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SEE YOU
AT THE FAIR

THIS SUMMER!

Littlefork: July 8-10

Baudette: July 14-17

Visit us at our booth
at the fairs starting

Friday, July 9, in Littlefork!

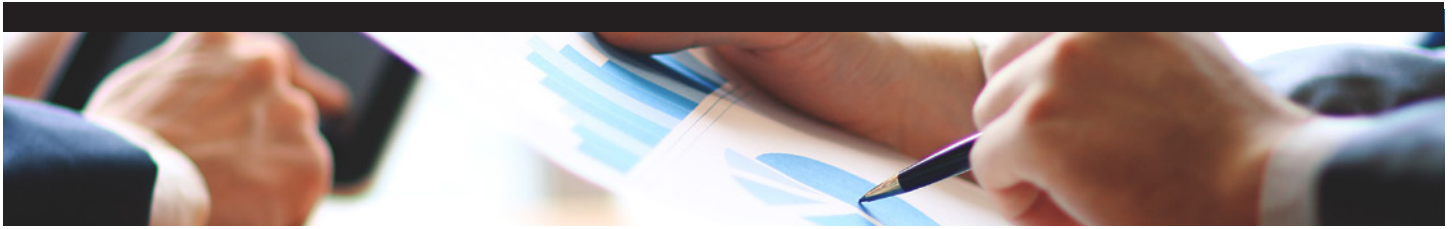
Sign up for door prizes
and receive a free gift.

See you there!



**NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
MISSION STATEMENT**

To improve the lives of our member-owners and community by responsibly providing clean, affordable, electric energy and other beneficial services while maintaining the very highest standards of performance and member satisfaction.



Josh Compton
General Manager

MANAGER'S REPORT

This month I want to talk about something that every member of our cooperative should be familiar with and understand – and that is right of ways and easements.

What exactly are they and why are they necessary? A right of way is an agreement that allows a utility company, water company, telephone company, etc. to use or access a piece of property according to the terms of an easement. Well, if that's the case, what exactly is an easement? Easements are areas designated for overhead and underground utility access and are usually defined when a lot or neighborhood is first platted. Easements are implemented because it is more efficient and less expensive to run utility lines straight through neighborhoods than it is to run them around parcels of land.

Having right of way means that utilities can access the area to fix a utility-related problem, perform maintenance and connect new members/customers to the system. Easements outline general property rights by others while right of way (as its name implies) is a specific property right. All utility companies (North Star included) clear rights of way in their service territory for the following reasons:

- 1) To keep power lines clear of tree limbs and vegetation.
- 2) To restore power outages more quickly.
- 3) To reduce unexpected costs for repairs.

Maintaining rights of way improves

service reliability for you – our members!

Also, please keep in mind that when you're planting new trees, shrubs and other vegetation to keep them a safe distance from all overhead and underground lines, as well as transformer boxes located on your property (708-08-024-01, Byron Boras). If our line crews determine there is a safety risk to the system or a member as a result of vegetation, we will work with our members to resolve the problem. We want to ensure members are safe and our distribution system is well maintained to keep outages at a minimum.

On another note, each year North Star and other cooperatives across the country take part in a matching grant program called Sharing Success, which is put on by CoBank (one of the banks from which we borrow money). This year the board voted to donate \$15,000 (\$7,500 from North Star and \$7,500 from CoBank) to Rainy Lake Medical Center in International Falls. This donation will be used to help purchase new medical devices that play a

