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JANUARY 2022

CEO Report

Good afternoon North Itasca,

I sure hope we aren't experiencing the calm before the storm today. It's December 15th today as I'm writing to you. We are expecting rain tonight followed by strong winds and snow tomorrow.

Whatever Mother Nature brings us, you can rest assured we will everything to get do the system restored as quick as safely possible. As a reminder to all of us, if you see downed powerlines, please stay away from them. Snow can sometimes act as an insulator and the lines can be energized. This is a

very dangerous situation, please let our skilled linemen handle the job. Our crews are trained and have the equipment necessary to work on our system safely.

By the time I sit down to write my next article we should have our 2022 budget approved. I have included information about this in my past two articles. Most rates should remain the same for 2022. The only change I expect is on the long-term storage rates. We will experience an increase on that rate from Great River Energy; I expect we will pass this same amount into North Itasca Electric's rate. We



Brad Dolinski, CEO

have been able to keep rates stable since 2018. This is becoming difficult with the rising costs all of us are experiencing.

Chris Mr. Larson handles our purchasing and warehouse needs. He is in a constant battle these days with rising costs and difficulty getting materials. Transformers have risen 25-50 percent over the past year, CEO to p.2

Are window and door replacements necessary for good energy efficiency?

by Jerry Loney differences Windows and doors are with humidity. significant when it comes to heat loss and heat gain, but the discomfort of drafty rooms and frosty windows may not be because of the windows themselves, but air leakage around them.

windows may look like a It's the same as having problem but can also be an ice-cold beverage. The a sign that your windows cold liquid inside a glass have been installed acts as the cold winter properly and are airtight. temperature Moisture on windows When warm humid air is caused by indoor and contacts the cold glass, outdoor temperature

along

During the winter, when the indoor air is warm and humid, it condenses on the windowpanes which are cold and dry from the outdoor conditions. During the summer, it Condensation on the works just the opposite. outdoors. Windows to p.2>

Rate change

The Board of Directors have approved passing a rate increase to the Storage Off-Peak rate effective Jan 2022.

This increase is a straight pass-through of a rate increase from Great River Energy.

2021 \$0.053 per kWh 2022 \$0.055 per kWh

Did you know electric co-ops power GOING THE fewer consumers per mile of line EXTRA MILE compared to other utilities? ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES **OTHER ELECTRIC UTILITIES**

This interesting graphic shows the average number of consumers for electric cooperatives. North Itasca Electric really does go the extra mile: it serves under four members per mile of line!

Ensuring the electric grid can bounce back quickly

North Itasca Electric Cooperative and Great River Energy, our wholesale power supplier, have taken steps to prepare for whatever this winter brings. "Resilience" has become a common focus for electric cooperatives and utilities around the country as we continue to see more extreme weather events, such as last year's polar vortex.

"The electric grid in our region performed very well last year during the polar vortex. "North Itasca Electric Cooperative is prepared in the event of another vortex event,"

As we see our first snowfalls and said Jerry Loney. "That said, along to Great River Energy's transition. get accustomed to scraping frost off with the rest of the industry, we our windshields, rest assured that are focusing more than ever on operation, North Itasca Electric now building resilience into our systems and processes."

> What's the difference between reliability and resilience? Think about reliability as keeping the lights on. Think about resilience as the ability to get the lights back on as quickly as possible if there is a major interruption from extreme weather, a cybersecurity incident or other cause.

> The Ortman sub station is a good example. Before this substation was constructed, North Itasca Electric relied on one power line connected

With the Ortman substation now in has a second source to keep energy flowing to its member-owners.

"Great River Energy has always been dedicated to resilience, but the focus is now at a new level based on climate change and major weather events," said Dick Pursley, director of operations and transmission services at Great River Energy. "Over the last year, we have taken even further steps to ensure our electric system can bounce back from a major event and get the lights back on as quickly as possible." GRE to p.2>

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 inside inside • inside • inside • Hours Monday - Friday Coloring Contest pages Roxanne's Contest Lighting! 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. page 6 page 8-9 page 5

CEO Report (continued)

>from p.1

underground cable is up 17 percent, make at home to save electricity. One copper conductor is up over 100 percent. These are just a few examples of the materials we use all the time. Chris does a great job of securing the materials we need to serve our vast system. I absolutely want to recognize his hard work in these stressful times. Thank you, Chris!

If you have not heard. Minnesota Power was approved for a 7 percent interim rate increase; they have applied for an 18 percent overall increase. Xcel Power proposed a rate increase of 21.2 percent over three years. Your cooperative works hard on your behalf to keep rates stable and reasonable. We will continue to look for ways to keep costs competitive. I have heard from colleagues of mine; they are looking at rate increases for 2022. I am pleased to report once again, we are not planning a rate adjustment for 2022 other than to the storage heat off-peak rate.

Eventually the price of everything goes up. This may be a good time to

talk to Jerry about changes you can of the proposed budget items for 2022 is installing Air Source Heat Pumps at the office in Bigfork. Making this investment will save over \$9,000 per year on heating costs at our headquarters. Adding in the demand savings, I expect to pay for the installation in savings in less than five years. We can use CIP credits to help pay for the project also. This will capitalize on the improved technology available to all of us. We will be sure to report on the project and savings as they are realized over the course of the next year.

I am looking forward to 2022. I believe we will unite and overcome the difficulties we faced together over the past couple of years. I'm looking forward to spending time with friends and family over the holidays. I might even make a little time to do some ice fishing. It continues to be my honor to serve the members of North Itasca Electric, thank you for your support.

By your side! Miigwech,

Brad

GRE prepares for winter

>from p.1

weather threat assessment in 2021 to understand how climate change impacts the likelihood of, and the potential location of, damage to the transmission system from weather risks such as ice storms, wildfires, and flash floods. This provided the cooperative with insights on where and how they can better bolster the transmission system.

preparing its power plants and facilities to operate in the bitter cold.

"Our power plants and facilities are designed to operate in extreme cold and

hot weather, and they have performed Great River Energy performed a well," said Nathan Domyahn, director of generation strategy at Great River Energy. "Nevertheless, we are ensuring adequate winterization of equipment. We are using arctic-level grease and oils as well as testing and replacing freeze protection systems periodically to help ensure proper operation during extreme events."

Domyahn said the cooperative is also Great River Energy is also further increasing the supply of backup fuel supplies in the winter at its Minnesota power plants to further support resiliency during extreme cold weather events.

ones.

(shrink warp) on the

inside of your windows if

it is not possible to install

it necessary to install

new windows and doors.

look for the National

Council (NFRC) label.

The NFRC is a non-

profit organization that

rates the performance

of windows, doors and

Department of Energy and

Environmental Protection

Agency have developed

Energy

skylights. The

If you choose or find

weather stripping.

Fenestration

Another

Rating

U.S.

STAR

Windows and doors in winter

different that they are new

be sealed properly today.

around the glass. With

>from p.1

condensation develops. today. But this does not alternative is using an Condensation on the glass mean that your older inexpensive interior film has nothing to do with bad windows and doors cannot windows.

