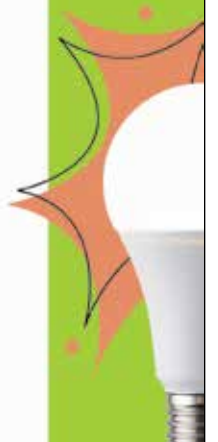
of heat by switching from a propane furnace or boiler to an ASHP. You'll also no longer be subject to the price volatility of oil, propane and gas.

Factor in available federal tax credits (30%, up to \$2,000 when installed before Dec. 31, 2025) and rebates from your local electric cooperative, in addition to ASHPs offering the dual benefit of providing a home's cooling needs, and it becomes an even more appealing investment.

Contact Drew Franciso at North Itasca Electric at (218) 743-1313 to learn how much you can save on an ASHP as well as other residential energy efficiency rebates offered to members.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Take advantage of "shoulder months," which refer to the transitional periods between peak heating and cooling seasons. During the fall, these milder weeks typically occur between September and November. Shoulder months offer a great opportunity to reduce home energy consumption as the need for extensive heating or cooling is reduced. Look for simple ways to boost indoor comfort without running your heating and cooling system. Use ceiling fans and open windows on breezy days to ventilate your home. On cooler days, add a layer of clothing and avoid running the heat.



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# September Laundry Sale



## **WM6998HBA - \$2195.70 SALE \$1976.13**

LG-black steel all-in-one washer dryer combo with easy dispense, Wi-Fi. 2- hour wash/dry time. Ventless design. Greatest energy savings up to 60% with Inverter Heat Pump™ Technology, LCD Digital Dial Control gives you helpful information with each turn of the dial, easy lint filter design allows you to remove lint after every load without having to use your hands, 5.0 c.f. mega capacity lets you fit more in every load. Includes LG condenser filter. 30 programs, 18 wash options, 5 spin speeds, 5 wash rinse temps and 5 soil levels



## **DLE7400VE - \$954.96 SALE \$859.46**

LG -middle black 7.3 c.f. dryer, easy load door, built in AI technology selects optional dry settings, ThinQ app-smart functions, flow sense duct clogging and lint filter indicator, aluminized alloy steel drum, LoDecibel quiet operation, reversible door, wrinkle care option, 8 programs, 13 options, Smart Diagnosis, Wi-Fi, ThinQ Care, ThinQ Up, remote start/cycle monitor, energy monitoring, Smart Pairing.

## **WT7150CM - \$872.70 SALE \$785.43**

LG 5.0 c.f. middle black ultra large top load washer. Speed wash cycle, SlamProof glass lid, water plus and cold wash options, intelligent electronic controls with dual LED display, never rust stainless steel drum, TrueBalance Anti-Vibration system. Energy Star, direct drive motor 10-year limited warranty. 8-wash programs, 9-wash options, 3-wash rinse temps, 3-spin speeds, 3-soil levels.



## **WM3400CW - \$803.97 SALE \$723.57**

LG-white front load washer 4.5 c.f., closet depth, Energy Star, direct drive motor-10-year warranty, never rust stainless tub, ColdWash Technology, 6Motion Technology, 4 tray dispenser. Cycles: normal, heavy duty, delicate, towels, speed wash, bedding and tub clean cycle. Pre-wash, rinse hold, pre-wash dispenser, auto load sensing. 5 wash temperatures.



## **DLE7150M - \$852.93 SALE \$767.64**

LG- middle black ultra large high efficiency dryer. 7.3 c.f., sensor dry, intelligent electronic controls, dial-a-cycle control knob, reversible door, Flow Sense duct clogging & clean filter indicators, wrinkle care option, Smart Diagnosis, Energy Star, 8-drying programs, 7-drying options, 3 temperature settings, 3 drying levels, manual timed dry 60-40-20 min or less.



## **DLE3400W - \$803.97 SALE \$723.57**

LG-white 7.4 c.f. dryer, sensor dry, flow sense duct clogging indicator, Energy Star, closet depth, aluminum alloy steel drum, LoDecibel quiet operation, Smart Diagnosis, 5 drying levels, 8 drying programs, 7 drying options.



## **DLE6100W - \$577.85 SALE \$520.06**

LG white 7.3 c.f. ultra large high efficiency dryer. Moisture sensor, Energy Star certified, intelligent electronic controls, dial-a cycle control knob, reversible door, flow sense duct clogging indicator, aluminized steel drum, LoDecibel quiet operation, Smart Diagnosis, 5-drying programs, 3-options, 3-temperature settings and 3-drying levels.



## **DVE55CG7100WA3 - \$776.86 SALE \$699.17**

Samsung-white 7.4 c.f. dryer, steam sanitize, WiFi connectivity with SmartThings, sensor dry, smart care, interior light, reversible door, lint filter indicator, 21 total drying cycles, 10 options, 5 temperature settings, 4-way venting, child lock.