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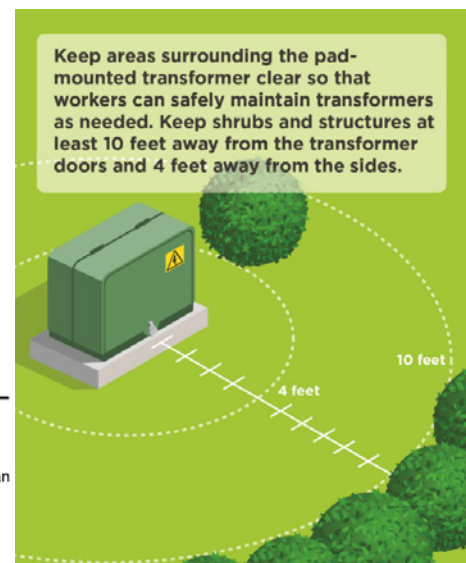
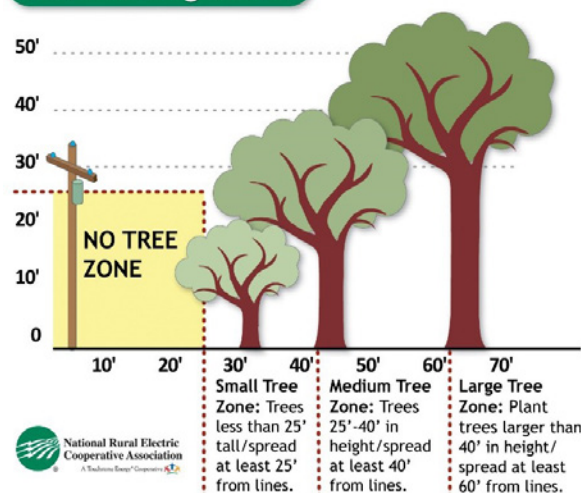
large part in the health and well-being of not only our members but the community as a whole.

I hope you and your family have a very enjoyable Fourth of July holiday and maybe I'll see some of you out in Baudette for the fireworks.

Until next time,

Josh

Tree Planting Guide



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the May 5, 2021, regular board meeting. All board members were in attendance. In addition to routine actions, the board voted to approve the inventory adjustment as a result of the annual reconciling of inventory and to accept the 2020 IRS Form 990 for filing.

Staff reports included the safety report, the financial report, review of the 2020 IRS Form 990, strategic planning, NRECA's Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) program, Littlefork office roof repairs proposals, DBS (Direct Broadcast

Satellite) capital credits, property taxes, the CoBank Sharing Success program matching a grant received for the Rainy Lake Medical Center Chemotherapy and Infusion Therapy Department, load control, ripple receiver inspections and repairs, new off-peak installations, rebates, scholarship testing, new services and upgrades, pole changeouts, line inspection, summer apprentice lineworkers hired, summer work plan projects, the Baudette service truck replacement, the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP), outages,

the combining of the existing energy surcharge into the price per kWh, the lowering of the credit card and online payment convenience charge, state and legislative issues, Canadian accounts, the annual meeting and the current line extension policy.

Detailed minutes are available at the cooperative for member review. Regular board meetings are generally held the first Wednesday 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 the co-op at least two weeks in advance to be included on the agenda.



Marty Mollberg
Operations Manager

STAFF REPORT – WORK PLAN PROJECTS

After a dry start to the spring, and a near-perfect seed bed for planting, we finally got the million-dollar rain to get the crops out and growing – only then to have a setback for some with a 25-degree frost.

Since then, the moisture has been minimal, to say the least. Which is good if you're playing with dirt, like the lineworkers have been, due to a very busy start to the construction season (429-41-094-08, Jerone Moe). We have had more

than 75 requests for new and upgraded services.

Skyline Construction is making nice progress on one of our summer work plan projects located south of Baudette from County Road 5 to Carp. Once completed, they will start on our other line upgrade project going north of Littlefork along State Highway 71 and UT 73. When that is completed, we will have upgraded close to 15 miles of overhead lines needing attention due to aging and improved voltage reduction.

Until next time, stay safe.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH



When shopping for new light bulbs, know the difference between lumens and watts. Lumens measure the amount of light while watts measure energy consumption. - Source: energy.gov

DIRECTORS

President
Steve Arnesen

Vice President
Michael Hanson

Secretary-Treasurer
Lorraine Nygaard

Directors
Shelley Spears
Randy Bergan
Tom Smith
Bruce Sampson

DIGGING SOON?

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked and helps protect you from injury and expense. Safe digging is no accident.

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG.
VISIT WWW.CALL811.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

Past issues of the Enlightener are on our website at

www.northstarelectric.coop



Successful sessions

MAJOR
ENERGY LEGISLATION
PASSES IN ND, MN

Although the North Dakota and Minnesota legislative sessions looked much different in 2021, lawmakers left their respective capitols this spring after passing some of the most impactful energy legislation in years.

Minnkota, its members and partners successfully navigated the sessions, which included many virtual meetings and online advocacy due to COVID-19 restrictions (251-25-062-02, Tim Lyon). The pandemic and the related economic impacts were a key focus, but energy issues were also featured prominently.