Years passed, window It's not the glass itself that and door installation leaks air, but the number standards were much of gaps and unsealed areas



North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc. 301 Main Avenue P.O. Box 227 Bigfork, MN 56628

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Office Hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday (218) 743-3131 Telephone:

After hours (to report power outages): (218) 743-3131 or (800) 762-4048

Web site: www.NorthItascaElectric.com

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

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

NorthItascaElectric.com

- pay a bill, download a form
- find out about programs
- find worksheets to calculate the cost of running your appliances

North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc. **Board of Directors** Chairman: Larry Salmela, District 3 Vice-Chair: Wes Waller, District 2 Secretary: Lloyd Kongsjord, District 5 Treasurer: Roy Bain, District 9 Rep. to GRE Board: Bruce Leino, District 7

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

Highlights from the Board Room

November 23, 2021 NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC. MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Start time: 10:00 a.m. End time: 2:40 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office of the Cooperative and electronically through Zoom on November 23, 2021.

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

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

o Pledge of allegiance was recited.

o A Motion was made to adopt agenda. Seconded. Motion carried. A Motion was made to approve consent agenda. Seconded. Motion carried. A motion was made to change the next board meeting to be held on December 20, at 10:00 a.m. Seconded. Motion passed.

o B. Dolinski held the safety discussion concerning ice safety. Ice is never 100 percent safe. Pamphlet with good ice information was shared. Wind chill charts were also shared. Winter outage calls will take longer due to the cold. Be mindful of icy conditions. Winter driving reminder to slow down.

o T. Danielson reviewed the operating reports. Motion was made to accept the operating reports. Seconded. The motion was carried.

o Resolutions for RUS and GRE were discussed and passed.

o A. Shaw – Board Policy 400.50, 400.60, and 400.70 were approved as reviewed.

o D. Pederson gave the Line Department Report. Right of Way clearing, Scenic State Park, trucks, and supply issues along with material prices were discussed.

o J. Loney gave the Member Service Report. Load Control – 10 projects waiting for meters. Energy behavior programs look promising.

o T. Danielson - 2021 write off list reviewed.

o T. Danielson – thanked the office staff for their hard work this time of year getting ready for the audit.

o B. Dolinski gave the CEO Report. Talks continue with Lakeshirts and IEDC. GRE rate forecasts were reviewed.

o B. Dolinski gave the Northland Connect Report.

o B. Leino gave the GRE report.

o Round Table discussion was held.

o A Motion was made to adjourn, carried at 2:40 p.m.

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

Load management receiver indicator lights

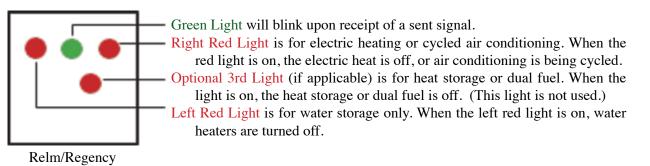
Members on a load control program wondering if they are being controlled can see if they are by looking at their load control receivers, usually mounted on the sub meters.

Left and Right Red Lights are for water storage only. When either red light is on, water heaters are turned off.
Middle Red Light is for electric heating or cycled air conditioning. When the red light is on, the electric heat is off, or air conditioning is being cycled. Green Light will blink upon receipt of sent signal.
Optional Lower Left Red Light (if applicable) is for heat storage or dual fuel. When the red light is on, the heat storage or dual fuel is off.



Scientific-Atlanta

Scientific-Atlanta



Left Red Light is for water storage only. When the left red light is on, water heaters are turned off.

Green Light is on only briefly when receiver is first energized or when power is restored.

Middle Red Light is for electric heating or cycled air conditioning. When the red light is on, the electric heat is off, or air conditioning is being cycled.

Green Light is on only briefly when receiver is first energized or when power is restored.

 Upper Red Light is for water storage only. When the upper red light is on, water heaters are turned off.

Lower Red Light is for electric heating or cycled air conditioning. When the lower red light is on, the electric heat is off, or air conditioning is being cycled.

Happy New Year! Greta Nelson Bold North Agent ountry Spring Lake Store **Real Estate** An Old Fashioned General Store Bold North Realty & Auctions LLC 218-832-3626 12216 County Road 15 Northome, MN 56661 218-368-8057 Hours: Deli cheeses & lunch Mon-Thurs: 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. meat, sandwiches, WiFi, greta@ucboldn Fri-Sat: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. groceries, gifts, post office Sun. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **Find Your Freedom** CR4. 1 mile west of CR29 Free WiFi, Fireside Room DWIGHT L. KALVIG alvíg & ssocíates EST. 1974 Bookkeeping and Tax Service • OF BIGFORK Fax: (218) 835-6590 Bus: (218) 835-4546 Toll Free: (888) 888-6735 www.fsbbigfork.com KELLIHER BIGFORK 359 Main St., Box 309 • Blackduck, Minnesota 56630 OFFICE OFFICE 218-743-3145 FDIC kalvigandassoc@paulbunyan.net 218-647-8222

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

North Itasca Electric Cooperative must provide:

- A 30-day notice of disconnection;
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities;
- A list of local energy assistance providers;
- Forms on which to request Cold Weather Rule protection; and



A statement explaining available payment plans and other options to continue service.

Energy Assistance Program

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below 60 percent of the state median income (\$67,764 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2022. 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.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP, INC. Bigfork, Minnesota 56628

is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utility Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504, of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission to, access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

That person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Brad Dolinski, chief executive officer. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/ or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utility Service, Washington, DC. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

Energy assistance

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

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

877-687-1163

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

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

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

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

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.

Get outage updates on Facebook! @NorthItascaElectricCoopInc GRE will surpass

Minnesota's statewide

emissions goal by more than

25 years ahead of schedule.

The evolution of electricity

The power supply mix that brings the future. electricity to your home, business or farm has evolved. Coal-fired power plants once the backbone of generation in the addition of 900 megawatts of wind members," said Zac Ruzycki, director United States — are increasingly being phased out in favor of renewable energy resources that make your electricity not only cleaner but more cost-effective, too.

North Itasca Electric Cooperative's multi-day power supply mix has mirrored this storage, which has evolution as well. Our wholesale power supplier, Great River Energy, announced earlier this year the sale of its flagship Coal Creek Station power plant. While as the larger electricity grid moves away this plant has operated nearly aroundmembers, Great River Energy has spent plants across Minnesota is also available its carbon dioxide emissions by more for our members," Ruzycki said. the last decade making careful decisions to serve members in the event of seasonal than 80 percent by 2023, to transition to a portfolio of power weather emergencies. supply and transmission resources to

energy capacity. The cooperative is also exploring energy the potential to solve challenges posed by

from thermal, dispatchable generators.