## **DLE700W - \$770.90 SALE \$693.81**

LG- white, 7.3 c. f. ultra large high efficiency dryer. Sensor dry, flow sense duct clogging and filter indicators, Energy Star, LoDecibel quiet operation, 8 drying programs, 7 options, 3 temperature settings, 3 drying levels.



## **HTW265ASWWW - \$598.55 SALE \$538.69**

Hotpoint- white washer 4.0 c.f. stainless steel basket, deep fill, deep clean cycle, speed wash, deep rinse, 2<sup>nd</sup> rinse, auto soak, water/level load size, dual-action agitator, 700 RPM spin speed, made in America, 14 wash cycles, 6 water temperatures.



## **DLE7400WE - \$983.45 SALE \$885.10**

LG white extra-large dryer with easy load hamper/reversible door, quick express cycle, check lint screen light, child lock, auto temperature control, delay start, cycle status lights, energy efficient cycle, 4-way venting, heavy duty cycle and much more.





**MLTE45N4BWW - \$618.07 SALE \$556.26**

Midea white 7.0 c.f. Dryer with sensor dry, smart control, wrinkle care, drum light, reversible door, 4-drying levels, 4-temperature selections.



**WM3470CM - \$1079.57 SALE \$993.20**

LG middle black ultra large capacity 5.0 c.f. washer with ColdWash, NFC tag on. 6Motion Technology, direct drive motor-10-year limited warranty, Energy Star, closet depth, never rust stainless steel tub. TrueBalance Anti-Vibration system & LoDecibel quiet operation. Tub clean system, Smart Diagnosis, speed wash cycle. 8-wash programs, 8-wash options, 5-wash/rinse temps, 5-spin speeds, 3- soil levels.



**MLTW44A4BWW -\$625.30 SALE \$562.77**

Midea white 4.4 c.f. top load washer with agitator, stainless tub. Smart control, power wave agitator, easy reach, two stage dispenser, soft close lid. 10 cycles: normal, bedding, heavy duty, towels, whites, quick wash, delicates, rinse & spin, tub clean, my cycle. 6-Options: Delay, extra rinse, fabric softener, My Cycle, smart control, signal. 4 soil levels, 4 water temperatures.



**GTD8EASWWS - \$560.74 SALE \$504.67**

GE white 7.0 top load dryer. Quick fluff, more/less dry, time dry (20,40,60 minutes), cooling, casuals, delicates, and much more. Push button start, dial-a cycle knob.



**DLE3600V - \$1023.23 SALE \$941.37**

LG medium black 7.4 c.f. smart dryer. Damp dry signal sensor, dry, normal, heavy duty, bedding, small load, time dry (20,40,60 minutes), more/less time, delicates, perm press, manual dry, speed dry, air dry, downloaded, clean lint filter light, 5 drying levels and 5 temperature settings. Wrinkle care, signal, energy saver cycle.



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# Arts on the Edge:

Sam Miltich at the Edge Center on Saturday, September 13 at 7 p.m.

"Miletici: New Music From The Old Country" is Sam Miltich's newest musical project. The name Miletici is the plural of Sam and Matthew Miltich's traditional Croatian last name 'Miletic,' and the name of the village where Matthew's father was raised as a child.

This new ensemble focuses on music from Dalmatia, The Balkans, and the broader Eastern and Central European region. The band draws their repertoire from traditional Tamburitza and Romani Cocek music from the Balkans, Klapa music from Dalmatia, and Jewish Klezmer and traditional Slavic folk songs from Central and Eastern Europe.

The band is composed of Sam Miltich as the leader playing both guitar, tamburitza, and vocals, Matthew Miltich on upright bass and vocals, Gary Schulte on violin, Mark Kreitzer on mandolin and guitar and Tony Balluff on clarinet. What sets this ensemble apart from other traditional folk ensembles is that all of the band members are full time jazz musicians.

Miletici puts new twists on old music by infusing the band's love of improvisation into traditional music. You may hear Klezmer songs played in a swing

rhythm, or open improvised solo sections on a Romani Cocek from Macedonia. It is this spirit of improvisational exploration that truly sets this ensemble apart.

We hope you will join us and enjoy a new modern take on traditional classics from the eastern half of Europe.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children and are available at the door. The Edge Center is located at 101 2nd Avenue in Bigfork. For more information, call (218) 743-6670, or email [admin@edgecenterarts.org](mailto:admin@edgecenterarts.org). Visit us at: [edgecenterarts.org](http://edgecenterarts.org).

