



**NORTH ITASCA
ELECTRIC**

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

**WATTS
NEWS**

VOL 26 NO. 2

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

FEBRUARY 2023

CEO Report

Good morning NIECI,

2023 is starting off with a bang! I recently spent the day down at the Capitol talking with our legislators about bills that have been introduced.

Folks, I do not want to start a shouting match between neighbors and friends. I am going to do my best to give you the facts of what is being proposed in legislation this year and you will make your own determinations.

I had a good conversation with my uncle in Bau-

dette this past week. He told me about an episode of Energy Switch that was on PBS, "Will Solar and Wind Power Our Future?" I would encourage you to go to PBS's website and look for this discussion. They did an outstanding job discussing both sides of the argument.

Let's get started with the MN House and Senate bills, HF7 and SF4. These bills are calling out 100 percent carbon free by 2040. There are also interim goals of 80 percent by 2030,



Brad Dolinski, CEO

90 percent in 2035 and increase to the renewable energy standard of 55 percent by 2035. The current renewable energy standard is 25 percent by 2025, the additional step

CEO to p.2>

Solar systems popping up everywhere

by Jerry Loney

On the news, in social media, and now by some electric utilities, solar systems are appearing everywhere. Utilities by law are required to offer members the opportunity to install solar systems and purchase the excess energy not used at the Average Retail Cooperative Energy Rate (ARCER). North Itasca Electric is no exception and now has 13 systems installed on its distribution lines – and by the time you read this, fourteen systems. With the increasing number of solar panels being installed, I thought I would share with you how much excess energy was fed back to our distribution grid the last two years. In 2021 we had nine systems installed and by the end of 2022, thirteen.

The size of these systems range from 4kW up to the largest being 36kW. Of the 13 systems installed, only three are larger than 18kW. Costs of these installations can range anywhere between \$20,000 to

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WHEN | February 23, 2023 at 5:00 PM

WHERE | Edge Center for the Arts
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Keeping the grid reliable and resilient

The winter season is a busy one for electric cooperatives as the state of Minnesota often sees waves of heavy snowfall, sub-zero temperatures and strong winds which all pose a threat to infrastructure. Rest assured that North Itasca Electric Cooperative and Great River Energy, our wholesale power supplier, have taken steps to prepare for whatever this winter brings. As we continue to see more extreme weather events, we have made smart investments to improve the resilience of the electric system.

In the electric industry, reliability and resilience are two different concepts, though closely related. Think of reliability as keeping the lights on and resilience as being able to withstand severe events

and bounce back as quickly as possible.

Maintaining a resilient electric system has always been top of mind, but this effort has intensified over the last several years. While there are many threats to resilience, the weather extremes that come with life in the Upper Midwest are front and center for those charged with keeping the lights on 24/7. Great River Energy's transmission employees have specific, organized efforts underway to continually address resilience so they are prepared for — and can recover as quickly as possible from — major events and ensure continued reliable electric service to its members, including North Itasca Electric Cooperative.

"We have always been

concerned with resilience, but the focus now is at a new level based on the increased frequency with which we experience major weather events," said Matt Lacey, director of transmission strategy and development at Great River Energy. "Thinking about resilience is now part of our everyday work."

In addition to ensuring lines are built with the latest technology to withstand severe weather, Great River Energy also heavily invests in a vegetation management program, which has a large impact during wind events. Identifying vulnerabilities and keeping trees clear of the lines helps ensure that branches don't hit or fall onto power lines, causing damage and knocking

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Samsung Sale

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Heating Degree Days: Is this winter really warmer?

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Office Hours

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CEO Report (continued)

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is being proposed in the new bills.

Why does this matter to NIECI?

Cost and reliability are my main concerns.

Let me be very clear, I support efforts to green the grid. None of us wants to harm the Earth or the neighborhoods we live in.

There are real concerns and challenges with the availability of current technologies when we try to eliminate thermal generation (coal, natural gas, fuel oils). We do not have access to new nuclear power plants in Minnesota. The debates can be sharp when nuclear is brought up; nuclear is carbon free and would be allowed in a carbon free future (just not in Minnesota).

