



**NORTH ITASCA
ELECTRIC**

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

**WATTS
NEWS**

VOL 25 NO. 1

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

JANUARY 2023

CEO Report

Good morning NIECI,

Mother Nature has handed us a winter wonderland! There will be no question we will have a white, snow-filled holiday season. Please be careful, the weight of the snow on our trees will be a concern for weeks and months to come.

The local lakes had some ice, not enough to fully support this snow load. I'm guessing there will be a lot of slush when you punch a hole in your favorite fishing hole this winter. Please be careful and mindful as the conditions continue to change after this storm. The local snowmobile



Brad Dolinski, CEO

clubs will be busy trying to open the trails for the season. Please be patient; if you have some time to donate, I'm sure the clubs would be happy to have the help clearing and

packing the trails.

Our directors held a board meeting at the end of November. The 2023 budget was reviewed in detail including the operating budget. This includes investments in equipment and what we expect to accomplish on the system over the next year. Pressures from multiple directions led us to increase rates for 2023. Below is what you can expect:

With these increases the average Member-Owner will see a bill increase of

Approved Rates	2022	2023
Minimum kWh	\$46	\$49
Short term control	\$.1249	\$.1288
Long term control	\$.063	\$.0673
	\$.055	\$.0581

CEO to p.2>

Staying prepared for any weather

The Midwest electric system has ample energy resources for winter, though utilities and grid operators are prepared should unexpected circumstances arise

Just as you take precautionary measures to prepare for the winter season, so too do utilities and the organizations that manage, monitor, and regulate the electric system.

Grid stakeholders work together year-round to ensure electric service is reliable by conducting various assessments ahead of each season to project the energy needs of homes and businesses. This process provides especially important information for summers, when temperatures can soar, as well as each winter when they can fall dangerously low.

The results of these assessments, which consider probable and worst-case scenarios, help guide utilities like Great River Energy when managing their electric systems during extreme weather and elevated demand for electricity.

Assessments show that the grid has sufficient resources to meet consumer demand.

Assessments conducted by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) for this upcoming winter found that the grid has a sufficient supply of capacity resources to meet consumer demand

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Another new year is upon us

by Jerry Loney

With every new year comes an anticipation that in the next, new and good things will come with it.

The last couple years have not been without challenges and 2023 will have them as well. But instead of looking upon them a challenge, let's look at them as opportunities. We don't have a crystal ball to see into the future but do have experiences from the past that can somewhat guide us into the future.

We know that higher equipment costs and lead times will continue for a while yet, and because of this, I have ordered load control devices and equipment expecting the need. Last summer I ordered ad-

ditional whole house generators because it was announced that orders would take six months to get. By doing this, I was also able to eliminate shipping and surcharges of roughly \$200 each from the retail price by ordering three at a time.

The rising costs in construction haven't seemed to stop additions, new homes, and cabins from being built, but it has slowed down from that of pre-Covid times. North Itasca Electric's membership – once below 5,000 members – now exceeds this number placing North Itasca Electric in a non-exempt status with the state which

means it now is required to follow government mandates to reduce energy each year. In 2023, the required reduction amount for North Itasca Electric is 778,550 kWh per year. When dividing these kWhs by 5,000 members equates to 155 kWh reduction for each of us. To help do this, North Itasca Electric will have \$31,938 to spend on rebating appliances and equipment which shows a reduction in energy use.

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Mrs. Carnahan's fifth grade class from Bigfork Elementary came to serenade North Itasca Electric staff with Christmas carols and were treated with cookies and cider.

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Office Hours

Monday - Friday
7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
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CEO Report (continued)

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roughly \$6.33 per month. This is based on the average usage of 750 kWh in a month. If your home or business uses more than that we can quickly calculate what your increase will be. We are increasing revenues by five percent in 2023. Three percent of this increase is coming directly from Great River Energy increasing the cost of purchased power to North Itasca Electric. This increase is due to the costs going up significantly in power markets driven by the price of natural gas. The remaining two percent is cost of materials, insurances, dues and operating expenses rising.

I understand this is never good news when we raise the power bill. We worked diligently to keep the increase as low as possible given the difficult times we are facing together.

On a much happier note, Capital

Credit Checks were mailed in December. Mailing these checks out to our members is fulfilling our responsibility to return revenues. Additionally, we are returning Capital Credits from our G&T Great River Energy. North Itasca Electric is returning years 1999 and 2001, GRE is returning years 1991 and 1992. North Itasca Electric returned \$228,806, GRE returned \$101,051 to our Member-Owners. The average check was roughly \$70 returned to those members. North Itasca Board of Directors, employees and myself are extremely proud when the checks are mailed back to you.

This will be my last article for 2022. I'm ready to put this one in the books and start 2023! We had several challenging months due to storm damage from this summer. My employees came together to overcome everything that was thrown at them. Our board of

directors were supportive and understanding of the situations we faced. Thank you to my employees and board of directors for all your dedication to the Member-Owners of North Itasca Electric!

Last but surely not least, thank you to my Member-Owners. Your support when the times are tough is outstanding! Your kind and encouraging words during storms, conversations we share, emails and your willingness to communicate is so appreciated. This cooperative was created by the members we serve, you make that job so rewarding. Our communities are outstanding! I am proud of the work we have accomplished and where we intend to go. Thank you for being the involved and interactive communities you have always been.

*By your side! Miigwech
Brad*

Electric Cooperative

Governance

The strength of electric cooperatives is rooted in the fact that they are led by consumers and belong to the communities they serve. Democratic member control is a core cooperative principle.

o Serving our members is a primary ingredient of the electric co-op mission. Electric cooperatives leverage a variety of resources to increase member engagement and ensure timely and ongoing communications.

Electric co-op boards, and the communities that they represent, play a leadership role and guide the direction of the co-op.

o Electric cooperatives benefit from open and transparent governance and the positive involvement of the communities they serve.

o Co-op board members play a pivotal role in determining the strategic direction and priorities of the co-op. This board input is key as electric cooperatives keep the lights on today and plan to meet the energy needs of tomorrow.

Board members spend significant time and energy serving as a board member in a highly complex and rapidly changing industry. They have a fiduciary duty to the electric co-op, and face potential personal liability for breaching that duty. Electric co-op boards may be compensated for their leadership role in guiding the direction of the co-op. That compensation is paid to board members who:

- Fulfill the role of being a co-op leader.
- Accept the risk and responsibilities of being a board member.

Several variables affect co-op directors' compensation, including the number of meetings and other director events each year, travel for board meetings and other co-op functions, nature of the industry, and size and structure of the business.

Every electric cooperative adopts its own bylaws and policies, consistent with the laws of its state.

o Co-op boards and management continue to implement policies and practices that reflect transparency, ethics and accountability, and communicate those good governance practices with their membership and the public.