## Help shape the future of the Edge of the Wilderness communities

The Northern Itasca Joint Powers Board invites residents to participate in public visioning meetings for the Edge of the Wilderness Comprehensive Plan:

- Wednesday, September 10  
6:00 p.m. – Marcell Family Center
- Thursday, September 11  
6:00 p.m. – Effie City Hall

The Comprehensive Plan will guide the future of the cities of Bigfork and Effie and the Townships of Bigfork, Marcell and Stokes. It will set priorities for land use, housing, cultural and natural resources, transportation, economic development, intergovernmental cooperation, utilities and community facilities. By working together, the communities can make informed long-

term decisions and strengthen their ability to secure funding for local priorities.

At each visioning meeting, residents will learn about the planning process, participate in an asset-mapping activity, and help develop a shared vision statement for the future of their communities.

This planning effort is led by the Northern Itasca Joint Powers Board in partnership with professional planners from the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC).

For more information, please contact the Northern Itasca Joint Powers Board or Josh Bergstad at ARDC Planning at [jbergstad@ardc.org](mailto:jbergstad@ardc.org) or (218) 529-7516.

## Edge Gallery juried exhibit winners

by Sally Sedgwick

Winners for the Edge Gallery's 19th annual juried show were announced at the artists' reception on Aug. 8 with an audience of over 130. Artist and educator Susan Maquire was the juror for the show.

Awards included a \$300 award for Best of Show sponsored by Kocian's Family Market and won by Heidi Phillips of Deer River with an acrylic and plastic work titled "Emotional Overload." Her artist statement describes it as "a breaking point between emotional repression and eruption" and points to a hidden poem in binary code within the painting.

Two Awards of Excellence for \$200 were sponsored by First State Bank of Bigfork and Arvig Communications. The People's Choice Award is voted on by attendees and receives an award of \$100.



Heidi Phillips of Deer River won the Best of Show Award with her acrylic and plastic work: "Emotional Overload."



The People's Choice Award was won by Kristin Anderson of Bigfork for her wool felt tapestry "New England Violet."



Two Awards of Excellence were presented to Beth Vander Heiden of New Prague (above) for her photograph, "Beneath the Dancing Sky" and Becca Mulenburg of Duluth for her oil painting "From Misery to Missouri."



Juror Susan Dunkerley Maguire (right, above) is an award-winning teaching professor in the Department of Art and Design at the University of Wisconsin-Superior. She holds an MFA in photography from Pratt institute and has exhibited in the U.S. and Europe, with pieces at museums in New York and Houston. Selecting the works for the Bigfork show from digital submissions, she said she was pleased to see the works in person, and she looked for how the pieces inspired her when making awards. "I like the variety" she said of the exhibit, as well as the level of skill she found.



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## Edge Center Gallery

A favorite local artist returns: "Wandering in Wonder" a new exhibition from Terry Boal Leinbach  
**September 4 - October 4**

Artist's Reception with Appetizers: Thursday, September 4, 5 - 7 p.m.

**Gallery Hours: Thurs.-Sat. 1-4 p.m.**

*Submitted by Tina Appleby*

Wow, are we fortunate! – The Edge Art Gallery is very happy to announce that local artist Terry Boal Leinbach has agreed to grace our walls once more with her expressive abstract paintings (see photos). Terry is a gifted local artist whose work was very well-received at our gallery a few years ago. Since then, many of you have asked about the opportunity to view – and purchase – her work again, so here's your opportunity!

The magic is all in the artist's title, "Wander," in hopes that the viewer takes time to really take the work in, and "Wonder" in hopes that we, the viewer, will experience exactly that!

As to the latter, Leinbach explains her initial approach to the canvas: "nothing in mind."

Soon, some loose markings are made with this tool or that --- and mediums including charcoal and/or pastels, acrylic markers, pencils ... Then, she sits back and stares, cup of coffee in hand, waiting for something that evokes a reaction on her part. A shape or combination of lines eventually does so, and then the fun really begins!

What is the canvas asking? For certain colors? Highlights? A specific figure? Perhaps it "wants" to be painted over --- or is even calling for another piece of painting to be glued somewhere upon it! Back and



forth the process goes until artist and canvas jointly deem it complete. Leinbach does not title her work because she wants her audience to wonder, reflect – concoct their own musings and story. This, she believes is wonderful, noting that the very word "wonderful" literally has "wonder" in it!

Terry Boal Leinbach and her husband Ray have managed eighty acres north of Blackduck for the last fifty years. Other residents have included two sons, foster children, sheep, goats, horses, chickens, dogs and cats. Now retired, they still heat with wood and manage to grow and put up vegetables to last the whole year through. Terry's past included a forty year job with Head Start, and she credits the experience with those families as teaching her "more about life ... than one can begin to imagine."