“We saw strong bipartisan support for our main priorities in both states,” said Stacey Dahl, Minnkota senior manager of external affairs. “While the sessions started with many unknowns due to COVID-19, we ended with our industry in a better position to address the challenges on the horizon.”

ND legislature helps boost lignite industry

In North Dakota, 18 bills were signed into law that support the state’s lignite industry and promote the development of breakthrough energy technologies. Minnkota staff dedicated significant time to advocating for the following priorities, which were passed into law:

- **HB1412: Lignite Tax Relief** – This bill provides temporary and critical tax relief to the lignite industry by reducing the full amount of the general fund portion from coal conversion taxes paid by the lignite power plant and conversion facility operators for a five-year period. The tax relief is valued at approximately \$100 million over five years to the industry broadly, and \$20 million for Minnkota’s Joint System specifically.
- **HB1452: Clean Sustainable Energy Authority** – The legislature created a Clean Sustainable Energy Authority to help position North Dakota as a leader in reducing environmental impacts through a comprehensive research and development authority. The legislation provides \$25 million from the state’s general fund to the authority to fund qualified projects. Importantly, \$250 million in a low-interest loan program was also appropriated,

helping to support the commercialization of projects like Project Tundra.

- **SB2287: Lignite Insurance Study** – Directs the Insurance Commissioner to study and determine whether a program or mechanism could be implemented to provide an alternative for North Dakota’s lignite industry to seek insurance rates that are not skewed against the fossil fuel industry.
- **SB2152: 45Q Conformity** – This bill conforms the North Dakota Century Code to comply with federal law regarding 45Q tax policy by providing a sales and tax use exemption for carbon dioxide sales related to geologic storage projects.
- **SB2137: Data Center Tax Incentive** – This bill creates a sales and use tax exemption for data centers. Data centers can require large amounts of electricity and attracting these businesses to the state to grow electric load is beneficial, and a key focus for Minnkota.

“North Dakota is well-positioned to be a world leader in the development of carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) technologies,” Dahl said. “With the strong support provided by the legislature this session, we can help ensure the continued strength and long-term viability of our state’s energy industry.”

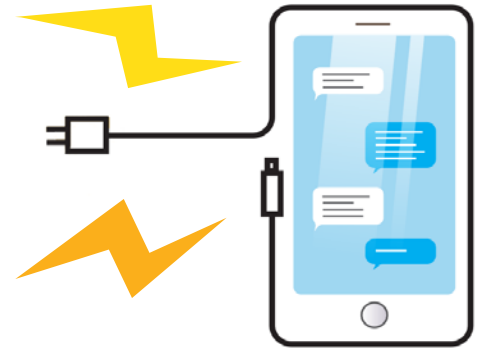
ECO Act crosses the finish line in Minnesota

After nearly four years of work, the **Energy Conservation and Optimization (ECO) Act**, the primary focus for electric cooperatives, was passed into law with strong bipartisan support. The ECO Act reforms and modernizes the existing Conservation Improvement Program (CIP), which did not recognize the benefits of efficient electrification of end-use processes, such as the adoption of electric vehicles and other emerging technologies. Conversely, the ECO Act emphasizes end-use total energy efficiency rather than narrowly focusing on reducing electricity use.

“With more flexibility to recognize and respond to emerging technologies and consumer demands, this is a win-win for our members in Minnesota,” Dahl said.