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WATTS NEWS

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WATTS NEWS Editor: Sally Sedgwick

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

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.

North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Directors

Chairman: Larry Salmela, District 3

Vice-Chair: Wes Waller, District 2

Secretary: Lloyd Kongsjord, District 5

Treasurer: Roy Bain, District 9

Rep. to GRE Board: Lloyd Kongsjord, District 5

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Highlights from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Nov. 30, 2022

Start time: 9:00 a.m.

End time: 12:06 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on November 30, 2022.

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

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

- o Pledge of Allegiance was recited
- o Motion was made to adopt agenda, second, passed
- o Motion to adopt consent agenda, second, passed
- o Safety discussion was held on cold weather illness and injury. Hypothermia, frost bite and freeze injury signs and symptoms were discussed.
- o T. Danielson presented operating reports, motion was made to accept reports, second, passed
- o 2023 budget was presented in detail with operating budget. Motion was made to approve the budget as presented with 5 percent rate increase. Seconded, passed.

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o D. Pederson gave the Line Department report. Daryl noted that NIECI has gone 41,800 hours without a lost time accident. MREA was on site to train line department on underground safety and connections along with a crew visit. Star was on site to verify repairs to the Jesse Lake Sub. Crews completed 7 new services and 4 upgrades over the past month. Outage reports were presented and discussed.

o J. Loney gave the Member Service Report. Jerry discussed equipment sales, service and audits performed over the month. Energy sales for October were up from the previous year.

o T. Danielson gave the Office Report. Health insurance, Civil Rights Compliance Review, PSN annual review, State Assessed Property and PCS/CSA meetings were discussed. Bank balances and accounts payable were presented and discussed.

o B. Dolinski gave the CEO update. IEDC efforts in the area were discussed. MREA grassroots, 2023 legislative expectations, GRE and federal funding opportunities were presented and discussed.

o W. Waller gave the MREA report. Strategic planning, municipal relationships and political agendas were discussed.

o L. Kongsjord gave the GRE report. Strong

Looking into 2023

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You will see these rebates listed on page 16.

Those of you attending last summer's annual meeting heard of programs being worked on involving member participation to help reduce energy. One of these programs was implemented last summer in the WATTS News asking for member participation for a chance to win a \$100 credit towards their electric bill. To my surprise, there wasn't even one (current) member that responded. Other programs have been looked at for member participation in reducing energy and demand loads, however, they would not come without a price. The cost of programming software and intensive labor hours involved is a hurdle hard to get over.

With whole house generators now being purchased, I'm looking into a residential generator program like the commercial one Great River Energy offers industries and small commercial operations to reduce demand loads during peak periods. In this, the member could receive credits for running their generators during high-cost energy periods. Briggs and Stratton now has available residential generators for this purpose. This is still in the research stage.

Since we are talking about whole house generators; when you receive pricing for the various ones on the market, the cheapest one is not always cheaper. Reliability, warranties, availability of certified people for maintenance and repairs are some things to think about. On February 23, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at the Ege Center for the Arts, North Itasca Electric Cooperative along with Star Energy Services

financials, PCA, and fourth Thursday of every month. If you wish to speak with the board and discussed.

o Round table discussion was held
Motion made to adjourn, second, passed 12:06 p.m.
Regular board meetings are generally held the



OPEN HOUSE

WHEN | February 23, 2023 at 5:00 PM

WHERE | Edge Center for the Arts
101 2ND AVENUE, BIGFORK, MN

Come and learn about Briggs and Stratton® generators and Brigg's new battery storage systems, SimpliPhi. This open house will be for all membership and members of the technical trades. Learn about becoming certified for installations and on-going service.





(our generator supplier) and Briggs & Stratton will be hosting an Open House for all members and contractors wanting to learn more about these generators. Contractors and technical support people will be in one group, interested members in another. Briggs & Stratton has now moved into whole house battery systems that will also be presented during this open house. More details will be come in the next issue of WATTS News. RSVPs will be requested as refreshments

will be provided. Challenges made into opportunities is my goal and I welcome all member participation through your thoughts and ideas as we look forward into 2023.

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WWW Website highlights:
NorthItascaElectric.com

Using the mobile app

You like to keep track of your electricity account, but who has the time to sit down at a computer? Life is on your phone! There's an app for that...you can find out where to find it, how to load it and how to register under the "Account" tab at NorthItascaElectric.com. Below are all the things you can do on the app.



Operation Round Up

Twice a year you can see the organizations and projects that have received grants from Operation Round Up – a voluntary way for members to help the community.

Your non-profit, school or governmental group has a project that could use a little help. How do you access the program and when are the deadlines? Find out all the details about the initiative on the website under the "Member Services" tab.

While you are there, check out the service area map. It shows the boundaries of each director district.

Cold weather rule & energy assistance program notice

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, electric service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between Oct. 1 and April 30 if electricity is the primary heat source and ALL of the following statements apply:

- Your household income is at or below 50% of the state median household income. Income may be verified on forms provided by North Itasca Electric Cooperative or by the local energy assistance provider.
- You enter into and make reasonably timely payments

under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.

- You receive referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce your energy bills from North Itasca Electric Cooperative. Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule does not completely stop winter disconnects before disconnecting electric service to residential members between Oct. 1 and April 30,

North Itasca Electric Cooperative must provide:

- A 30-day notice of disconnection;
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities;
- A list of local energy assistance providers;
- Forms on which to request Cold Weather Rule protection; and
- A statement explaining available payment plans and other options to continue service.

Energy Assistance Program

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below 60 percent of the state median income (\$67,764 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2023. To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.
- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance, Kootasca Community Action (218) 999-0800. North Itasca Electric Cooperative exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please contact Sheila Hafeman at (218) 743-3131 to set up a payment plan.

Energy assistance

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

KOOTASCA ENERGY ASS'T.
201 NW 4th St., Ste 130
Grand Rapids MN 55744
218-999-0800
877-687-1163

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

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

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

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Roxanne's Sales Talk

by Roxanne Prather, member services representative

I want to thank all of you who submitted recipes for our Christmas Cookie / Candy Contest this year!

Winners: 1st place, Linda Penn (\$50 credit) with her Jumbo Raisin Cookies; 2nd place, Jan Mackenthun (\$25 credit) with her Christmas Cherry Bars; 3rd place, Nettie Waller (\$15 credit) with her Date Nut Krispies; and 4th place, Ellen Bomstad (\$10 credit) with her Perfect Cherry Brownies.

Congratulations to the winners. They are all good cookies and candy recipes...it was hard to pick

a winner. The Christmas sale was good, we missed having the open house, it's not the same without it. I'm hoping we can get back to it next year.

The Coloring Contest also went well this year. Winners were Zoey Miller, Jayne Rahier, Jericho Rahier and Brooklynn Walker. We gave \$20 visa cards to the winners so they could buy something they would like.