An art and literature major in college, Leinbach enjoyed emphasizing "process over product" when teaching the kids. Fostering creativity, she encouraged them to do their own thing: (No declaration that "A sky has to be blue" for her classes!) She credits her classroom suggestions for subsequently serving her well in her own artwork, which she has enjoyed producing for the last ten years.

This is Terry's second show at The Edge and we are so very happy to host another of her evocative groupings. So please do wander over, wander in, wander our gallery, – and enjoy some of this wonderful!



## Classic Movie Series

*by Jack Nachbar*

It was a picture with no notable stars, a young director (Steven Spielberg) doing only his second movie, and a plot new to the movies.

When Universal Pictures released JAWS IN 1975, however, it immediately became a smash hit with audiences, and the biggest box office earner in the history of movies. It also earned three Oscars.

In JAWS, a killer great white shark is prowling the waters around Amity Island, a fictional island off the East Coast. This shark kills, and it must be stopped. Three men: the sheriff, a scientist, and the owner of an old fishing boat, set out to hunt down the shark, which seems bigger than life. This dangerous hunt quickly turns into one of the great adventure stories in the history of the movies. "You're gonna need a bigger boat." says one of the men and we know just what he means.

The three hunters in JAWS were fairly unknown at the time. But the film turned all three, Roy Scheider, Richard Dreyfuss, and Robert Shaw into major movie stars.

Come aboard the ORCA at 6:30 p.m. at the Edge Center Theater in Bigfork, Thursday, September 11. FREE!!

OCTOBER CLASSIC MOVIE: Pre-Halloween Special. The modern zombie horror movie was born in the very scary *Night of the Living Dead* (1968). Thursday, at 6:30, at the Edge on October 9.

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## Effie discusses local deputy, school demolition, new flooring

by Sally Sedgwick

The asbestos abatement at the old school is complete and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has been notified. TNT Construction has planned to start demolition on August 20. The adjacent playground will be closed from Sept. 12 to Oct. 21 for safety reasons.

New flooring will be installed at the community center on Sept. 29, and a volunteer crew will meet to demo the old floor and prepare the site. The center will be unavailable for rental during this time.

Sheriff Joe Dasovich, Chief Deputy Chris Peterson and Sergeant Jake Olson attended the meeting to build relations with the community and discuss a possible partnership with a deputy dedicated to the Edge of the Wilderness corridor on Highway 38.

A dedicated deputy for the corridor, covering Marcell, Stokes and Bigfork Townships; the cities of Bigfork and Effie; and the K-12 Bigfork School and Bigfork Valley medical campus would cost \$125,000. The deputy would serve just the assigned area but would have the staff and resources of the Sheriff's Department to draw on, pointed out Dasovich.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, Sep. 8 at 6 p.m. in the Community Center.

*Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum*

## Bigfork hears proposal for dedicated deputy

by Sally Sedgwick

Sheriff Joe Dasovich, Chief Deputy Chris Peterson and Sergeant Jake Olson were present to propose a partnership to bring a dedicated deputy to the Edge of the Wilderness corridor including Bigfork with the K12 school and medical campus. During the school year, pointed out Olson, the school would be a primary focus.

The proposal would be similar to the one in Bovey: a full-time deputy with a squad car on a three year contract with an annual fee of \$125,000 shared by the communities served.

The council approved vacating a 10 ft. right of way running under the canopy at Two Rivers Convenience. The vacation request was made to clear a sale of the property.

Jeremy Schwarze of WIDSETH updated the board on the lead water service line inventory project. There are only three services where material is unknown. Lead containing pipes will be replaced under a state program.

In other business, the council:

- Approved offering the red Public Works truck for sale by sealed bid with a minimum bid of \$2,500.
- Reviewed the preliminary 2026 budget proposal and tentatively approved keeping the initial levy request the same as last year. A preliminary levy will be approved at the September meeting.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

*Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum.*

## Practical Water Wisdom series with Itasca Waters

Join Itasca Waters online on the first Thursday of the month for free informative programs by experts. Register and find out more information at itascawaters.org.

**September 4 – Managing Stormwater Runoff on Your Shoreland Property - Minimizing Your Impacts** with John "JB" Bilotta, Senior Research and Extension Coordinator with the University of Minnesota's Water Resources Center and Maggie Karschnia from the University of Minnesota Sea Grant program and Water Resources Center.

Unchecked stormwater runoff from shoreland properties can contribute to water pollution, erosion and flooding. Presenters will discuss what individual shoreland property owners can do to prevent, minimize, and mitigate stormwater runoff from their property and discuss research into future trends.

**October 2 –When the Forest Burns, What's in the Water?** with Sarah Elliott, a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey Upper Midwest Water Science Center, who will discuss the current science on post-wildfire water quality and offer recommendations for addressing these knowledge gaps.