So, what are we left with? Wind, solar, and hydro power sources would be the big three that come to mind.

When we are relying on wind, solar, and hydro these would be considered variable resources. When the wind isn't blowing, there isn't any power being

produced. When the sun isn't shining or your panels are covered in snow, power is not being produced from solar. There are five hydroelectric dams producing power in Minnesota, these vary by water flow and can be influenced by seasonal constraints.

Using variable resources along with thermal resources is a great mixture. This is how we have had success greening our resources mix. Done properly, we can also get attractive contracts to help offset rising energy costs.

The costs rise sharply when we have to rely solely on variable resources. Great River Energy (GRE) enters contracts for wind and solar resources on our behalf to meet our load needs. In an 100 percent carbon free environment we would have to overbuild these resources immensely. If the wind is not blowing in

a particular geographic area, we would need resources in another area to cover our load needs.

We have a requirement for you, when you flip the switch on your wall the power needs to come on. We have a requirement to MISO; we must have 107 percent of our load covered by resources

On Dec. 22, all members of MISO had to generate as much power as they had capacity to generate...we were very close to rolling blackouts.

to be a MISO member. This overbuilding of resources would cost an enormous amount of money, additionally we would need to overbuild transmission lines to get this power to our

Member-Owners.

As recently as December 22, MISO had a max generation event. All members of MISO had to generate as much power as they had capacity to generate. We had a very close call on the grid; we were very close to rolling blackouts.

The success of GRE and others to use their peaking plants to prevent catastrophe in the region

was something to be celebrated. Rather, today the legislators are telling us we need to close these units because they emit carbon. These units run rarely; I would say a couple days a year during extreme weather events. Our peaking fleet is here to provide reliability to the region and will continue to be necessary in Minnesota.

I need your help. I need you to investigate these bills and decide where you stand. Unfortunately, there is a sharp line between 100 percent carbon free and extreme increases in your electric bills.

Governor Walz has made 100 percent carbon free a priority for Minnesota. I need you to decide where you stand and then let your legislators know. One very simple way to do this is to go to the website <https://www.mrea.org/advocacy/take-action> from here you simply enter your zip and information and a letter will be sent to your legislators. Thank you for being the educated and involved Members-Owners you are!

*By your side! Miigwech
Brad*

Dr. Carly Moberg, DVM
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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.

WATTS NEWS

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Board of Directors**

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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: 10:00 a.m.

End time: 1:45 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on December 22, 2022.

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

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

Start Regular Board Meeting: 10:40 a.m.

- o Pledge of Allegiance was recited
- o A motion was made to adopt agenda, seconded; motion carried. A motion was made to consent agenda; seconded; motion carried. A motion was made to approve the minutes to the Special Meeting which was held December 11, 2022, seconded; motion passed.
- o Safety discussion was held. Carbon monoxide poisoning was discussed. Be aware of headaches, weakness, dizziness, confusion, loss of consciousness and death. Reminder to keep your fish house vents open. Install CO detectors outside of bedrooms. CO detectors are relatively cheap and will save a life. Keep clothes dryer vents clean!
- o Tina presented the Operating Reports. A motion was made to approve the operating reports, seconded; motion carried.
- o A motion was made to approve the Amendment No. 2 to PPC GRE Draft from 12.16.2022, seconded; motion carried.
- o Board Policy 100.70 Management Succession Planning was reviewed. A motion was made to approve the policy as is, seconded; motion carried.
- o D. Pederson gave the Line Department report.
- o T. Danielson gave the Office Department report. The write off list was presented, which is one of the lowest we have ever had. A motion was made to accept the write off list; the motion passed.
- o B. Dolinski gave the CEO Update.
- o MREA note - we will be facing a hard year with legislation in 2023.
- o Brad will work with CFC to get the results of the strategic planning reports to the board.
- o GRE Regional meeting is in Hinckley February 8-9. A motion was made to approve the expenses to attend, seconded; the motion carried.
- o February MREA meeting will be their annual meeting. February 21-22. A motion was made to approve expenses to attend, seconded; motion carried.
- o A motion was made to approve expenses to attend the training for BLC credit, seconded; motion carried.