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. I

want to remind everyone about our bundling deals. If you are building a house and purchasing 3 items, you would receive 8 percent off, 4 items 10 percent off and 5 or more gives you 15 percent off. The more you spend, the more you save. Call me and I would be happy to help you put together a package that works for you.

I can be reached at (218) 743-3132. We look forward to serving you next year.

When purchasing a new appliance

ENERGY STAR® listed appliances are recommended by North Itasca Electric Cooperative, especially for refrigerators and freezers where the purpose of rebates is for the removal of older less efficient working units with ones of higher efficiencies.

To receive a rebate, you will be required to show proof of recycling of the old (working) one being replaced. The purpose for proof of recycling is twofold, refrigerants in them need to be recycled and that in fact, it was recycled. Purchasing an

ENERGY STAR unit and placing the old working one in the garage or giving it away doesn't help with overall energy efficiency, but only adds load to the distribution lines.

Appliance efficiencies

ENERGY STAR certified dehumidifiers have more efficient refrigeration coils, compressors, and fans than conventional models, which means they remove the same amount of moisture, but use nearly 15 percent less energy.

ENERGY STAR certified dryers use about 20 percent less energy than conventional models without sacrificing features or performance.

ENERGY STAR certified refrigerators are about 9 percent more energy efficient than models that meet the federal minimum energy efficiency standard.

ENERGY STAR certified freezers are at least 10 percent more energy efficient than the minimum federal standard.

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 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

Roxanne's Repair Tips:

Range surface element won't shut off

Here are reasons that the surface element on your range won't shut off

Coil Element Burner

- The surface element switch

The surface element switch sends voltage to the surface element coil. Sometimes the electrical contacts inside the switch fuse together when the surface element switch fails, causing the switch to send continuous voltage to the surface element.

If the surface element switch is bad, replace it. To get to the surface element switch you must take the top panel of the range off. The switches are behind the knobs that turn the power on.

You can check the coil element with a continuity meter by touching the coil and the terminal, if there is continuity replace the element.

Smooth Top Burner

- The element might be shorting out.

You can check this by taking the top of the range off and inspecting the element. You should see signs that it's been burnt. Or, you can test it with an ohmmeter by checking to see if there is continuity when you touch the ceramic case and the terminals. This is not common, but if there is continuity the element needs to be replaced

Remember, you can go to RepairClinic.com for videos and parts.

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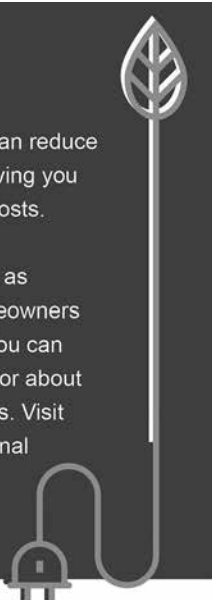
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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Insulating your electric water heater can reduce standby heat loss by 25% to 45%, saving you 7% to 16% on annual water heating costs.

The Dept. of Energy rates this project as medium difficulty, meaning most homeowners can tackle this project on their own. You can purchase pre-cut jackets or blankets for about \$20 at most home improvement stores. Visit energy.gov for project tips and additional considerations.

Source: energy.gov



Winter weather and the electrical grid

>from p.1
under peak conditions.

However, NERC's assessment highlights risks presented in specific regions — including portions of MISO's southern territory — in the case of extreme, prolonged cold weather.

MISO acknowledges one of winter's key challenges is the potential for "high risk, low probability" events, such

as unusually cold weather, intense storms and/or fuel supply issues that could impact available power and create challenges.

"Operating the power system is extremely complex and adverse weather conditions can test the resiliency of the electric grid," said Jessica

Lucas, executive director of system operations at MISO. "We have a responsibility to ensure

42 million customers have reliable power, which is why we work collaboratively with our partner utilities as we head into winter."

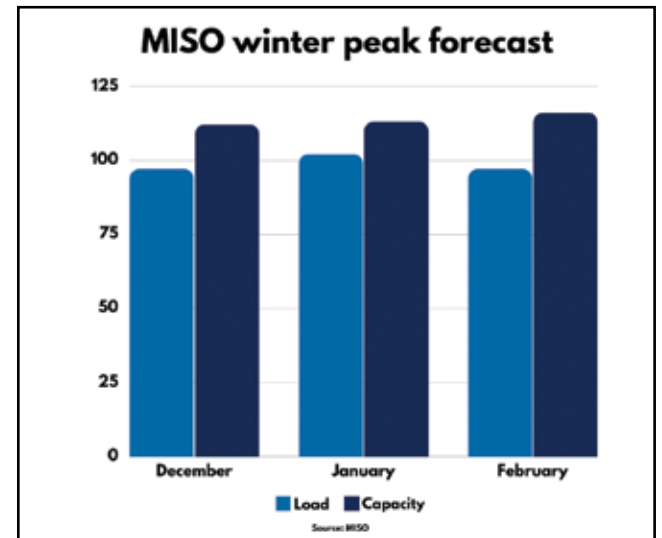
The NERC assessment mentions that MISO has implemented actions to provide situational awareness and early coordination for reducing risks from extreme winter weather since 2021. It also indicates that an upcoming change to the way MISO plans for energy resources — which will consider the unique needs of each season — will better align winter resource capacity with peak winter load needs.

"The system is evolving and will continue to evolve toward a more complex, less predictable future for the region," said Anna Foglesong, director of strategy and policy coordination at MISO. "We continue to work with our stakeholders to address our reliability imperative and focus on the changes needed in planning, markets,

operations and systems as the system continues to evolve."

For its part in maintaining reliability, Great River Energy has access to a diverse portfolio of power supply resources, including peaking resources with dual fuel capability, which means they can operate on fuel oil when natural gas supply is constrained. This fuel flexibility is an important characteristic for system reliability and as a hedge against market and natural gas prices. The cooperative also focuses on the weatherization of these plants to support resilient and reliable operation during extreme weather events.

"Combined, these resources will provide our membership with the security of knowing they have the reliability needed to get them through the coldest nights this winter," said Great River Energy Vice President and Chief Power Supply Officer Jon Brekke. "We are also adding another 300



megawatts of wind before January that will further diversify Great River Energy's power supply portfolio and help provide a hedge in MISO's daily markets."

Great River Energy, in partnership with its member-owner cooperatives, also has the largest demand response program for a utility of its size in the country according to data collected by the Energy Information Administration. This means Great River Energy system operators can dispatch up to 370,000-

plus appliances enrolled in demand response programs when needed to manage reliability.

In addition to reducing sometimes hundreds of megawatts of electricity demand, this strategy helps Great River Energy avoid making purchases from the energy market during the periods of high pricing that often coincide with high demand and unusual weather events, which saves members money.