## SAIL classes

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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.

## Arvig launches digital life skills

A high-speed internet connection offers unparalleled opportunities for learning, connection and community impact. Yet, to fully realize its wide-reaching potential, this powerful tool requires one essential component: Knowledge.

With this in mind, Arvig is launching Digital Life Skills, a new educational initiative aimed at equipping individuals with practical knowledge and skills to safely and effectively use their internet service to its full potential.

“As a telecommunications leader, Arvig is keenly aware of our responsibility to inform, educate and ultimately empower everyone from students to seniors with the tools they need to thrive in the digital age,” said Lisa Greene, Director of Marketing at Arvig.

Digital Life Skills will be presented to the public for free in an interactive, in-person, classroom-style format. Each session—starting in September 2025 and continuing monthly—will feature a different tech-themed topic and skillset. For people who can't attend in person or want to view sessions later, recordings of the sessions will be available at arvig.com/digital-life-skills.

Beyond skill-building, Digital Life Skills will address some of the biggest challenges across the digital landscape, preparing attendees to understand, identify and prevent threats including identity theft, fraud and cyberbullying.

## 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.

## 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.

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

## area bookmobile stops

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

- Mondays: Aug. 4, 25; Sept. 15; Oct. 6, 27  
1:45 - 2:30 p.m. Northome; Apartments  
3:15 - 4:15 p.m. Alwood; Hoot-n-Holler  
4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Squaw Lake; Community Ctr
- Tuesdays: Aug. 5, 26; Sept. 16; Oct. 7, 28  
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: Aug. 7, 28; Sept. 18; Oct. 9, 30  
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 News

## Squaw Lake

The Squaw Lake Fire Department invites you to a Pig Roast and S'More Toast fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 13, 5-8 p.m. at the Squaw Lake Community Center. Come support your volunteer firefighters!



## General Interest

On the third weekend in September, from Friday the 19th through the 21st, expect crowds of happy shoppers on Highway 38 as the annual "Bargains Are Great on 38" garage sales take over from Grand Rapids to Effie.

Do your kids like big equipment? ...Really, really big equipment? The North Star Logging Expo is a free event at the Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids on Sept. 12 and 13. It's the biggest event of its kind, and all of the newest equipment is on display.

Like antique shopping? Did you know that area vintage stores (Grand Rapids to Bovey) hold a Fall Color Shop Hop in the fall? This year it will be Oct. 3-5.

Speaking of color, check out the fall colors on the Department of Natural Resources color map for the state at [dnr.state.mn.us/fall\\_colors](http://dnr.state.mn.us/fall_colors). You can check out the typical progression now, and follow what is actually happening in September and October.



## 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.

## ~ September Calendar ~

- Labor Day weekend: Spring Lake Store celebrates its 109th birthday with treats at the store.
- 1 Labor Day
  - 2 First day of school, all schools
  - 2 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](http://watchictv.org). Information: [jasmussen@isd318.org](mailto:jasmussen@isd318.org) or call (218) 327-5704.
  - 3 "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) (651) 303-8248, [lynn\\_ettl@msn.com](mailto:lynn_ettl@msn.com).
  - 4 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 The Edge Center Gallery, Bigfork hosts "Wandering in Wonder," paintings by Terry Boal Leinbach. Artist's reception Sept. 4, 5-7 p.m. The exhibit runs through Oct. 4; Gallery hours Thurs.-Sat., 1-4 p.m.
  - 4 "Practical Water Wisdom" online programs over the lunch hour with Itasca Waters. Topic: Managing Stormwater Runoff on Your Shoreland Property with the U of M's John "JB" Bilotta and Maggie Karschni. Register at [itascawaters.org](http://itascawaters.org).
  - 6 Last Naturalist program of the season: Scatology 101 at the Discovery Center just north of Marcell on Highway 38, 11 a.m.j
  - 7 Annual Jug Band Boogie Contest at Deer Lake Charlies, east of Effie to Co. Rd. 533, starting at 3 p.m. Sign up at (218) 743-3082.
  - 8 ISD 317 School Board meets at Deer River HS, 6 p.m. Public forum 5:45 p.m.
  - 8 Perry Heide VFW Post 9703 meets the second Monday of the month, 7 p.m. at the Marcell Family Center. Everyone is welcome.
  - 8 Women of the Woods, 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Comm. Center. More info, (218) 659-4796.
  - 8 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m.
  - 8 Blackduck ISD 32 School Board meets, 6 p.m. in the Media Center.
  - 9 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.
  - 9 Bigfork City Council meets at City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
  - 10 Visioning session for an update to the Edge of the Wilderness Comprehensive Plan, 6 p.m. at the Marcell Family Center. All EOW residents invited.
  - 11 Visioning session for an update to the Edge of the Wilderness Comprehensive Plan, 6 p.m. at the Effie Community Center. All EOW residents invited.
  - 11 Classic Movies kicks off the 2025-2026 season with "JAWS" (1975) with Roy Scheider, Richard Dreyfuss, and Robert Shaw. Showing at 6:30 p.m. at the Edge Center. Free.
  - 13 Squaw Lake Fire Department holds a Pig Roast and S'More Toast fundraiser, 5-8 p.m. at the Squaw Lake Community Center.
  - 13 Sam Miltich leads an ensemble playing "Milefici: New Music From The Old Country," a new modern take on traditional classics, at the Edge Center in Bigfork, 7 p.m. Tickets \$15, children \$5.