"Any decision we make as a statewide emissions goal serve us best and most efficiently into cooperative wholesale power provider more than 25 years ahead

is through the lens of providing of schedule. Along with the sale of Coal Creek affordable rates, reliable energy service energy by 2023 – more than doubling of resource planning at Great River Great River Energy's current renewable Energy. "Our new portfolio will provide

> members our cost-competitive renewables and market energy while retaining a fleet of natural gas- and oil-fired

the variable nature of renewable energy peaking power plants to ensure reliable electric service."

surpassing Minnesota's

This transition not only positively Station, this evolution includes the and environmental stewardship to our impacts reliability and the environment, but member cost savings as well. The Coal Creek Station transaction will save member-owners \$130 million compared to shutting it down, and Great River Energy recently announced its wholesale electricity rates will be relatively flat into 2022 — even projecting rate stability into the future - due in large part to changes made in the way it produces and purchases energy.

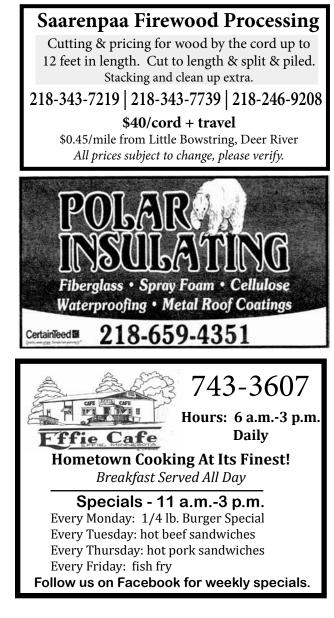
"At a time when the prices on many products and services are rising, we All combined, these efforts put are proud that our forward-thinking the-clock since 1979 to serve our A fleet of modern, fast-starting peaking Great River Energy on track to reduce planning and decisions are paying off

Phone app available

Download the North Itasca Electric mobile app and get your account information on your phone including usage and payment history. You can also make a payment from your phone!

iPhone: Go to the App Store and search for North Itasca Electric.

Android: Go to Google Play and search for North Itasca Electric.



Are portable space heaters efficient for me?

do exactly as their name says: heat \$1.50 per square foot. a small space. But unfortunately, many people use portable space efficient but you're cold-natured heaters to heat their entire home, and want a specific room to be which can really take a toll on your energy bills.

If you're using a space heater to compensate for problems in your home, like inadequate insulation, drafty windows and exterior doors, or an inefficient heating system, space heaters are not a practical solution. Your best bet is to improve must use a space heater, purchase a

is a low-cost, easy way to save a

Perhaps your home is energy cozier than the rest. In this case, a space heater may work for your needs. Only use a space heater in small spaces that you're occupying and, if possible, try to shut off other rooms to contain the warmth provided by the space heater.

A word about safety: if you the overall efficiency of your home. newer model that includes the most If you're on a tight budget, current safety features and make caulking and weather stripping sure it carries the Underwriter's around windows and exterior doors Laboratory (UL) label. Choose thermostatically controlled energy. Depending on the size of heater to avoid energy waste and your home, adding insulation can overheating, and place the heater

by Abby Berry be a great next step. Loose fill on a level surface away from foot Small space heaters are meant to insulation typically costs \$1 to traffic when in use. Always keep children and pets away from space heaters.

Consider alternative ways to stay warm like extra layers of clothing or UL-approved electric blankets. If you have hardwood or tile floors, lay down area rugs to provide additional insulation (and appeal!) and maintain warmth.

If you're looking for alternative ways to save energy and increase comfort in your home, contact Jerry at North Itasca Electric, (218) 743-1313. We're here to help you manage your energy use.

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

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Roxanne's Sales Talk

you all had a great Christmas! I just wanted to

take a minute to say thanks to everyone who purchased appliances through North Itasca Electric this last year! It package together for one couple with was a good year in appliance sales even with COVID, which was great to see.

This year we sold a lot of whole house packages. These sales are fun, I enjoy helping people figure out what's available and putting packages together saved her a lot of money. She told me for them. It was different this year that she never even thought about us because I had a few people call and tell when she was looking for appliances,

"Happy New me that they had ordered appliances she did. Year," and I hope through different big box stores and were being told their appliances were back ordered several times. They were disgusted and called me to see what I had in stock.

> I was able to put a black stainless stock I had on the floor, and they were thrilled and said, "I'm cancelling my other order." With our bundling deal she purchased five appliances and received 15 percent off on all of them, which

but she had seen one of

Times are different since COVID started. Everything has changed. We still struggle to get some stuff in in a timely manner, and I wonder if we will ever get back to the way it used to be! With all the shipping problems it is costing the companies more to ship their products and they are having to pass these costs onto the appliance prices. That's why I'm seeing price increases across the board. I know it's not just in the appliance field – it's everywhere.

Not everyone can go buy an appliance and pay for it in full, especially now when it seems everything costs more money. Keep in mind that at North my ads and thought she'd Itasca Electric, if you qualify, you can call, and she was glad put your purchase on a contract and

by Roxanne Prather, Member Services Repesentative

pay 20 percent up front and spread your payments out up to three years!

This month is my contest month!



Every purchase enters you into a drawing (if you buy one item you get one entry, if you buy two you get two entries, and so on. On Jan 31 I will draw the lucky winner! The winner will receive a \$50 credit on their electric bill for February.





More than 80 Great River attacks, protesters, unplanned see," Schmitz said. "Ultimately,

Energy employees were engaged in a crisis management exercise organized by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) in November.

The two-day exercise, named GridEx VI, was designed to enhance the coordination of cyber and physical security resources and practices within the industry, as well as communication with government partners and other stakeholders. The biennial exercise gives participants the opportunity to self-assess their emergency response and recovery plans through a simulated exercise that takes place across North America.

And there was plenty to contend with. Players were subject to simulated phishing and ransomware

outages, a train derailment and damage to power line structures - all within the course of two days. Some players also received

...simulated phishing and ransomware attacks, protesters, unplanned outages, a train derailment and damage to power line structures.

scenario-setting "injects" the week prior to set the stage.

Ron Schmitz, director of information services at Great River Energy, said the exercise went well. Schmitz led the group that planned experiences during the drill and the the simulated challenges dealt to the crisis management team.

"We saw what we hoped to

the players did an excellent job of communicating with each other and working their crisis response plans."

Mike McFarland, director of enterprise risk management at Great River Energy, applauded the excellent performance, and said the cooperative will use lessons learned from the exercise.

"We put so much thought and planning into our crisis management plan and this is an opportunity for us to test it," McFarland said. "We will inevitably learn from the exercise and take our planning to the next level, both from our experiences of other utilities. It was time well spent.

January 2022

Comparison of costs for different fuel sources: space heating

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Maximize your heating system's performance by inspecting, cleaning or replacing air filters once a month or as needed to reduce energy costs and prevent potential damage to your system.

Make sure radiators, baseboard heaters and warm-air registers aren't blocked so air can flow freely.