Key points on winter preparedness in the grid:

- ✓ The electric system in the Midwest is well prepared to provide reliable energy through the winter of 2022-2023; however, the utilities in the region are preparing contingency plans in the event that there are historic weather extremes or fuel constraints.

- ✓ Two organizations [Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) which manages the region's energy markets and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) which assures the effective, efficient reduction of risks to the reliability and security of the grid] released winter readiness assessments. Both organizations concluded the grid is equipped with sufficient supply of capacity resources to meet consumer demand under normal conditions this winter.

- ✓ MISO is predicting winter demand will top 102 gigawatts

- (GW) with 113 GW of supply available under those conditions.

- ✓ MISO's all-time winter record for power demand was 109 GW on Jan. 6, 2017.

- ✓ An annual generation survey of MISO members found that 98 percent had a plan to prepare for winter and 89 percent had a severe cold weather checklist.

- ✓ Responses also showed there were notable improvements to preparedness from 2021.

- ✓ NERC's assessment also highlighted risks present in specific regions of the country in the case of a worst-case, extreme prolonged cold weather scenario.

- ✓ NERC attributes MISO's risk level in this scenario to a decline in surplus energy due to the retirement of nuclear and coal-fired generation totaling 4.2 GW.

- ✓ Another risk is the potential for

- generator outages from inadequate weatherization of generation units in the southern United States and constraints to natural gas supply.

- ✓ MISO's worst-case scenario projects higher loads/high number of resource outages based on five-year historical information.

- ✓ NERC's worst-case scenario projects the use of load shed (also called "rolling blackouts") during wide area cold weather events based on five-year averages of outage information.

- ✓ Great River Energy believes MISO's assessment is more realistic because it reflects more recent improvements to MISO's outage coordination process.

- ✓ Great River Energy has access to a diverse power supply portfolio and is prepared to meet its membership's electric demand this winter.

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Central and ductless air source heat pump rebates

Air source heat pumps (ASHPs) provide home cooling and supplemental heating with 72 percent less electricity than conventional air conditioners and furnaces.

ASHPs are measured by 1) Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) 2) Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER) and 3) Heat Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF). The SEER rating most accurately reflects overall system cooling efficiency on a seasonal basis and EER reflects the system's cooling energy efficiency at peak day operations. HSPF is the most commonly used measure of an air source heat pump's heating efficiency. The higher the HSPF rating, the more efficient a heat pump is. Cooling and heating modes can be controlled directly from the thermostat, putting homeowners in complete control.

Quality installation (QI) certifications are now required to receive a rebate for the installation of air source heat pumps. Only those projects performed by contractors which have become certified with

QI certified heating and cooling HVAC contractors					
Company	City	Phone	Cell Phone	QI Certified	After Hr. Services
Cozy Air Htg & Plumbing	Marcell	218-832-3246	218-256-7316	Yes	Yes
JK Mechanical	Nashwauk	218-885-3883		Yes	
Liberty Heating	Bigfork	218-743-6145	218-244-2137	Yes	Yes
Norton's Heating & Cooling Inc.	Bemidji	218-444-1533	218-766-8607	Yes	Yes
Midwest Heating & Cooling LLC	Bovey	218-245-1385		Yes	Yes
Aspire Heating & Control, Inc.	Grand Rapids	218-256-7778		Yes	Yes
Coatsworth Construction	Cohasset	218-326-7966		Yes	Yes
Mr. Furnance	Cohasset	218-328-6145		Yes	Yes
Ability Furnace	Deer River	218-246-2634		Yes	
Deer River Plbg & Htg	Deer River	218-246-2294		Yes	
Quality Refrigeration & Heating	Deer River	218-246-2731		Yes	Yes
A & A Plbg & Htg	Grand Rapids	218-327-4962		Yes	Yes
Brown's Heating & A/C Service	Grand Rapids	218-326-1078		Yes	yes
Danielson Heating & Cooling, LLC	Grand Rapids	218-244-5447		Yes	Yes
Northern Air Plbg & Htg	Grand Rapids	218-327-9361		Yes	Yes
True North Heating and Cooling	Grand Rapids	218-360-0961		Yes	Yes
RC's AC / Heating	Grand Rapids	218-326-9705	218-259-1807	Yes	Yes
Spring Lake Heating	Spring Lake	218-259-8903		Yes	Yes

the Air-conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) will be designated as a quality installation for rebates.

When receiving a rebate, there is the possibility that Great River Energy could audit the performance of the work done. Above are those HVAC contractors which

perform work in North Itasca Electric cooperative's service territory which are QI registered.

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Member Warning: Doxo.com

There is an on-line bill pay website that appears to be affiliated with North Itasca Electric, but it is not.

Doxo.com 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 from the member or even disconnection due to non-payment.

To make sure you're paying North Itasca Electric directly, visit our website www.northitascaelectric.com, for our direct link to the online bill payment portal, mypesportal.com.

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North Itasca Electric Kids Coloring Contest

Winners of the 2022 Christmas Kids Coloring Contest: (from left, clockwise): Joey Miller, age 6; Jayne Rahier, age 7; Jericho Rahier, age 8; Brooklyn Walker, age 9.



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More super colorers:

(from top left, clockwise): Johnny Waker, age 6; Izzy Bybee, age 8; McKinley Jacobson, age 6; Chloe Mealhouse, age 7; Isaiah White, age 7; Richie Korb, age 8.



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Edge Center for the Arts

by Val Conner

Thanks to a grant from the state arts board, the Edge Center for the Arts is able to offer a variety of theatrical experiences from January through April. Being in the audience is always an activity welcomed at the Edge, but it's necessary to have something for the audience to witness. To that end, we are offering a variety of ways to participate on stage, in front of the camera, back stage, and behind the camera as well as in the cutting room editing video.

"But I don't know how to do any of that," you say. Not to worry. We're offering free training sessions in acting and videography skills taught by professionals in the field. We are looking for students and adults to participate. This is your chance to hone your skills and to discover a possible new creative outlet.



First, auditions will be held on January 11th and 12th for *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder to be staged the last week-end in April. Come to the Edge as your schedule allows between 3 and 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 11 or Thursday, January 12.



Second, we will have a professional actor/filmmaker on site to give camera presentation advice. She will continue in the following weeks to hold classes for acting and directing for the camera. Each class will be about

two hours long and start at 5:30 p.m on Wednesdays, January 18 and 25 and February 1 and 8. Because of licensing conditions, we will not be using *Our Town* for these sessions. Instead, we will do the video training using *Almost, Maine* by John Cariani.

Third, as the winter progresses we will add training in post-production/editing video skills taught by two other professionals.

To summarize:

This may seem a bit confusing, so just keep in mind:

✓ Our Town auditions at the Edge Center in Bigfork January 11 and 12 from 3:00-7:00 p.m. You only have to attend one of those days, and not for the entire time.