- 14 18th annual fundraiser for the Bigfork Valley Community Foundation, "Boot Scootin' in the Woods," Wilderness Barn, Bigfork, 4-7 p.m. Tickets \$50, call (218) 743-4116; Discovery Center, Marcell; Two Rivers C-Store in Bigfork.
- 16 Free Community Meal at Jesse Lake Lutheran Church, 45834 Co. Rd. 4 in Talmoon 4-6 p.m. Brats, cowboy beans, chips. Takeout available.
- 17 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.
- 17 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m. at Northome School
- 19-21 Bargains Are Great on Highway 38 Garage Sales, Grand Rapids to Effie. More information, call (218) 832-3161 or see Facebook.
- 22 Women of the Woods, 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Comm. Center. Call Lori Dehn, (218) 659-4796.
- 22 ISD 318 School Board meeting at **Edge Center, Bigfork**, 6:30 p.m., open forum 6 p.m. Livestream at [watchictv.org](http://watchictv.org). Information: [jasmussen@isd318.org](mailto:jasmussen@isd318.org) or call (218) 327-5704
- 23 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..
- 30 Bigfork Valley Hospital board meets, 9 a.m.
- 30 Fall **Round Up applications due**, 3:30 p.m. at the headquarters building in Bigfork.

## Area Church Directory

<b>Alvwood Community Church</b> Sun 10:00a 58712 Co. Rd. 131 Blackduck 56630 218-659-4681	<b>Effie Fredheim Lutheran Church (ELCA)</b> Sun 8:30a Hwy 1 Effie 56639 218-743-3368	<b>Northwoods Chapel</b> Sun 9:00a 50539 Mushgee Rd. (corner of Co. Rd. 622) Deer River 56636 218-659-2784
<b>Balsam Bible Chapel</b> Sun 10:00a 41516 Scenic Hwy 7 Bovey 55709 218-245-1960	<b>First Presbyterian Church, BF</b> Sun 10:15a 109 Ash St. Bigfork 56628 218-743-3783	<b>Old Scenic Community Church</b> Sun 9:00a 25747 Co. Rd. 340 Bigfork 56628 218-743-3953
<b>Bear River Lutheran Church</b> Sun 10:00a 11141 Hwy 22 Cook 55723 218-376-1012	<b>Gemmel Community Church</b> Sun 10:00a 10609 Town Rd 34 Gemmel 56660 218-897-5966	<b>Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church</b> Sun 9:00a Mass also Tu, W, 9:00a. 320 Golf Course Ln Bigfork 56628 218-743-3255
<b>Bethesda Lutheran Church</b> Sun 9:00a Mizpah 56660 218-897-5654	<b>Good Hope Church - Bigfork</b> Sun 10:00a 101 Golf Course Ln. Bigfork, MN 56628 218-556-9856	<b>Sand Lake Alliance</b> Sun 10:00a 55581 Co. Rd 4 Spring Lake 56680 218-659-2872 Church website: <a href="http://www.sandlakealliancechurch.org">www.sandlakealliancechurch.org</a>
<b>Bowstring Chapel</b> Sun 10:15a 45114 Co Rd 133 Deer River 56636 218-832-3171	<b>Grace Community Church (ELCA)</b> Sun 10:15a 401 State Hwy 38 N Bigfork 56628 218-743-3368	<b>St. Catherine's Catholic Church</b> Sat 4:00p 52265 State Hwy 46 Squaw Lake 56681 218-743-3255
<b>Calvary Covenant</b> Sun 10:30a 54764 Co. Rd. 31 Northome 56661 218-897-5684	<b>Hope Lutheran Church</b> Sun 10:30 a.m. 12234 Third St. Northome 56661 218-897-5654	<b>St. Michael Catholic Church</b> Sat 7:00p 12026 Lake St Northome 56661 218-743-3255
<b>Centennial Lutheran Church</b> Sun 8:30a Hwy 46 Squaw Lake 56681 218-259-0115	<b>Jehovah's Witnesses</b> Tu 7:00p., Sun 10:00a Hwy 38 Bigfork 56628 218-743-3275	<b>Suomi Evangelical Lutheran Church</b> Sun 10:30a 42935 Co. Rd. 48 Deer River 56636 218-832-3883
<b>Clara Lutheran Church</b> Sun 9:00a 41447 Little Clara Drive Deer River 56636 218-360-1503	<b>Jesse Lake Lutheran Church</b> Sun 8:30a 45834 Co. Rd. 4 Talmoon 56637 218-832-3883	<b>True Life Church</b> Sun 10:00a 45976 Terry Talmoon 56637 218-244-7089
<b>Deer River Bible Church</b> Sun 10:00a 33276 State Highway 6 Deer River 56636 218-246-9570	<b>Marcell Community Church</b> Sun 10:30a 49103 State Hwy 38 Marcell 56657 218-832-3200	Church directory sponsored by North Itasca Electric Cooperative, send changes to editor, <a href="mailto:sedgwick@paulbunyan.net">sedgwick@paulbunyan.net</a>
<b>Dora Lake Alliance</b> Sun 10:00a 59329 Co Rd 145 Northome 56661 218-659-4551	<b>Northome Community Church</b> Sun 10:00a 12071 Bartlett St. Northome 56661 218-897-5040	