Source: Dept. of Energy

Energy Cost Comparison for Space Heating Cost per 1-million BTUs \$36.61 \$40.00 \$33.84 \$35.00 \$30.36 \$30.00 \$25.00 \$18.46 \$20.00 \$15.53 \$15.00 \$6.15 \$10.00 \$4.62 \$5.00 \$0.00 Propane Fuel Oil Standard Geothermal Storage heat **Dual Fuel** Air Source Heat Pump Electric Heat Pump

18	Seasonal			Btu's per	Price (\$) per
	Efficiency	Price/unit		unit	1-Million BTU
Propane	90%	\$2.50	per Gal.	91,500	\$30.36
Fuel Oil	80%	\$3.75	Per Gal	138,500	\$33.84
Standard Electric	100%	\$0.1249	per kWh	3,412	\$36.61
Geothermal Heat Pump	400%	\$0.063	per kWh	3,412	\$4.62
Storage heat	100%	\$0.053	per kWh	3,412	\$15.53
Dual Fuel	100%	\$0.063	per kWh	3,412	\$18.46
Air Source Heat Pump	300%	\$0.063	per kWh	3,412	\$6.15



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Edward Jones

Member SIPC

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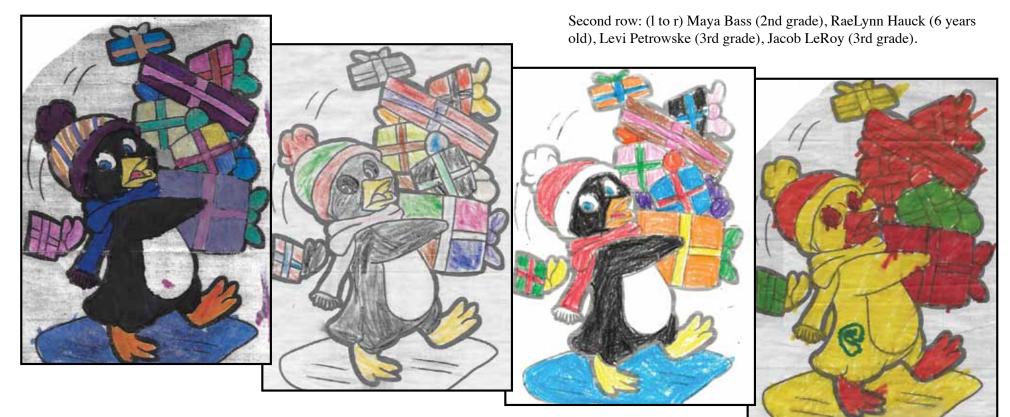
WATTS ADA NEWS



Christmas Coloring Contest

Congratulations to winners shown above!

(1 to r) Brooklynn Walker (Kindergarden), Cadence Schultz (1st Grade), Annika Bumgarner (2rd Grade), Lilla Bass (3rd grade).





More coloring pages...



(top row): Hailey Petrowske (1st grade), Gunnar Hebruink (1st grade), Camdyn Anderson (kindergarten), Conner Schultz.







(bottom row): Coltin Ritter (kindergarten), Isaiah White (1st grade), Levi Ritter (3rd grade)







Arts on the Edge

Classic movie series

by Jack Nachbar

Our January Classic Movie in Bigfork is, sadly, a classic case of Hollywood bungling.

Star Kirk Douglas made this wonderful, small budget Western in 1962 as a real labor of love. But Universal bungled the distribution and the film failed at the box office and it is little known today.

You may not know anything about this movie, but don't be fooled. Lonely Are the Brave is one of the very best Westerns of the 1960s. And now is your chance to see it. You will never forget Douglas' proud, brave cowboy struggling against an oncoming technology that stifles his independence.

Lonely Are the Brave will be shown at the Edge Center Theater in Bigfork at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 13. FREE!

FEBRUARY CLASSIC MOVIE: Valentine's Day Special. A great 1930s cast - Spencer Tracy, Jean Harlow, William Powell, and Myrna Loy - star in a fabulous romantic comedy, Libeled Lady (1936). Thursday, February 10, at 6:30 p.m. at the Edge.





Springlakeheating@gmail.com

The Show Goes On!

by Val Conner

We know what you're thinking: "Oh, no! I missed the play reading at the Edge in December!"

Do not despair. We are holding another play reading experience in January-at 1:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon, January 23rd and a duplicate session at 6:30 p.m. Monday evening, January 24th. Join us on stage at the Edge Center for a couple of hours to explore characters and plot in a delightful play.

We intend to hold these sessions during the winter months with the idea of selecting one of the plays we read to produce in the spring. There is no obligation on your part to attend more than one reading or to audition for a part.

If you think you may be interested in community theatre but don't want to be on stage, there are plenty of opportunities to participate behind the scenes. We're even offering training on lights, sound and video equipment, for example. We'll have more information on that in February. If you have questions, contact Val Conner at (218) 259-4490 or Michaela Raymond at (218) 259-4456 or email us at conray@arvig.net.

	Thespians!
	Calling all Actors!
Ö	and the second sec
🚺 The	EdgeWild Players are "gearing up." 🛱
"We	are sick and tired of being sick and tired!"
111111111	will be a series of events over the winter months tended to re-kindle live theatre at the Edge.
O When	? Sunday, January 23rd @ 1:00 pm
	Monday, January 24th @ 6:30 pm
	You may attend both sessions if inclined.
O When	
	At the Edge Center For The Arts, Big Fork, MN
O What	
	Reading plays out loud (on stage)
Q Why?	and the Party of the second set
To interact the	Make Play selection eventually atre people, ie, actors, stage and tech personnel for a live
	e production aimed for late spring/early summer.
	Contact Producers
Val Conne	er (218) 259-4490 or Michaela Raymond (218) 259-4456 for more information
-	For updates, information re: status! check
ARTS	www.edgecenterarts.org *Bring a lawn chair, for the meeting on stage.*

Bigfork City Council will ask community about law enforcement

City Council discussed a number of issues ranging from more law enforcement coverage to snow removal at the ice rink.

During the discussion on law enforcement, the possibility of pooling resources with local groups like the hospital and school was raised; or possibly including Edge of the Wilderness communities. The council will schedule a public meeting in February for community input. Currently there is limited coverage through the county Sheriff's Office.

The council passed a resolution to apply for and accept a \$250,000 grant from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation toward the Bigfork School and Community Enhancement project. The current cost estimate is \$2.872 million, up from the initial \$1.9 million estimate, but the design has changed to shift some costs to to raise water rates by 1.5 percent renovation vs. new construction because of the availability of funds. Other sources secured include Itasca County American Rescue Plan, community donations and a new Blandin Foundation Small Community Development grant which may bring a total of

being sought.

The council decided to use gambling funds to pay for on-call snow removal at the skating rink rather than create a new position. It also set a policy for a visual check on conditions at the airport when a fixed-wing air ambulance needs to be called in at the hospital.

The Bigfork Booster Club informed the council that it is planning the 2022 Wilderness Days for Friday night and Saturday, the second weekend of June. Festivities will include a teen dance and parade.

The council discussed concerns on the condition of the water system originally installed in the 1930s and 1940s. It agreed to begin exploring city water and sewer pipe replacement under "Operation Hydration."

For 2022, the council decided on usage above the base amount to partially compensate for inflation.

In other business, the council:

Heard a public comment suggesting the city look at installing an electric car charging station.

• Reviewed Open Meeting laws that council members attending

by Sally Sedgwick \$225,000 to Edge of the Wilderness virtually must attend from a place In its Dec.9 meeting, the Bigfork communities. State bonding is also open to the public except during a state of emergency (Minnesota Statutes 13D).