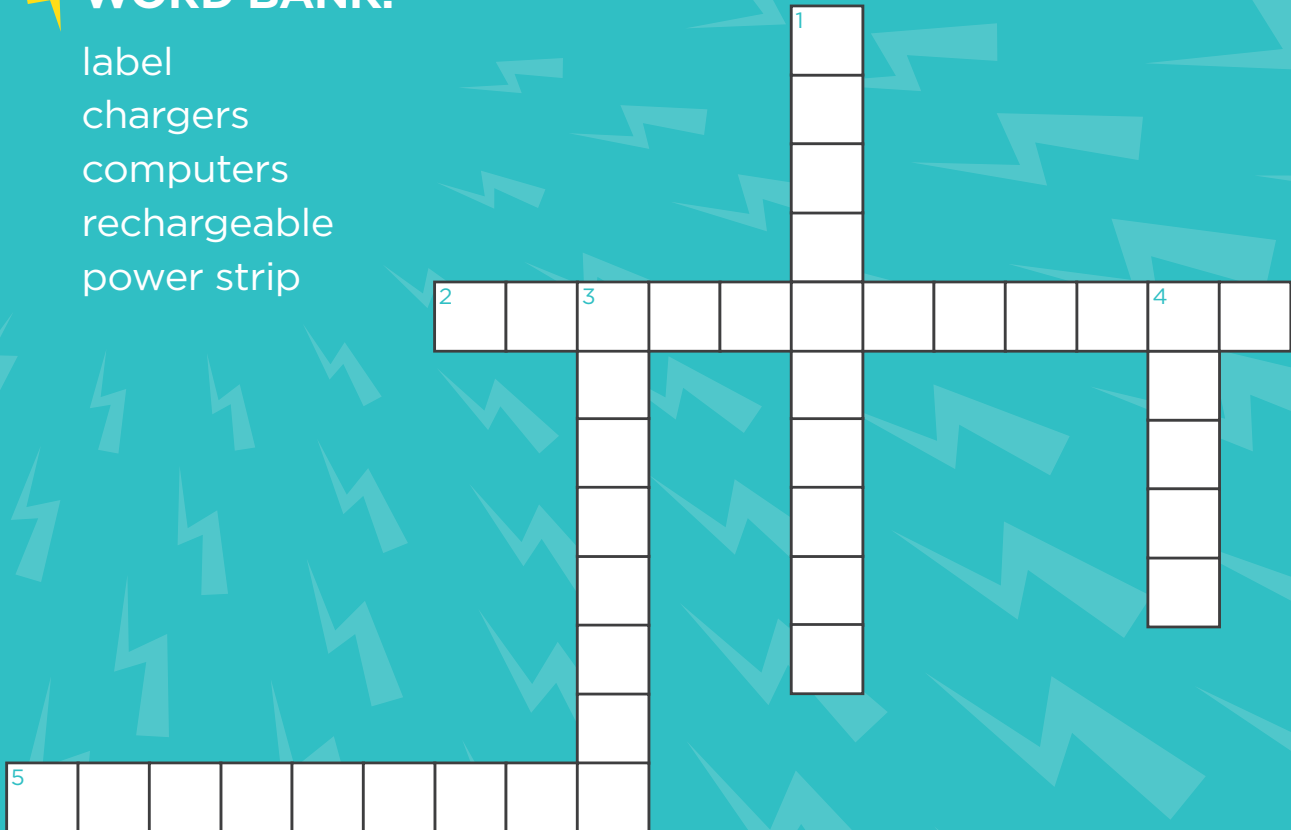
ELECTRONICS EFFICIENCY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Did you know there are ways you can reduce your electronics energy use? Complete the crossword puzzle below to learn about electronics efficiency.



WORD BANK:

label
chargers
computers
rechargeable
power strip



1 DOWN: Use a _____ with an on/off switch when powering multiple electronics to easily manage energy use.

2 ACROSS: For devices that require batteries, use _____ ones, which are more cost-effective and environmentally friendly.

3 DOWN: Unplug electronic products, like _____, when you're not using them.

4 DOWN: Electronics that include the ENERGY STAR® _____ are the most energy efficient.

5 ACROSS: Many _____ come with a sleep mode or power management feature, which can save \$30 on annual energy costs.

5. ACROSS: COMPUTERS

4. DOWN: LABEL

3. DOWN: CHARGERS

2. ACROSS: RECHARGEABLE

1. DOWN: POWER STRIP

ANSWER KEY

PROBLEMS PAYING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?

ENERGY ASSISTANCE MAY BE AVAILABLE!

If you recently lost your job or had your hours cut, the following agencies may be able to help you with your electric bill. You may have never needed help before, but maybe today you do.

LAKE OF THE WOODS COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES

206 8th Ave SE, Suite 200
Baudette, MN 56623-2895
634-2642

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL

PO Box 67
Badger, MN 56714-0067
800-568-5329

KOOCHICHING COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES

1000 5th St
International Falls, MN 56649-2243
283-7000

KOOTASCA COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.