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WATTS Wonderful!



Effie Rodeo Daze wants to express appreciation to the vendors that came for Rodeo weekend. One vendor constructed "North Pole Outlaw" an alleged bull riding champion who welcomed visitors to the 70th annual North Star Stampede as they drove through Effie. Special thanks to Marsha for doing the Boot Hunt clues this year. Julie Francisco and her niece Brooke found the boot in four clues and won \$75. Congratulations!

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**Tokens for Transport:** The Effie American Legion Auxiliary Waldron-Flaat Post 182 participated in the Bigfork Valley Non-Emergent Medical Transportation (NEMT) initiative by sponsoring an initial fund and tokens for rides to local residents who need help to get to medical appointments.

The auxiliary is grateful to North Itasca Electric Cooperative members for their support for the project through the Round Up program. Shown (l to r) are Nathan Hough, CEO, Bigfork Valley; Vicki Hill, president of the auxiliary; and Dennis Bottkol, driver. *Photo submitted.*

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**Morning Glory Muffins**  
 Thank you to Sheila Hafeman for this September recipe!

2 cups flour	2 cups grated carrots
1 1/4 cup sugar	1 apple, peeled, cored & grated
2 teaspoons baking soda	1/2 cup raisins
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon	1/2 cup walnuts, chopped
1/2 teaspoon salt	1/2 cup coconut
3 large eggs	zest of orange peel
1 cup vegetable oil	
2 teaspoons vanilla	

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease a 12-cup muffin tin or line with paper liners.

Mix flour, baking soda, cinnamon and salt in a large bowl. Stir in carrots, apple, raisins, walnuts, coconut and orange peel. Beat eggs, oil and vanilla together in a separate bowl. Stir egg mixture into the carrot mixture until just moistened.

Spoon batter into prepared muffin cups, filling each 2/3 full. Bake in preheated oven until tops spring back when lightly pressed, for about 20 minutes.

Cool in the tin for 5 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

**Sausage Stuffed Squash**

1 acorn squash  
 butter or margarine  
 12 oz. bulk pork sausage  
 salt and pepper  
 1/2 cup maple syrup

Cut squash in half; remove seeds. Place cut side down in baking dish. Bake at 375° for 20 to 25 minutes.

While squash is baking, in a small skillet cook pork sausage until no longer pink. Drain. Add maple syrup and mix. Turn squash cut side up, brush with butter and season with salt and pepper.

Fill squash with sausage mixture. Bake 20 to 30 minutes more until squash is tender.

Makes 2 servings.

*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.*



**DEADLINE**  
for the OCTOBER issue:  
**Friday, Sept. 19**

# CLASSIFIEDS

**-SERVICES-**

**Gus's Auto and Recycling of Bigfork**

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√ Firewood processing

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20 yrs experience  
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**-FREE-**

*Silver popple seedlings:*  
2-3 ft. tall. Fast growing for shade. Talmoon. Call (218) 832-3453 10/25

**-SALES-**

*Huge Multi-Family Sale:*  
Sept. 20 & 21. Hunting: decoys, canoe, crossbow/arrows, blind. Fishing: winter/summer poles, reels, tackle, jig making supplies, kids lifejackets. Sewing machines / supplies, collectibles: Noritake china, carnival glass, antique tables, lamps, etc. Tools and hardware, swivel chairs, household, décor, Christmas. Clothes and scrubs, beds and frames, games, puzzles, books, DVDs, VHS, CDs. Much more. 29149 Co. Rd. 40 in Effie.