Masking at the Edge Center may still apply

Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum

Effie City Council holds line on levy by Sally Sedgwick

In its last meeting of the year, the Effie City Council approved the 2022 budget and set the final levy at the current level of \$38,500.

After reviewing the financial report, the council decided to move forward with soliciting bids for furnace replacement at the Community Center.

In other business, the council:

• Heard that the former owner will take over the Neighborhood Tavern at the end of the year and signed the liquor license application for the business.

· Heard that three local residents have offered \$1,000 each toward renovating the skating rink, and discussed rink condition and flooding as well as the playground.

The next council meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Monday, January 10 at the Community Center.

> Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum

WATTS ALLA NEWS

Come to the aid of your community!

Opportunities in fire departments and ambulance crews are available in local communities, offering a chance to serve your neighbors as well as training and some benefits.

The Squaw Lake Volunteer Fire Department is looking for people who might be interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter and/or first responder in the local area. If you would be interested in this service opportunity and training, call the city hall at (218) 659-4256, Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. for more information.

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.

Electrical Inspections

Except for minor repair work, all electrical work you do at your home, cabin, or property is required to be inspected by a State Electrical Inspector.

A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. Please visit www.electricity.state.mn.us for more information. The inspectors can be reached weekday mornings between 7:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

- Itasca County Steve Bartlett (218) 591-1616
- Koochiching County Curt Collier (218) 966-5070
- Beltrami, Clearwater counties Davis Smid (507) 227-2772

ts are Committed to Our Commu

HEALTH

AUTO . HOME . BUSINESS .



Master Woodland Class

The University of Minnesota Extension - Forestry is offering a Master Woodland Owner class focusing on Itasca County this winter. An application is necessary; for more information Contact Matt Russell at russellm@umn.edu or call (612) 626-4280.

The Master Woodland Owner program is explained on the UMN Extension website as "a comprehensive training curriculum for private woodland owners interested in becoming better stewards of their woods....This landowner education program teaches family forest owners the ins and outs of forest health, monetizing land, management for recreation and wildlife, estate planning and taxes, and more."

The website for the program can be found at:

https://extension.umn.edu/natural-resources/masterwoodland-owner

MEMBER NOTIFICATION TO SMALL POWER PRODUCERS, COGENERATORS

In compliance with Minnesota Adopted Rules relating to Cogeneration and Small Power Production Chapter 7835, North Itasca Electric Co-op, Inc. is required to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers which satisfy the conditions of a Qualifying Facility.

North Itasca Electric Co-op, Inc. will provide free information to all interested members regarding rates and interconnection requirements. An application for interconnection is required for a Qualifying Facility to interconnect and operate in parallel with the cooperative's distribution system and is subject to approval by the Cooperative.

Any disputes over interconnection, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. Members interested in further information should contact North Itasca Electric Co-op, Inc.

JOB OPPORTUNITY Construction Services Inc. Township Clerk - Stokes Township "Serving the excavation needs of Itasca County and beyond since 1968" Ray V. Kongsjord & Sons • Training Available www.rkconstructionservices.com Casual Hours email: rkconstructioninc@gmail.com • Salary Negotiable · Demolition roll off service Office: (218) 832-2842 Site preparation • Landscaping Cell: (218) 244-6201 Contact: Jillian • 218-832-6235 Basements • Septics • Shoreland 39335 State Highway 286 · Gravel · Road construction Marcell, MN 56657 Bonded and licensed - MPCA Lic. 1204 Choice You Deserve. Service You Trust. PEDERSON HOVILA AGENCY **INSURANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES** friendly, personal service for over 40 years • AUTO, HOME, FARM ANNUITIES, LIFE INSURANCE for all stages of life MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS, LONG TERM CARE EXPENSE PLANS AND ALTERNATIVES insurance agency, inc 218-743-3545 Call Kevin for a no-obligation quote or policy review 1121 Hwy 169 East • Grand Rapids, MN 218-326-8518 1-800-873-1471

County opens Bigfork Canister site to more items

From summer 2021 through summer 2022, Itasca County Environmental Services is working on an initiative to "Fight Blight."

One of the ways the county hopes to do this is to open canister sites to accept more items, making it easier on residents to dispose of waste. The Bigfork Canister site, for instance, is now accepting white goods and metals. The site is located at 39605 Co. Rd. 225.

The county also is planning biannual "Open Canister Site Days" allowing free dumping of selected items.

The second phase of the project, explained Administrative Assistant Katie Benes of Environmental Services, is to work with various communities within the county on clean-up initiatives. "The County can help by providing dumpsters and hauling out garbage, if local groups are willing to create and promote a clean-up event," she said.

The final piece is education; providing school or community outreach presentations on what is garbage or recyclables, where does county waste end up, and how can each person have an impact on waste reduction.

" Our residents are proud to call this place home because of the pristine wilderness that surrounds us and the bountiful natural resources that enrich our lives," she said. "We are responsible to protect and preserve that."

Repa

100 Main Ave.

Propane, Auto Parts, Tire Repair,

Brakes, Oil, Lube & General Repai

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

k Auto Parts

ElderCircle SAIL classes

ElderCircle has replaced Bone Builders with "Stay Active & Independent for Life (SAIL)."

Following is the local schedule as of Nov. 29:

- Virtual via Zoom video conference Mondays & Thursdays, 10:30 am-12:00 pm
- Virtual via Zoom video conference Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00-10:30 am
- Deer River, Bethany Lutheran, live-in-person Mondays & Thursdays, 10:30 am-12:00 pm

On hold until further notice:

- Bigfork Old Scenic Church, live-in-person Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00 am-10:30 am
- Bowstring Town Hall, live-in-person Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:00-11:30 am
- Togo at Carpenter Town Hall, live-in-person Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:30-11:00 am

B.I.G. Community Center, Bigfork

(Formerly Over 50 Club)

Coffee Club Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-9 a.m. Bingo every Thursday 1-3 p.m.



Defensive Driving Courses

(Refreshers)

For drivers age 55 and older who have already completed the beginner's course. Pre-register for classes by calling (218) 750-3189 or e-mailing mnflats@hotmail.com

Date: Wednesday, Jan. 19 Time: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Location: Board Room, Itasca County Courthouse Cost: \$12.00

Date: Thursday, Jan. 20 Times: Morning class 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or evening class 5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Location: Held via Zoom Cost: \$14.00

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

Class Zero: How to Zoom

Offered by ElderCircle the first Thursday of each *month at 10:30 a.m.*

Get connected whatever your reason to use Zoom video conferencing: family, fitness, church, etc.

Learn Zoom basics via Zoom:

- Speaker view or Gallery view Mute and unmute
- Start/Stop video How to use the Chat box
- Rename yourself Lighting/background tips
- Zoom "Do's & Don't's"

Features are explained for both desktop/ laptop users and for iPad/tablet users. Sessions are 60-minutes. Attend just one session or as many as you choose.

Zoom link to the session will be provided upon registration. One-on-One Assistance (over the phone) for Zoom set-up on your device or computer prior to the Class Zero session is available upon request.