✓ *Our Town* will be presented on stage April

27 -30.

✓ Free instruction in acting for the camera will be in the Edge Gallery during the auditions.

✓ Subsequent video acting, directing, and staging training—again, all is free—will be at the Edge 5:30-7:30 p.m. on January 18 and 25 and February 1 and 8.

✓ Dates for post-production (creative editing) training will be announced later. Look for posters, Facebook, and other notices for more details.

This is a great opportunity for those who think they may be interested in learning skills that may provide commercial and hobby opportunities.

Let's make this a fun-filled active winter and beat those winter blahs!

Classic movie series

by Jack Nachbar

Nuclear anxiety was a big deal in the 1950s. Schools practiced "Duck and Cover" exercises. And literally dozens of movies were centered on atomic attacks. The best of these nuke-obsessed movies was *On the Beach* (1959).

The problem in the film is nuclear fallout, which is threatening the entire earth. To dramatize the possible consequences of a WWII nuclear war, producer Stanley Kramer assembled a remarkable cast of four major stars: Fred Astaire, in his first dramatic role, Ava Gardner, Gregory Peck, a longtime anti-nuke activist and a new star, Anthony Perkins.

On the Beach today is a relevant as ever. Newspaper commentaries about the possible use of nukes in the war in Ukraine are common now. *Beach's* sobering examination of the consequences of atomic attack still provides us with material for serious thought. And it's presented in a well acted, engaging story.

On the Beach will be shown Thursday, January 12, 2023, at 6:30 p.m at the Edge Center Theater in Bigfork. FREE. All are welcome.

FEBRUARY CLASSIC MOVIE: Valentine's Day Special. Ginger Rogers and David Niven star in a funny comedy about love and maternity. *Bachelor Mother* (1939) will be shown Thursday, February 9 at 6:30 p.m at the Edge.

Twin Cities band presents live score to accompany historic Swedish film

Twin Cities-based music ensemble The Poor Nobodys will perform a live original score accompanying the screening of the silent Swedish film *A Man There Was* at the Edge Center for the Arts, 101 2nd Ave, Bigfork, MN 56628 at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 5th.

Based on Henrik Ibsen's epic poem and directed by Victor Sjöström, *A Man There Was* (Terje Vigen) was

released in 1917 when many Scandinavian immigrants were arriving in Minnesota. The film tells the story of a Norwegian sailor who in 1814 takes on a British blockade to find food for his family. Considered to be one of the crowning achievements in Swedish silent film, *A Man There Was* cemented Sjöström's reputation as a director (and actor) of the highest caliber. This rare screening is part of

a statewide tour by The Poor Nobodys in support of this classic film.

Suggested donation \$10; no one turned away. Suitable for all ages. The event is hosted by Edge Center for the Arts. For more information, call (612) 229-9737, (218) 743-6670, or email admin@edgecenterarts.org or poornobodys@gmail.com.

About the Artists

The Poor Nobodys have been composing and performing since 2008. They've written many original scores for both classic and new films, including *Night of the Living Dead*, Douglas Fairbanks's *The Black Pirate*, and Alfred Hitchcock's *The Lodger*. They have collaborated with venues such as the Trylon Microcinema, the Southern Theater, and the

Cedar Cultural Center in Minneapolis; the Minnesota History Theater in St. Paul; and Ark Center for the Arts in Viroqua, Wisconsin; and many other venues in the Midwest and beyond. In 2014, a European tour gave the group the opportunity to perform in cafés and theaters in Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland and France.

The Poor Nobodys member Eric Struve is a fiscal year 2022 recipient of a Creative Support for Individuals grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

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Ski with EOWSKI!

Enjoy family outdoors fun this winter. Learn how to cross country ski or sharpen up your skills on meet-ups in January and February. EOWSKI! is a local organization that has a library of skis to rent for the whole family, groomed trails to ski and a goal of making this life sport accessible to all.

The equipment closet is at the back of the B.I.G. Community building in the former location for the Bigfork food shelf. Call (218) 387-5012 with any questions or to make an appointment to meet at the closet for sizing and seasonal rental. If you still have skis out from last season, bring them in for exchanging. Suggested rentals are \$30 per person or \$50 per family for the winter, but any amount is welcome.

Sanford to merge with Fairview

Sanford Health and Fairview Health Services have announced that they intend to merge in 2023. The new entity would be called Sanford Health and run by Sanford's current CEO.

Sanford Health is based out of Sioux Falls, South Dakota and has 47 medical centers with approximately 45,000 employees. It has Minnesota locations in mostly rural areas of Minnesota including hospitals in Bagley, Bemidji, Canby, Jackson, Luverne, Thief River Falls, Tracy, Westbrook, Wheaton and Worthington.

Fairview Health Services is based in Minneapolis and has about 31,000 employees. Fairview has 11 hospitals including Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital in Grand Rapids, the Range in Hibbing and hospitals in the Twin Cities, Edina, Maplewood, Burnsville, Woodbury, Princeton and Wyoming. Fairview owns the University of Minnesota Medical Center and has a partnership with the University of Minnesota Medical School and the University of Minnesota Physicians Group. The partnership between the U of M and Fairview ends in 2026 with an option for a 10-year extension in 2023.

Community Input Opportunities

A Community Input Form is available on the Minnesota Attorney General's Office website at www.ag.state.mn.us/sanford-fairview/, or comments can be made by phone at (800) 657-3787.

There will also be public meetings on Tuesday, Jan. 17 at Bemidji State University, Hobson Memorial Union Ballroom, 1500 Birchmont Dr. NE, Bemidji from 6-8 p.m. and in Grand Rapids at the Ives Studio at the Reif Performing Arts Center, 720 Conifer Drive on Tuesday, Jan 31 from 6-8 p.m.

Adapted from a news release on the Minnesota Attorney General webpage.

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Bigfork will seat two new council members in January

by Sally Sedgwick

The Bigfork City Council canvassed the general election vote totals at its December 13 meeting. There were 205 registered voters and turnout was 125, or 61 percent. Bryan Boone was re-elected as mayor with 98 votes. Sarah Scheff (110 votes) and write-in Jerry Denny (22 votes) were elected to vacant council seats.

Wilderness Day organizers Allison Weddle and Kyle Buckingham discussed the 2023 Main Ave. road construction project's impact on plans for Wilderness Day on the second Saturday of June. The Minnesota Department of Transportation is aware of the event, said Mayor Bryan Boone, and the start date has not yet been set. Other locations, on the east side of the river with the school and hospital or west side with the city park and softball field were discussed for vendors and/or a parade. The council supported continuing the event, even if there was not a parade this year.