Grand Rapids, MN 55744-3984
Toll free 877-687-1163
Direct 218-999-0800
Fax 218-999-0220

ARROWHEAD ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

703 3rd Ave S
Virginia, MN 55792
800-662-5711

NOMINATION PROCESS FOR DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

The North Star Electric Cooperative annual meeting of the members is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 1, at Lake of the Woods School. The Board of Directors positions up for election for a four-year term are District 5 (currently held by Tom Smith) and District 6 (currently held by Lorraine Nygaard).

Your district number is printed on your electric bill. If you live in this district and are interested in a position on the Board of Directors, you may pick up a petition form at our North Star Electric Cooperative office in either Littlefork or Baudette.

Please be advised that each membership of the North Star Electric Cooperative is allowed one signature, and in the case of joint membership, only one signature is allowed. (A husband and wife are not joint members unless they have completed a joint membership application.)

SECTION 3. QUALIFICATIONS.

All persons eligible to become or remain a director of the Cooperative shall:

(a) be a member in good standing of the Cooperative receiving electric service at the member's primary residence in the district from which the director is to be elected prior to being nominated for director;

For purposes of these bylaws, "primary residence" shall mean the residence that is the chief or main residence of the person and where the person actually lives for the most substantial portion of the year.

(b) have voting rights within the district from which the director is to be elected;

(c) not be employed by, materially affiliated with or have a material financial interest in any director, individual or entity which either is:

(1) directly or substantially competing with the Cooperative; or

(2) selling goods and services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative; or

(3) possessing a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative;

For purposes of this section, the terms "material" or "substantially" shall be interpreted as constituting a minimum of 5% of a member's total hours of employment sales or income on an annual basis.

(d) not be an employee or not have been an employee of the Cooperative within the last three (3) years;

(e) not be a close relative of an employee, where as found in these bylaws "close relative"

means any individual who is, either by blood, law or marriage, including step, half, foster and adoptive is either a spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, brother or sister;

(f) be only one, and not more than one, member of a joint membership; provided, however, that none shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold a position of trust in the Cooperative unless all shall meet the qualifications hereinabove set forth;

(g) if a representative or agent of a member is not a natural person, i.e. a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or similar, then the representative or agent designated as a nominee for director shall be an individual residing within the external boundaries of the district from which the member is nominated;

(h) agree to regularly attend all board, annual and special members' meetings, and in no case have more than four (4) unexcused absences within a twelve (12)-month period of time; and

(i) not have been convicted of a felony.

(j) Exceptions. In regard to the restrictive provisions of this section that are based upon close relative relationships, no incumbent director shall lose eligibility to remain a director or to be reelected a director if, during a director's incumbency, a director becomes a first kindred relative of another incumbent director or of a Cooperative employee because of a marriage or an adoption to which the director was not a party.

(k) Disqualification. After the Board of Directors determines that a nominee for director lacks eligibility under the provisions of this section or as may be provided elsewhere in these bylaws, it shall be the duty of the board to promptly make a disqualification.

Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 5. NOMINATIONS.

The procedures and methods of nominating candidates for election as a director of the Cooperative is by nomination by petition. Any twenty (20) or more members of a district of the Cooperative may make nominations in writing over their signatures not less than sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting, and the Secretary of the Board of Directors shall post the petition at the principal office of the Cooperative, Baudette, Minnesota; such listing of nominations by petition may be mailed to each member through the medium of the cooperative newsletter.

NORTH STAR ELECTRIC POLITICAL LEADERS

FEDERAL LEGISLATORS

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
www.whitehouse.gov
202-456-1111

Senator Tina Smith
720 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.smith.senate.gov
202-224-5641

Senator Amy Klobuchar
425 Dirksen Senate Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.klobuchar.senate.gov
202-224-3244
1-888-224-9043 (Minnesota office)
Fax: 202-228-2186

Congressman Pete Stauber
126 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
www.stauber.house.gov
202-225-6211

Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach
1237 Longworth House Office Bldg.