Please register at least 24 hours in advance by emailing danielle@eldercircle.org or calling 218-999-9233 ext. 282.

area bookmobile stops New to the area? Get your Arrowhead
Library Card on the Bookmobile.
Tuesdays: Jan 11; Feb 1, 22
Note new hours in 2022.
10:30 a.m11:30 p.m. Bowstring Store
12:00-1:00 p.m. Spring Lake Store
3:00-4:30 p.m. Effie: Effie Cafe
5:00-6:30 p.m. Bigfork: City Hall
Thursdays: Jan 13; Feb 3, 24
11:45-12:45 Togo: Junction Bar & Grill
Mondays: Jan 10 & 31 (no stop in Feb.)
12:30 -1:00 p.m. Gemmel; Comm.Church
1:45 - 2:30 p.m. Northome; Apartments
3:15 - 4:15 p.m. Alvwood; Hoot-n-Holler

4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Squaw Lake; Community Ctr

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

— Community Education —

Children First! Register for classes at getlearning.org.

CANDLELIGHT SKIING Date: Thurs., Jan. 13 Time: 5-7 p.m. Location: King Elementary School Cafeteria, Deer River Cost: FREE

Candles will be lit at dusk. Enjoy a relaxing ski in the woodland winter night along a ¹/₂ mile groomed loop lit by luminaries. Stop in the school for hot cocoa and a snack, then outside for a bonfire and S'mores. Open to all ages!

Blackduck Register online at blackduck.k12. mn.us under Community Education

KIDS MONTHLY ART NIGHT

LET'S GET CRAFTY, KIDS! Date: Thurs., Jan. 27 Time: 4:00-5:30 p.m. Location: Blackduck Elementary School Cost: \$5

Two sessions each time: grades PreK-2nd and 3rd-6th. Visit Community Ed page at blackduck.k12. mn.us or call Melanie at 218-835-5206 for more information.

DNR HANDS ON SNOWMOBILE SAFETY COURSE

Date: Weds., Jan. 8 Time: Starts at 10 a.m. Location: Blackduck Elementary School Cost: \$10

Online portion of training needs to be completed through the Minnesota DNR website https://www.dnr. state.mn.us/safety/vehicle/snowmobile/index.html, proof of completion needs to be brought to the handson portion. Snowmobiles will be provided, please bring your own helmet if possible.

Northern Itasca

Emergency Food Shelf 200 Main, Bigfork

Thursdays

12:30-3 p.m.

3rd Thursday

4-5:30 p.m.

(218) 743-3381

Northome Library

897-5952

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

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

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

Fri: 9 a.m.- noon

Thurs: noon - 3 p.m.

Northome Food Shelf 12059 Main St

Bring your own bags. 1st Mon.: 9 a.m.-noon

2nd Mon.: 2-5 p.m. 3rd Mon.: 9 a.m.-noon 4th Mon.: 2-5 p.m.

Blackduck **Community Library**: 835-6600 Tues: 1-6 p.m.. Wed: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Thurs:1-7 p.m. Fri: 1-6 p.m. Sat.: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

(218)

Resource Centers:

Blackduck:	Northome:
(218) 835-5768	(218) 897-5952

Community News line

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

Bigfork

EOWSKI! is a community volunteer initiative for connecting families to cross country skiing. All ages are welcome; there are no formal dates in January but watch for ski meet up information. Used ski equipment is available for rental for the season; sugggested donation is \$30 for individuals and \$50 for families. EOWSKI! now has its own permanent equipment storage space at the B.I.G. Community Center at the old food shelf location.

EOWSKI! is saving for its own groomer with a goal of \$8,000. Donations are welcome; send your donation to First State Bank Bigfork, P.O. Box 257, Bigfork, MN 56628. Volunteers are also welcome. To get connected, email eowski@yahoo. com, or call or text Sarah at (218) 387-5012 or call (218) 743-7025.

Community Cafe

The Community Cafe is available to anyone who is in need of a meal. There is no income or financial qualification to receive a free meal. Each Tuesday through Thursday from 4:30 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. (or until gone), a nutritious three-course meal is served. Location: King Elementary School. for more information, visit communitycafemn.org.

Marcell Family Center

49023 State Highway 38 Marcell, MN 56657

MFC hours:

Fitness Center, gymnasium, multi-pur- Mon: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 4-7 p.m. pose room, public computer room and WiFi hotspot.

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.

Fitness Walking at the Marcell Family Center 4-7 p.m. Free, register at getlearning.org.

~ January Calendar ~

- The Club I Never Wanted To Join" breast cancer support group meets 3:30 5 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in the chapel, use south entrance, Grand Rapids. More info with Lynn (218) 832-3612, lynn_ettl@msn.com
- 10 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- ISD317 School Board meets, 6 p.m., public forum 5:45 p.m. 10
- Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m. 10
- 10 Blackduck ISD32 School Board, 7 p.m.
- 11 Stop & Stitch meets at the Marcell Family Center the 2nd Tuesday of every month, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. For more information, call Judy at (218) 832-3237.
- 11 Bigfork Valley Hospital Board meets, 9 a.m. Contact (218) 743-1772 for telephone or virtual attendance information.
- 12 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 13 Candlelight skiing at King Elementary School, Deer River, 5-7 p.m.
- 13 Bigfork City Council meets at City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 13 The Edge Center in Bigfork hosts the Classic Movies series with Lonely Are the Brave (1962) starring Kirk Douglas, 6:30 p.m. Free. Masks and social distancing are required.
- 17 Martin Luther King Day. No school, all schools.
- 18 ISD318 School Board meeting in Grand Rapids or at watchictv.org, 6:30 p.m. Public Forum, 6 p.m. Contact for information: jrasmussen@isd318. org or call (218) 327-5704.
- 23-24 EdgeWild Players of Bigfork will be holding readings of plays to reinvigorate community theater in Bigfork. The area community is invited to participate at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 23 or 6:30 p.m on Monday, Jan. 24 at the Edge Center.
- 24 No school, Deer River, Bigfork schools.
- 24 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 25 No school, Blackduck School.

FEB

5 Winter Frolic at the Marcell Famiy Center, 11a.m.-2:30 p.m. Crafts, games, food and beverages. All are welcome! Marcell Family Center, (218) 832-3444. The event is subject to change.