Three options for a fishing pier were offered through the Department of Natural Resources, including platform, floating dock and gravel walking path designs. The DNR could design and install some of the options under a matching grant program. The project would be funded through the Blandin Foundation Community Development Grant.

Mayor Boone turned the gavel over to Councilor Drew Francisco while he discussed a possible proposal for use of the City Hall by the Assembly of God Church. The church would pay a rental fee, work with other events and organizations, and would donate equipment needed for its use.

Outgoing council member David Mann gave a short farewell address; a reception for outgoing council members Mann and Francisco followed the meeting.

In other business, the council:

- Was notified of a \$95,000 grant from Itasca County from American Rescue Plan funds toward the water tower project.
- Heard that an anonymous donor had given the city \$300 toward a youth project such as the ball field or city park.

Council meetings will be the second Tuesday of the month, 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall. The May meeting will be held on May 9 at the Edge Center as an educational civics lesson. The next meeting was set for Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum

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WATTS Wonderful!



The B.I.G. Community Center was transformed into a Toy Store! Literally overnight! Parents/Caregivers stopped in to shop for that perfect gift and utilize the "Self Check Out Counter"

With your generosity, 94 children unwrapped gifts this Christmas Season! And candy too! Our Volunteer Shoppers were on a mission to find gifts for children ages 1 thru 18. They purchased items from electronics, camping/hunting, musical instruments, art/science kits, remote control cars, fishing poles, make-up kits, Barbies and Legos to snowpants, boots, jackets and mittens! And everything in between...

A raffle was held for two bicycles donated "In the Memory of Thomas Hudson."

To the Edge of the Wilderness Community Members, Businesses and Donors, Thank You! This would not have been possible without All of You! We would also like to thank the Bigfork School, Bigfork Valley Hospital, North Itasca Emergency Food Shelf, First State Bank of Bigfork and North Itasca Electric for collecting donations of money, toys and candy!

Thank you, Heidi Korstad and Marcie Lindgren, for trusting the Bigfork Improvement Group to continue your project "Bigfork Toys." Your vision directed our shopping motto, "Edge of the Wilderness Kids Deserve Nice Name Brand Cool Toys!"

..submitted by Krista Erickson

WATTS Wonderful is a space inspired by Willie Wiredhand where members can post short thank yous, kind things noticed or recognitions received by co-op members.

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Community Meals in Blackduck

A free community meal is offered in Blackduck from 5-6:30 pm on the second Monday of each month at the Evangelical Free Church and on the third Monday of each month at the Presbyterian Church.

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.

Learn to Curl

The Itasca Curling Association is offering a Learn to Curl evening on Friday, Jan. 27, 6-8 p.m. at the club building in Grand Rapids at 902 Hale Lake Pointe (by the Grand Village nursing home). Curling is a sport for any age or physical condition. Cost is \$10. To sign up, go to getlearning.org.

— Community Education —

Blackduck Register online at blackduck.k12.mn.us under Community Education. Call Melanie (218) 766-3809 or email mcleveland@blackduck.k12.mn.us with questions.

SNOWMOBILE SAFETY DRIVING COURSE

Date: Sat., Jan 7
 Time: Two groups: 8.-11:30 a.m.; 12:30-4 p.m
 Location: Blackduck School
 Cost: \$10
 Must be 11 years of age. Class limited to 25 students. Bring your own helmet, snowmobiles provided. Note: Must be paid ahead of time to guarantee a spot. Online portion of the course MUST be completed prior to January 7 and proof of completion needs to be brought to the class. After in class instruction at the school, class will be transferred to the Snowmobile Club's driving course south of Blackduck. Parents will need to make arrangements for their child's transport about 1.5 hours into class.

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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.

SAIL classes

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

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

Following is the local schedule as of July 6:

- Virtual via Zoom video conference
 Mondays & Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- Virtual via Zoom video conference
 Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00-10:30 a.m.
- In person at:**
- Bigfork Old Scenic Church,
 Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00-10:30 a.m.
- Bowstring Town Hall
 Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
- Deer River, Bethany Lutheran,
 Mondays & Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

area bookmobile stops

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

Tuesdays: Jan. 3, 24; Feb. 14
 12:00 - 1 p.m. Bowstring Store-*new hours*
 Spring Lake Store *stop canceled for 2023*
 2:30-3:30 p.m. Effie: Effie Cafe-*new hours*
 4:00-5:30 p.m. Bigfork: City Hall -*new hours*

Thursdays: Jan 5, 26; Feb. 16
 11:45-12:45 Togo: Junction Bar & Grill

Mondays: Jan. 23; Feb. 13
 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

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.

Community News

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

~ January Calendar ~

Bigfork

Auditions at the Edge! Have you ever wanted to be part of community theater? Auditions will be held on January 11 and 12 for *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder to be staged the last week-end in April. Come to the Edge as your schedule allows between 3 and 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 11, or Thursday, January 12 to audition for a part in this American classic. If you have any questions, please call Patty Feld, (218) 244-3441 and leave a message. Patty knows this will be a fun show for all ages! "I last directed *Our Town* 25 years ago at Bigfork City Hall, Effie, and Marcell," said Feld. "This may be my swan song..."

Learn about All Things Video: The Edge Center is offering free training in acting for the video camera, directing for the video camera, staging for video, and post-production skills. There will be four two hour classes, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Wednesdays, January 11 and 18 and February 1 and 8. You will receive hands-on instruction and feedback taught by professionals in the field.



Marcell Family Center

218-832-3444
49023 State Highway 38 Marcell, MN 56657



Winter Frolic
Saturday, Feb. 4
Marcell Family Center
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Crafts, games, food, beverages.
All are welcome!
No registration required.

- 3 Bigfork Valley Hospital Board meets, 9 a.m. Contact (218) 743-1772 for telephone or virtual attendance information.
- 9 Blood drive at Bigfork Valley Hospital, 1-5:30 p.m. Check in at mbc.org, sponsor code 2149 or call Kyle at (218) 743-4147.
- 9 ISD318 School Board organizational meeting in Grand Rapids or at watchictv.org, 6:30 p.m., no open forum. Contact for information: jasmussen@isd318.org or call 327-5704.
- 9 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 9 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 9 Blackduck ISD32 School Board, 7 p.m. in the Media Center.
- 10 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.
- 10 ISD317 School Board meets, 6 p.m., public forum 5:45 p.m.
- 11-12 EdgeWild Players will be holding auditions for *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder, 3-7 p.m. at the Edge Center, Bigfork.
- 11, 18 The Edge Center in Bigfork is offering free training for all things video in four two-hour classes on Jan. 11, 18 and Feb 1, 8.
- 11 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
- 12 Classic Movies at The Edge Center, Bigfork. *On the Beach* (1959) starring Fred Astaire, Ava Gardner, Gregory Peck and Anthony Perkins will be shown at 6:30 p.m. Free.
- 12 Candlelight skiing at King School, Deer River, 5-7 p.m. Luminaries light a half mile groomed loop. Hot cocoa and a snack, bonfire and S'mores.
- 16 No school, all schools. Martin Luther King Day.
- 23 ISD318 School Board meeting in Grand Rapids or at watchictv.org, 6:30 p.m. Open Forum, 6 p.m. Contact for information: jasmussen@isd318.org or call 327-5704.
- 23 No school, Bigfork. Staff day.
- 23 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 24-27 Snow Week at Blackduck School with a theme of "Winter Takes All."