Solar credits to members

Solar Credits paid in 2021	
Solar system	2021 total kWh
1	297
2	110
3	762
4	2070
5	4873
6	5743
7	3097
8	9195
9	1111

27258

0.11

\$2,998.38

Solar Credits paid in 2022	
Solar system	2022 total kWh
1	369
2	60
3	478
4	1786
5	2350
6	4799
7	2768
8	6393
9	932
10	16810
11	20520
12	1042
13	394

58701

0.11

\$6,457.11

- o Jerry Loney gave the Members Services report. A motion was made to accept the Cooperative Cogeneration Rules, seconded; motion carried.
 - o There will be an Open House with presentations by Briggs & Stratton and Star Energy on the whole house generator program to be held at the Edge Center on February 23 at 5 p.m.
 - o Brad reviewed the Northland Connect financial statements.
 - o W. Waller gave the MREA report.
 - o L. Kongsjord gave the GRE report. GRE had a successful 2022.
 - o Round Table Discussion was held.
 - o A motion was made to adjourn; seconded; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:45 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.*

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well over \$100,000.

The chart to the left shows the amount of excess energy not used by the homes but only that placed back unto the electric grid for a credit at the ARCER rate. The higher credit amounts shown are at locations where there is not much energy being consumed by the members owning the system.

If you are interested in owning a solar system, North Itasca Electric has the information available specifying the steps needed. These steps are not exclusive to North Itasca Electric, but are those outlined for all utilities to follow.

To learn more before signing up for a solar system, feel free to give me a call at (218) 743-1313.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life.

Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.



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New Services

Are you planning new construction that will require a new service? The New Service packet is available under the Operations tab on the cooperative's home page.

At the same time you can sign up for Auto-Pay and find out about the wide range of services available like load management programs and the cooperative's appliance showroom.

Marathon Water Heaters

How about a water heater with a lifetime guarantee against water leaks, no sulfur smell in your water, easy conversion to off-peak load management programs, and 100 percent drainage of water and sediment.

Sound good? This describes the Marathon brand water heater offered by North Itasca Electric. It's not as cheap as a steel water heater, but it offers much more peace of mind!

Find out all the details on the Water Heating page under Member Services.

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
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Roxanne's Sales Talk

by Roxanne Prather, member services representative

Ever wonder what the difference is between an HE (high efficiency) washer and a regular washer?

The HE washer uses less water and a tumbling action to clean your clothes, a regular washer uses more water and is not as energy efficient.

Can you use regular detergent in an HE washer? The answer to this is NO.

Not even green laundry detergents, regular laundry detergent pods or tablets, or powder laundry detergents should be used. Only HE detergents should be used in these washers, because either top-loading or front-loading high efficiency washers are designed

to use very low water levels and a tumbling washing action. For this reason, HE detergents are created to be especially low-sudsing and are formulated to provide clean wash loads. If you put regular detergent in a HE washer it will confuse the washer, may stop your machine or cause it to overflow.

Regular laundry detergents, on the other hand, are formulated to be high-sudsing and to be used in greater quantities of water. The use of any other kind of detergent in a high-efficiency washer, not only can confuse your washer cycle and stop the machine, but also prevents it from washing properly or rinsing thoroughly. Failure to rinse all

the soap thoroughly out of your clothes could result in damage to your clothes as well as your health! Leftover chemicals in your clothes can both affect the color and texture of your garments and can penetrate your skin, where they could cause allergic reactions or even eczema or other skin conditions!

Some people think because there are no suds, that your clothes will not get clean. This is not true! There is nothing that shows that more soap makes your clothes cleaner. What gets your clothes clean is the friction between the garments and the water that happens during the wash cycle.

Roxanne's Repair Tips:

Dryer takes longer to heat

Is your dryer taking longer to heat than it used to? This is a common problem and can be an easy fix.