**-WANTED-**

*Clean pine needles:* will pay \$5 for every 33 gal. bag. Call first, (218) 832-3453 10/25

*In search of:* harp instructor. Call (218) 340-0659. 10/25

**-FOR SALE-**

*For sale:* Following items for sale due to downsizing: Sears craftsman portable, adjustable Workmate table, like new, \$75. Sears craftsman 3 hp compound miter saw, exc. cond. \$200. Makita table saw, exc. cond., \$200. Queen size clean mattress \$10. Call (218) 659-2797, Located on Sand Lake. 10/25

*For sale:* 2 doz. Half pint canning jars. \$8 for the box. Talmoon area. Call (218) 832-3453 10/25

*For sale:* Home sawed lumber 2x4 2x6 and 1 inch boards. Call (218) 639-2558 10/25

*For sale:* Coleman Pulse Plus 1750 generator. \$160. Call (218) 760-8105 9/25

**-WATER SPORTS-**  
**-boats, docks-**

*For sale:* Aluminum ladder for floating dock. Excellent condition, used only a few summers. Originally purchased from Fleet Farm in Duluth. \$100 cash/Venmo. Call (218) 591-1073 10/25

*For sale:* 15 ft. fiberglass camouflage canoe, made in Bigfork. Ricing and duck hunting. \$500. Call (218) 556-6620 10/25

**-WATER SPORTS-**

*For sale:* Alumacraft aluminum canoe 17 ft. Good condition. Used for several Boundary Water trips and mostly on Eagle Lake. One owner. Currently on Eagle Lake (Hwy 7 & 45). \$280 cash. Call (651) 455-0275 9/25

*For sale:* 2015 22 ft. Sweet Water 220 Special Edition, 2015 70 hp Yamaha 4 stroke motor, one owner, both excellent condition, \$18,000. Call (808) 226-8867 9/25

*For sale:* 14' Crestliner fishing boat with 3 swivel boat seats and trailer. \$300 obo. Call (218) 910-9750 or (218) 966-2052 10/25

*For sale:* The Paddle King peddle boat. Seats 4. Damaged pontoon. \$300 or bo as is. Call (218) 910-9750 or (218) 966-2052 10/25

**-POWER SPORTS-**  
**-snowmobiles, ATVs-**

*For sale;* 1929 Model A Ford snowmobile. Restored trophy winner in excellent running condition. Comes with a car hauler trailer on four new tires & current license tab, as well as additional Model A parts. Price is \$23,500. Pictures available at: pkjlbj@gmail.com, can be seen near Talmoon. Call (320)249-0330 for more info 10/25

**-AUTOMOTIVE-**

*For sale:* Original front floor mats from 1950 Mercury auto, brown color, perfect condition, \$40 Call (218) 659-2797 10/25

**-CAMPERS-**

*For sale:* 2001 Cougar 24 ft. fifth wheel hookup camper with one slide out. In good cond. Sleeps 6. Call (218) 639-2558 10/25

**-FARM-**

*For sale:* 8N Ford tractor, with loader, brush cutter, 2 bottom plow and cultivator. Low hours on rebuilt engine. Very good rubber. \$4,000. Call (218) 360-3234 9/25

*Hay for sale:* square bales, mixed grass, baled dry, stored dry. \$5 per bale. Call (218) 244-0957 9/25

**-REALTY-**

*House for rent:* with option to buy. VERY reasonable price in Effie on 10 acres. Call (218) 969-6266 10/25

**-REALTY-**

*Self-storage business for sale by owner:* 26-unit self-storage business located in NE Itasca County. 24'x220' steel Morton building with cement floor. Six 8'x10' units and 20 - 10'x24' units situated on 3.28 acres along Co Rd 533 east of Effie. Outdoor storage space available behind the building, along with a prepared space for a 36'x60' additional building. Well-established customer base. Currently doing business as Up North Storage and Services, LLC. Serious inquiries only. Call (218) 244-5000 9/25

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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.



# Koochiching Fair Days



Grand Marshal  
Kathy Johnson




Winning floats: (left)  
1st: Rock Island  
Ranch; (below right)  
2nd: Bemidji Sons of  
Norway;  
(not shown)  
3rd: Mizpah  
Community  
Events.



 **Jesse Lake Lutheran Free Community Meal**  
**Brats, Cowboy Beans, Chips**  
 All are Welcome!  
 Drawing for a \$25 Spring Lake Store Gift Certificate!  
**Tuesday, August 19 4-6 p.m.**  
 Takeout available! 45834 County Road 4 (2 miles from Talmoon)

*An Old Fashioned General Store*  
**Spring Lake Store**  
**218-832-3626**  
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**Hours:**  
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 218.327.9505  
 \*Free Estimates\* #BC775961  