Area Church Directory

Alvwood Community Church Sun 10:00a
58712 Co. Rd. 131
Blackduck 56630 659-4681

Balsam Bible Chapel Sun 10:00a
41516 Scenic Hwy 7
Bovey 55709 245-1960

Bear River Lutheran Church Sun 10:00a
11141 Hwy 22
Cook 55723 376-1012

Bethesda Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a
Mizpah 56660 897-5654

Bigfork Assembly of God Sun 9:30a
101 Golf Course Ln
Bigfork 56628 743-3500

Bowstring Chapel Sun 10:15a
45114 Co Rd 133
Deer River 56636 832-3171

Calvary Covenant Sun 10:30a
54764 Co. Rd. 31
Northome 56661 897-5684

Centennial Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a
Hwy 46
Squaw Lake 56681 259-0115

Deer River Bible Church Sun 10:00a
33276 State Highway 6
Deer River 56636 246-9570

Dora Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a
59329 Co Rd 145
Northome 56661 659-4551

Effie Fredheim Lutheran Church (ELCA) Sun 8:30a
Hwy 1
Effie 56639 743-3368

First Presbyterian Church, BF Sun 10:15a
109 Ash St.
Bigfork 56628 743-3783

Gemmel Community Church Sun 10:00a
10609 Town Rd 34
Gemmel 56660 897-5966

Grace Community Church (ELCA) Sun 10:15a
401 State Hwy 38 N
Bigfork 56628 743-3368

Hope Lutheran Church Sun 10:30 a.m.
12234 Third St.
Northome 56661 897-5654

Jehovah's Witnesses Tu 7:00p., Sun 10:00a
Hwy 38
Bigfork 56628 743-3275

Jesse Lake Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a
45834 Co. Rd. 4
Talmoon 56637 832-3883

Marcell Community Church Sun 10:30a
49103 State Hwy 38
Marcell 56657 832-3200

Northome Community Church Sun 10:00a
12071 Bartlett St.
Northome 56661 897-5040

Northwoods Chapel Sun 9:00a
50539 Mushgee Rd. (corner of Co. Rd. 622)
Deer River 56636 659-2784

Old Scenic Community Church Sun 10:30a
25747 Co. Rd. 340
Bigfork 56628 659-2727

Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church Sun 9:00a Mass also W, Th, F 9:00a.
320 Golf Course Ln
Bigfork 56628 743-3255

Sand Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a
55581 Co. Rd 4
Spring Lake 56680 659-2872
Church website: www.sandlakealliancechurch.org

St. Catherine's Catholic Church Sat 4:00p
52265 State Hwy 46
Squaw Lake 56681 743-3255

St. Michael Catholic Church Sat 7:00p; Tu 6:00a
12026 Lake St
Northome 56661 743-3255

Seventh Day Adventist Sun 11:30a
12352 Hwy 46
Northome 56661 897-5723

Suomi Evangelical Lutheran Church Sun 10:30a
42935 Co. Rd. 48
Deer River 56636 832-3883

True Life Church Sun 10:00a
45976 Terry
Talmoon 56637 244-7089

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

FEB

4 Winter Frolic at the Marcell Family Center, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Crafts, games, food and beverages.

5 The Edge Center is part of a statewide tour by The Poor Nobodys, a Twin Cities Band that has produced a score for a famous Swedish silent film, *A Man There Was*. The production is at 2 p.m. and is suitable for all ages. Suggested donation, \$10.

PLACE A WATTS NEWS AD FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Email your ad in pdf format or ask us to create one for you. Ads run from \$12 per month for the business card size (3.25 inches wide x 1.75 inches high) to \$24 per month for a square 3.25 inch ad, which is our largest commercial ad size. SERVICES ads: \$5 per insertion, text only Size may be limited.



Susan DeVries displays a favorite Nativity showing that one can be created even using the most basic materials.

Festival of the Nativities held in Sand Lake

A fascinating world of Nativity scenes was displayed at the Sand Lake Alliance Church Festival of the Nativities on Sat., Nov. 26. Over 100 Nativities from different cultures and media, from traditional wood and ceramic to surprising silverware windchimes, bear figurines or a scene in a coconut greeted the visitor. Christmas music was played and sung by volunteers throughout the afternoon. Most were from the collection of Spring Lake resident Susan DeVries, who also contributed her own craftwork (see the shelf fungus painting) to the exhibit. After visiting a festival in southern Minnesota, she began collecting and crafting Nativity scenes herself. The church plans to display the Nativity collection on the Saturday after Thanksgiving in 2023.



Christmas carols were sung and played by a variety of musicians throughout the afternoon: pictured are the Muntean family singers; Abby, Heather (mother), Alexa and Hannah.





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• recipe • recipe • recipe • recipe • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes •

Stop by the headquarters building in Bigfork to pick up your own 2022 Christmas Cookie and Candy Contest recipe book! You can also email Roxanne at roxannep@nieci.com or call her at (218) 743-3132 for a digital copy.

Jumbo Raisin Cookies

Congratulations to Linda Penn for this winning cookie recipe!

- 1 cup water
- 1 cup raisins
Put in pan and boil for 5 minutes, then cool.
- 4 cups flour
- 1 cup shortening
- 2 cups sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon allspice
- 1 teaspoon baking soda

Mix all ingredients together, add raisins, chill mixture, drop balls onto greased cookie sheet, flatten balls slightly, bake at 400° for 9 minutes.



Christmas Cherry Bars

Congratulations to Jan Mackenthun for this winning cookie recipe!

- ½ cup butter
- 2 tablespoons powdered sugar (cream together)
- Then add 1 cup sifted flour.
- Pat in 8" square pan and bake at 350° for 10 minutes.

Filling:

- 2 beaten eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- Combine then add:
- ¼ cup flour
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon baking powder

Fold in:

- ½ cup coconut
- ½ cup chopped pecans
- ½ cup maraschino cherries, chopped
- Bake at 350°

Glaze

Powdered sugar & juice from the cherry jar (add more sugar or juice until you get the consistency you want. Make enough frosting to put a thin layer on the bars.



Moose habitat planning grant

A new federal grant award will fund collaborative planning by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to further large-scale moose habitat restoration in northeast Minnesota.