Area Church Directory

659-2784

ADS ad in pdf	Alvwood Evangelical Free Church Sun 10:00a 58712 Co. Rd. 131 Blackduck 56630 659-4681	Effie Fredheim Lutheran Church (ELCA) Sun 8:30a Hwy 1 Effie 56639 743-3368	Old Scenic Community Church Sun 10:30a 25747 Co. Rd. 340 659-2727 Bigfork 56628 659-2727
s to create	Balsam Bible Chapel Sun 10:00a 41516 Scenic Hwy 7	First Presbyterian Church, BF Sun 10:15a 109 Ash St.	Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church Sun 9:00a Mass also W, Th, F 9:00a.
m \$12 per	Bovey 55709 245-1960	Bigfork 56628 743-3783	320 Golf Course Ln Bigfork 56628 743-3255
business 25 inches	Bear River Lutheran Church Sun 10:00a 11141 Hwy 22	Gemmel Community Church Sun 10:00a 10609 Town Rd 34	Sand Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a
5 inches	Cook 55723 376-1012	Gemmel 56660 897-5966	55581 Co. Rd 4 Spring Lake 56680 659-2872
per month	Bethesda Lutheran ChurchSun 9:00aMizpah56660897-5654	Grace Community Church (ELCA) Sun 10:15a 401 State Hwy 38 N	Spring Lake 56680 659-2872 Church website: www.sandlakealliancechurch.org
3.25 inch	Bigfork Assembly of God Sun 9:30a	Bigfork 56628 743-3368	St. Catherine's Catholic Church Sat 4:00p
our largest	101 Golf Course Ln Bigfork 56628 743-3500	Hope Lutheran Church Sun 10:30 a.m. 12234 Third St.	52265 State Hwy 46 Squaw Lake 56681 743-3255
size.	Bowstring Chapel Sun 10:15a	Northome 56661 897-5654	St. Michael Catholic Church Sat 7:00p; Tu 6:00a
IEDS editor by	45114 Co Rd 133 Deer River 56636 832-3171	Jehovah's Witnesses Tu 7:00p., Sun 10:00a Hwy 38	12026 Lake St Northome 56661 743-3255
ive in the	Calvary Covenant Sun 10:30a	Bigfork 56628 743-3275	Seventh Day Adventist Sun 11:30a
bottom of	54764 Co. Rd. 31 Northome 56661 897-5684	Jesse Lake Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a 45834 Co. Rd. 4	12352 Hwy 46 Northome 56661 897-5723
ng your ad	Centennial Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a	Talmoon 56637 832-3883	Suomi Evangelical Lutheran Church Sun 10:30a
	Hwy 46 Squaw Lake 56681 259-0115	Marcell Community Church Sun 10:30a 49103 State Hwy 38	42935 Co. Rd. 48 Deer River 56636 832-3883
ads are	Deer River Bible Church Sun 10:00a	Marcell 56657 832-3200	True Life Church Sun 10:00a
rs, \$5 per n-members	33276 State Highway 6 Deer River 56636 246-9570	Northome Community Church Sun 10:00a 12071 Bartlett St.	45976 Terry Talmoon 56637 244-7089
as service	Dora Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a	Northome 56661 897-5040	
xt only).	59329 Co Rd 145 Northome 56661 659-4551	Northwoods Chapel Sun 9:00a 50539 Mushgee Rd. (corner of Co. Rd. 622)	Church directory sponsored by North Itasca Electric Cooperative,

Deer River 56636

send changes to editor, sedgwick@paulbunyan.net

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DISPLAY A Email your a format or ask us one for you.

Ads run from month for the card size (3.25 wide x 1.75high) to \$24 pe for a square 3 ad, which is ou commercial ad si

CLASSIFIE

Contact the e one of the way coupon at the b page 15 or bring into the office.

Classified free to members insertion to nonor businesses. as classifieds (text Ads are boxed and may be limited in size.

page 14

• recipes • reci

Congratulations to our Christmas Cookie Contest winners! Below are the cookie recipes which placed first, second and third, and the candy winner. Thank you to all who entered. The annual recipe booklet with all the delicious recipes can be picked up at the Headquarters lobby in Bigfork, or email roannep@nieci.com.

Cranberry Bliss Bars

Thanks to Virginia Wass

For the cookie layer:

2 ¼ cups flour

- 1 ¹⁄₂ teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ tsp. salt
- 1/8 teaspoon cinnamon or ½ teaspoon ginger
- ³⁄₄ cup melted butter
- 1 ½ cup packed brown sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries
- 1 cup white chocolate chips

For the frosting:

- 1-8 oz. brick cream cheese, softened
- 1 Tablespoon grated orange zest or ½ tsp orange extract & ½ tsp vanilla
- 1 to 1 ½ cup powdered sugar
- 1 cup white chocolate chips melted
- or you can use 2 almond bark squares
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries roughly chopped

Blondie layer:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9" x 13" baking dish. In a medium bowl whisk together the flour, baking powder, salt and cinnamon: set aside. In a large bowl whisk the butter and sugar and let mixture cool to room temperature. Then with an electric mixer beat the egg and vanilla mixture. Beat until combined and no flour streaks appear. Stir in cranberries and white chocolate chips. (The batter will be thick.) Spread the blondie batter into prepared pan. Bake for 18 to 21 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean (Do not overbake.) Cool completely on a wire rack.

For the frosting and topping:

In a large bowl use an electric mixer to beat the cream cheese, orange zest and powered sugar until well blended. Gradually add half of the melted white chocolate; beat until blended. Frost brownies. Sprinkle cranberries. Drizzle with remaining melted white chocolate. Cut bars into your desired shape, squares or triangles. Store covered in the refrigerator until ready to serve.



Rocky Road candy

Thanks to Nancy Fradette

1 12 oz. package semi sweet chocolate chips

- 1 12 oz. package butterscotch chips
- 1/2 cup butter

1 10.5 oz. package miniature marshmallows

1 cup nuts

In microwave-proof 4 quart dish combine chocolate, butterscotch chips and butter. Heat until melted and stir.

Fold in marshmallows and nuts, then spread in 9" x 13" pan. Refrigerate until set (2 hours). You may substitute half of the nuts with dried fruit; apricots or prunes would be delicious.

Christmas Wreaths

Thanks to Janet Kogler



30 large marshmallows

1/2 cup butter

Scant 1/2 teaspoon green liquid food coloring

- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4 cups cornflakes
- 2 teaspoon "red hots" cinnamon candies

In a heavy saucepan over low heat, melt butter. Stirring constantly, add marshmallows until melted. Remove pan from heat and whisk in food coloring and vanilla. Add corn flakes and stir quickly to coat well. To keep mixture warm, place saucepan in a skillet filled with 1" of hot water. Drop a heaping Tablespoonful of mixture onto waxed paper. With lightly buttered fingers quickly form a wreath. Immediately decorate with red hots. Repeat to make 1 ½ doz.- 2-inch wreaths. Store in airtight container. Can also be frozen.

Makes a nice addition to a plate of Christmas cookies because of their green color!



Jam-filled Cornstarch Cookies

Thanks to Delores Stafford

Beat together:

½ cup butter ½ cup granulated sugar

Stir in:

1 egg

1 teaspoon vanilla

Add:

- ³/₄ cup + 2 Tablespoons flour
- ³⁄₄ cup cornstarch
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- pinch of salt

Mix thoroughly. Chill dough one hour. Roll into 1-inch balls and place 2 inches apart on lightly greased cookie sheet. Press finger in center and fill with apricot (or other) jam. Do not overfill or jam will cook out.

Bake 8-10 minutes at 400 degrees or until light brown on bottom.

Makes 2-3 dozen.

Please share your recipe with us! Every month North Itasca Electric prints two Member recipes. If your recipe is chosen, you will receive a \$10 credit on your electric bill. Send your recipe to the editor, WATTS NEWS, P.O. Box 43, Spring Lake, MN 56680 or email the editor at sedgwick@paulbunyan.net..