Washington, D.C. 20515
www.fischbach.house.gov
202-225-2165
Fax: 202-225-1593

STATE OF MINNESOTA LEGISLATORS

Governor Tim Walz
Capitol Bldg., Room 130
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
800-657-3717
www.mn.gov/governor

Senator Tom Bakk
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.; Capitol, Room 328
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-8881
www.senate.mn/members

Senator Paul Utke
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3403
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-9651
sen.paul.utke@senate.mn
www.senate.mn/members

Senator Mark Johnson
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3111
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-5782
sen.mark.johnson@senate.mn
www.senate.mn/members

Representative Matt Grossell
227 State Office Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-4265
rep.matt.grossell@house.mn
www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members

Representative John Burkel
309 State Office Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-9635
rep.john.burkel@house.mn
www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members

Representative Rob Ecklund
409 State Office Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-2190
rep.rob.ecklund@house.mn
www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members

CURRENT ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

State law requires that every new electrical installation in any construction, remodeling, replacement or repair shall file a certificate for inspection and be inspected by a Minnesota electrical inspector. For more information, go to the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industries website (dli.mn.gov) and go to the electrical page.

LAKE OF THE WOODS, ST. LOUIS and KOOCHICHING COUNTIES

Curt Collier
cgcclier67@gmail.com
218.966.5070
Call to set up an appointment
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m., Monday - Friday

ROSEAU COUNTY

Ronald Ditsch
218.779.6758
Call to set up an appointment
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m., Monday - Friday

HOME COOKING

Rhubarb Cheesecake Bars

If you love rhubarb, these bars are for you! Put it atop a creamy cheesecake with a nutty crust, and these will be so good you won't want to stop eating them.

Prep Time	Cook Time	Total Time	Servings
15 mins	50 mins	1 hour	15 servings

INGREDIENTS

Crust

- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup butter

Rhubarb Layer

- 2 cups chopped rhubarb
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 Tbsp. flour

Cream Cheese Filling

- 2 (8 oz. packages cream cheese)

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 eggs

Glaze

- 2/3 cup sour cream
- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Combine crust ingredients. Spread in 9" x 13" pan and bake at 375° for 10 minutes.
2. Toss together ingredients for rhubarb layer and pour over crust.

3. Bake bars for 15 more minutes.
4. Mix together cream cheese and sugar. Beat eggs in one at a time, pour mixture over rhubarb and bake for 25 minutes.
5. Mix glaze ingredients and spread over bars as soon as they come out of the oven.

From the kitchen of Jodi Ferrier in Baudette.



Receive a \$20 energy credit if you submit a recipe and it is selected to run in a future issue of the *Enlightener* newsletter.

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

North Star Electric Cooperative receives matching grant funds for local medical center



This year the board voted to donate \$15,000 (\$7,500 from North Star Electric Cooperative and \$7,500 from CoBank) to



Rainy Lake Medical Center in International Falls. Pictured from left to right are: Mike Hanson, North Star Electric Cooperative director; Betsy Loop, Rainy Lake Medical Center RN; Robb Pastor, Rainy Lake Medical Center CEO; and Josh Compton, North Star Electric Cooperative general manager and CEO.

"Commitment to community is a driving force behind your cooperative as we support programs that improve the lives of those who live in the communities we serve."

UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

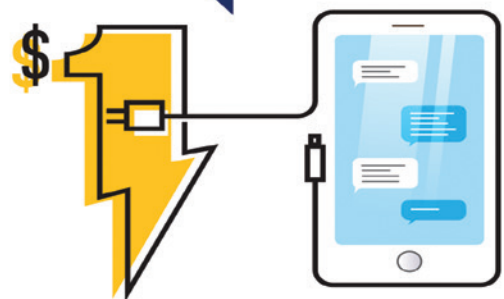
**05
JULY**

North Star Electric Cooperative's offices will be closed on Monday, July 5, in observance of Independence Day.

**07
JULY**

North Star Electric Cooperative will hold its next monthly board meeting on Wednesday, July 7, if you wish to speak to the board.

What can you get for \$1?



1,700 hours of smartphone charges

OFFICE HOURS | 7:30 A.M. - 4 P.M. | MONDAY - FRIDAY

Baudette 218-634-2202 or 888-634-2202 | **Littlefork** 218-278-6658 or 888-258-2008

For credit card payment 855-874-5354 | **Online billing** info available via SmartHub app

Electrical after-hours emergencies 1-888-6OUTAGE (1-888-668-8243)

Email us at nsec@wiktel.com | **Visit our website at** northstarelectric.coop

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TO STAY UP TO DATE**

Like your cooperative for outage updates during the summer season and other useful information.

 /northstarelectric

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.