The award from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, through the new America the Beautiful Challenge, will provide \$443,600 to the DNR for the planning effort, with a goal of an implementation plan for moose habitat restoration on three areas of 10,000 to 50,000 contiguous acres each.

“This grant is great news for efforts to address the long-term moose population decline in Minnesota,” said Kelly Straka, wildlife section manager. “This grant supports an effort that has broad support from a number of tribal, federal, county and non-governmental partner organizations, and all are critical players in planning for long-term habitat improvements.”

Tribal, federal, county and non-governmental partner organizations helped develop the planning approach and signed letters of support for the DNR’s grant application, which was one of 55 chosen nationwide from more than 500 applications.

The patchwork of tribal, federal, state, county and private land in northeast Minnesota makes large-scale habitat restoration particularly challenging. The grant will fund a series of workshops with tribal, federal, state, county

Downed and Dangerous

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.

Downed power lines can energize the ground up to 35 ft. away - so keep your distance.

Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.

If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.

Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a non-conductive item - this will not prevent injury or death!

Source: ESFI.org

and non-governmental partner organizations in 2023 and 2024 to identify the challenges facing large-scale moose habitat restoration, find strategies to address the challenges, identify areas for large-scale habitat restoration and create an implementation plan for the restoration. The implementation plan will also identify potential sources of funding to complete the agreed upon large-scale habitat restoration.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation along with its public- and private-sector partners announced a total of nearly \$91 million in grants through the America the Beautiful Challenge



Willie Wiredhand urges you to stay safe!

CLASSIFIEDS

AD DEADLINE
for the FEBRUARY issue: Fri., Jan. 20

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-FOR SALE-

For sale: Drywall: 4' x 12' x 1/2", 4' x 12' x 5/8", 4' x 8' x 5/8", each \$10.
Call (763) 242-3058 2/23

For sale: Snowmobile utility cargo sled. Dogsled style. Folds up for storage. Good cond. \$250. 218-832-3329 2/23

For sale: Live edge red pine. Six pieces 17.5 ft long, 2 inch thick. Widths taper from 12 inches on the smallest end to 20 inches on the large end of the largest piece. \$1.00 per board ft. Call (218) 910-9055 or (612) 799-1241 1/23

For sale: 2017 Polaris 570 SP 4 wheeler with a Polaris manual snowplow. Features hand and thumb warmers, front winch, receiver with 2" ball, storage compartment. Low mileage and hours. Asking \$10,799 obo. Call (218) 779-3127 or email jamesmozey@gmail.com 1/23

Place a classified ad today!

Mail-in form below, submit by email or phone, or drop off at the office. Deadline at top right of page. Personal ads free for cooperative members, Services ads \$5 per insertion.

Place a Classified Ad Today!

If you are an individual member of the cooperative, classified ads are free as a service from your cooperative. If you are advertising for a business or are a non-member, please remit \$5 per ad per month.

Run my ad for one month only.
Your ad will run for two months unless you check this box. (Business classifieds are \$5 per insertion.)

Send to: Editor, WATTS NEWS,
P.O. Box 43
Spring Lake, MN 56680 or
call: (218) 659-2779
or email: sedgwick@paulbunyan.net

Please note: We are as careful as possible, but are not responsible for errors.

Put WATTS AD in subject line.
If no response, please resend.

2023 Rebates

Appliances

- Dehumidifier - \$25.00
Must be ENERGY STAR listed
- Dryer - \$25.00
Must be ENERGY STAR listed
- Refrigerator or freezer harvest - \$75.00
When removing an older unwanted working refrigerator or freezer from the distribution grid.
- Refrigerator (New construction)
No rebates for new construction. *There are no energy savings when installing an additional appliance to the distribution grid.*
- Refrigerator or freezer w/recycling - \$75.00
When replacing an older less efficient working refrigerator or freezer and recycling it.

Heat Pump Water Heaters

- 50 gallon or 80 gallon - \$500.00
- ECM Motors for a hot water recycling pump - \$50.00

HVAC

- AC tune up - \$25.00
When tuning up your existing Air Conditioning equipment.
- WIFI thermostat - \$25.00
- ECM motors - \$50.00
When replacing a standard motor with an energy efficient ECM motor.
- Ground Source Heat Pumps (per

ton) - \$400.00
When installing new or replacing older equipment up to 5 Tons.

Note: Air Sources Heat Pump rebates now require a Quality Installation (QI) contractor. QI Contractors will submit rebate form to North Itasca Electric Cooperative when installations are complete.

- Central Air Source Heat Pumps - \$500.00
 - o With an HSPF rating of 8.2 - \$1,000.00
 - o With an HSPF rating of 9.0 or more - \$1,300.00
- Ductless Air Source Heat Pumps with primary heat being delivered fuels - \$300.00
 - o With an HSPF rating of 13.5 or higher - \$450.00
- Ductless Air Source Heat Pumps with primary heat being electric - \$500.00
 - o With an HSPF rating of 13.5 or higher - \$750.00

Lighting

- LED light bulbs - \$2.00 each.
With proof of purchase of LED light bulbs.
- LED Yard light - \$30.00
With proof of purchase of an LED yard light fixture.
- Holiday string lighting
See Great River Energy's online

Energy Wise store at www.energywisemn.com)

Load Management

- ETS Space Heating \$50.00 per KW up to - \$1,000.00
When installing Storage Space heating and placing equipment on North Itasca Electric's storage heating load control program.
- ETS Water Heating - \$400.00
When installing a 100-gallon capacity water heater and placing it on North Itasca Electric's storage water heating program.

Miscellaneous

- Engine block heater timer - \$5.00
With proof of purchase.
- Faucet Aerator
See Great River Energy's online Energy Wise store at www.energywisemn.com)
- Power Strip Surge Protector
See Great River Energy's online Energy Wise store at www.energywisemn.com)
- Low Flow shower head
See Great River

Energy's online Energy Wise store at www.energywisemn.com)

Pool programs

- Pool ASHP - \$400.00
When heating pool with a heat pump pool heater.
- Pool Variable Speed Pump - \$200.00
With proof of purchase.

5 Ways to Save During Winter

Winter weather typically means increased energy use at home. Keep your bills in check with these tips to save energy—and money!

- Mind the thermostat.** If you have a traditional heating and cooling system, set the thermostat to 68 degrees or lower. Consider a smart or programmable thermostat for additional savings.
- Get cozy.** Add layers of clothing for additional warmth, and snuggle up under your favorite heavyweight blanket.
- Don't block the heat.** If your air vents or heating elements (like radiators) are blocked by furniture or rugs, your home isn't being adequately heated.
- Take advantage of sunlight.** Open window coverings during the day to let natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to block the chilly night air.
- Block air leaks.** Seal windows and exterior doors with caulk and weather stripping to improve indoor comfort and decrease the amount of energy used to heat your home.

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