Visit your co-op at www.NorthItascaElectric.com on Facebook to get outage updates!

Safety on the ice

In December, weather in the statewhich has included rain, snow and fluctuating temperatures-has affected ice-making and impacted ice that's already formed.

As a result, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources stresses the importance of checking ice thickness with a spud bar, auger or other device before stepping out onto it. Do not rely on other people's footprints, tracks or social media posts.

Anglers and others who recreate on the ice should stay on shore until there's at least 4 inches of new, clear ice. A minimum of 5 to 7 inches of ice is necessary to support an all-terrain vehicle or snowmobile, and there should be at least a foot before hauling out a truck or wheelhouse-type fishing shelter. People should check the thickness of the ice regularly, since it can be highly variable even on the same body of water.

"The week between Christmas and New Year's is typically the kickoff of the 'wheelhouse season,' and we anticipate it'll be the same this year, especially in the northern part of the state," said Col. Rodmen Smith, DNR Enforcement Division director. "Whether you're walking onto the ice or hauling out a shelter you'll sleep in, checking the ice thickness regularly is absolutely vital."

Each year, unexpected falls through thin ice lead to serious injury or death. Wearing a life jacket is the best way to avert tragedy should someone fall through the ice, since the initial shock of falling into cold water can incapacitate

New state record for muskie

weighing 55 pounds, 14 ounces, from Mille Lacs Lake that the Minnesota records in news releases, on social Department of Natural Resources media and on the DNR website. Find has certified as a weight-based state current records and guidelines for record. The previous record was a each type of state record at mndnr.gov/ 54-pound muskie caught from Lake recordfish.

Doxo.com There is an on-line bill pay website that appears to be affiliated with North Itasca Electric, but it is not. Doxo.com is third-party website that allows people to pay their electric bills via their site. However, doxo.com may charge the member extra fees, and North Itasca Electric cannot control when we will receive the member payments from doxo.com, possibly resulting in a late payment for the member or even disconnection due to nonpayment.

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even strong swimmers. A good set of ice picks will help a person get out, and a cell phone, whistle or other communications device makes it more likely they'll be able to call for help.

General ice safety guidelines

No ice can ever be considered "safe ice," but following these guidelines can help minimize the risk:

• Always wear a life jacket or float coat on the ice (except when in a vehicle).

• Carry ice picks, rope, an ice chisel and tape measure.

• Check ice thickness at regular intervals; conditions can change quickly. • Bring a cell phone or personal

locator beacon.

• Don't go out alone; let someone know about trip plans and expected return time.

• Before heading out, inquire about conditions and known hazards with local experts.

Minimum ice thickness guidelines for new, clear ice are:

• 4 inches for ice fishing or other activities on foot.

• 5-7 inches for a snowmobile or allterrain vehicle.

• 8-12 inches for a car or small pickup.

• 12-15 inches for a medium truck.

• Double these minimums for white or snow-covered ice.

For more information, visit mndnr.gov/icesafety and mndnr.gov/ boatingsafety.

An angler caught a muskellunge Winnibigoshish in 1957.

The DNR announces new state



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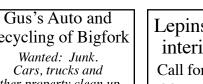
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All about Lighting

Depending on the time of illumination. year, lighting today accounts for 10 percent of the energy used in homes.

Types of lighting:

There are different types of lighting: general, task, accent and decorative.

General Lighting provides or more fixtures. usually ceiling mounted but can be wall scones as well, having dimmable switches to set a mood withing a room.

by Jerry Loney chandelier lighting to get proper home's electrical system but are Watts vs. Lumens:

Fixtures:

Apart from types of lighting are the fixtures themselves. Lighting fixtures hold the bulbs which significantly affect the lighting outcome. Fixtures come in forms of surface mount, recessed and plug-in.

room illumination with one Surface mount fixtures always They are need an electrical box to mount them and offers general lighting.

> Recessed lighting are fixtures extending into the space above ceiling flush with the the

Lumens	Incandescent	HID	CFL	LED
250 lm	25W	18W	6W	2W-3W
560 Im	40W	29W	10W	3W-6W
800 lm	60W	43W	13W	7W-10W
1100 lm	75W	53W	18W	10W-15W
1600 lm	100W	72W	23W	15W-20W
2600 lm	150W	100W	42W	20W-30W

Task Lighting provides light to surface. The light is reflected workspaces or spaces needing lights to be more focused.

Accent Lighting provides light for artwork or architectural features.

Decorative Lighting focuses on light fixtures themselves, normally chandeliers and their bulbs. Other fixtures usually need to accompany

straight down. Recessed fixtures can also get hot, and bulbs need to be matched with the fixture. With LED bulbs, this is not a concern. If installing recessed lighting in an attic space, it needs to be sealed and insulated properly to avoid air leakage.

The last fixture to talk about is the *plug-in type*. These fixtures are not wired directly into the

portable and able to be plugged smaller cords that can overheat the wiring and install bulbs sized per labels.

Bulbs:

Light bulbs have changed the last few years; the old incandescent types that gave

off 10 percent light and 90 percent heat are no longer available. CFL bulbs became available and are now on the way out. The advancement in technology has led to the LED.

LED bulbs do not give off heat as the incandescent and CFL bulbs did. Bulb design allows for more light without giving off heat energy, reducing consumption.

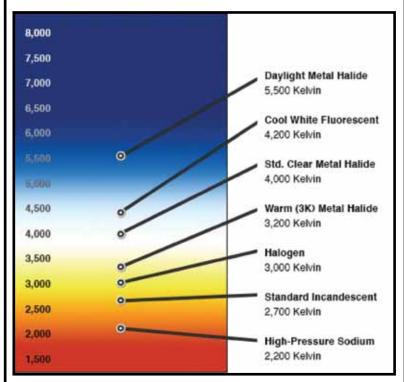
Halogen bulbs are still on the market even though they are much like incandescents; the difference is that they are infused with halogen gas which extends their life span three times more than incandescent bulbs. As incandescents, halogen bulbs give off much energy in heat rather than light.

Tube fluorescent bulbs have also taken a few turns these last few years. The T12 was replaced with the T8 and the T8 replaced with T5. Now LEDs have been developed into the tube style also.

in lumens.

A lumen is the measurement lighting. of the brightness of light as

perceived by the human eye. Watts were once used to It is a more accurate view of into any of the home's outlets. measure energy of a bulb, the illumination delivered. The If using an extension cord with they did not give information higher the lumens, the brighter plug-in fixtures, do not use about the type, brightness, the light. Lower lumens (under color temperature, lifetime, 600) may be best for decorative etc. Today when purchasing a or mood lighting, while higher bulb, measurements are given lumens (over 2,000) are best for task, directional and spot



Color temperatures:

All light bulbs emit different frequencies (or color) of light depending on how they are made. Redder colors are warmer and used for general illumination while bluer (or cooler) colors give sharper details and are good for task lighting.

These colors are measured in (Kelvin or K) values. A reddish light is identified as being a warm light color and as it becomes bluer, identified as cooler. The Kelvin range of brightness starts with warm being 2700 K (Kelvin) and ends with cool being 6,000 K (Kelvin)



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