The first thing to check is to make sure your setting is on a heat setting, then feel the clothes to see if they are warm when the dryer stops. If the clothes are not warm, then I would check the heating element, sometimes you can see if it is bad. It might be broken right off, or it may look burnt.

If you can't tell, use a multimeter to test for current. Every model is a little different so to locate the heating element go to RepairClinic.com, click on Repair Help and put in your model number. Then look through the different topics until you find "heating element."

If it's not the heating element, see if the exhaust pipe is plugged. To do this take it off the back of the dryer and use a hose brush to clean out any lint that may be in there. Also check where it blows the air out of the house, if the vent is blocked it stops the air flow, which will cause your high limit thermostat to shut off too soon.

The high limit thermostat can be found on the heating element. There is also a cycling thermostat that is located on the blower housing that cycles your heat on and off. If either one of these is bad your dryer won't heat. These can both be checked with a multimeter to see if there is current running through them. If not, you will have to replace whichever one is bad. Some dryers have a moisture sensor located inside the drum. If this fails, it will cause the cycle to stop too early as well.

Just a reminder: please make sure you clean your lint filter after every use and at least once a year you should check your vent pipe from the dryer to the exhaust opening to make sure it is free of lint. Dryers can cause house fires if you don't keep them free from lint.

Beat the Peak!

by Anne Prince

If you look around your home, you likely have more devices and equipment that require electricity than ever before. Our connected lives are increasingly dependent on more electricity to function.

As you would expect based on your family's habits, electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand. North Itasca Electric must be able to provide enough electricity

to meet the energy needs of all members during times of highest energy use or "peak hours." These peak times are typically in the morning as people start their day and in the evening as people return to their homes.

What you may not know is that electric utilities including North Itasca Electric typically pay more for electricity—either from a power plant or from another utility with excess power—during those morning

and evening "energy rush hours." In addition, the demand for electricity is even higher when it's especially cold outside, when heating systems must run longer to warm our homes.

If the "peak times" concept is a bit puzzling, here's an easy way to think about it, and it's similar to a major concert. We know costs go up when there is strong demand for tickets (or electricity), and both are subject to the basic economic laws of supply and demand. When a lot of people want the same thing, it's more expensive. When they don't, it's cheaper—like a bargain matinee or an "early bird" special at a restaurant.

During peak periods when the cost to produce and purchase power is higher, we encourage you to take simple steps to save energy, such as turning your thermo-

stat down a few notches, turning off unnecessary lights and waiting to use large appliances during off-peak times.

You can also save energy by plugging electronics and equipment such as computers, printers and TVs into a power strip, then turn it off at the switch during peak hours. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings to sync up with off-peak rate periods.

Another benefit of this time-of-use approach to electricity use allows greater control over your bill. Reducing the peak impacts the power-supply cost to every co-op member.

Remember, taking simple steps to save energy throughout the day and shifting energy intensive chores to off-peak hours is a smart choice for you and our community.

Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

North Itasca Electric Co-op is on Facebook!

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Heating Degree Days for the past three years

by Jerry Loney

We sure have had some nice warm days this past January, considering it is normally one of the coldest months of the year.

That wasn't the case in December, though, as the graph below shows. I have had a few members calling in asking about their January heating bill, thinking it was high because it has been warmer. Even though January was warmer, the billing was for usage in December. The

number of Heating Degree Days (HDDs) we had in December were higher than that of the past two years (2020 and 2021).

The average building has a desired indoor temperature of 70 degrees, it is assumed that 5 degrees is supplied by lighting, appliances, equipment and people. Because of this, a base point of 65 degrees is used in calculating HDDs as seen in the graph below. The graph shows a three-year history of

HDDs below 65 degrees and shows that December of 2022 was the coldest with 9,918.9 HDD. The higher the number, the colder it is outdoors.

Even in July there were times during the day that outdoor temperatures dropped below 65 degrees. I even see this when doing receiver checks of those members on a load control program, I will see energy usage on their heating systems during the summer months when circuit breakers are normally turned off.

Thermostats might be turned down to keep systems from running, but they're not turned down enough to prevent a heat call. This happens typically in basements.

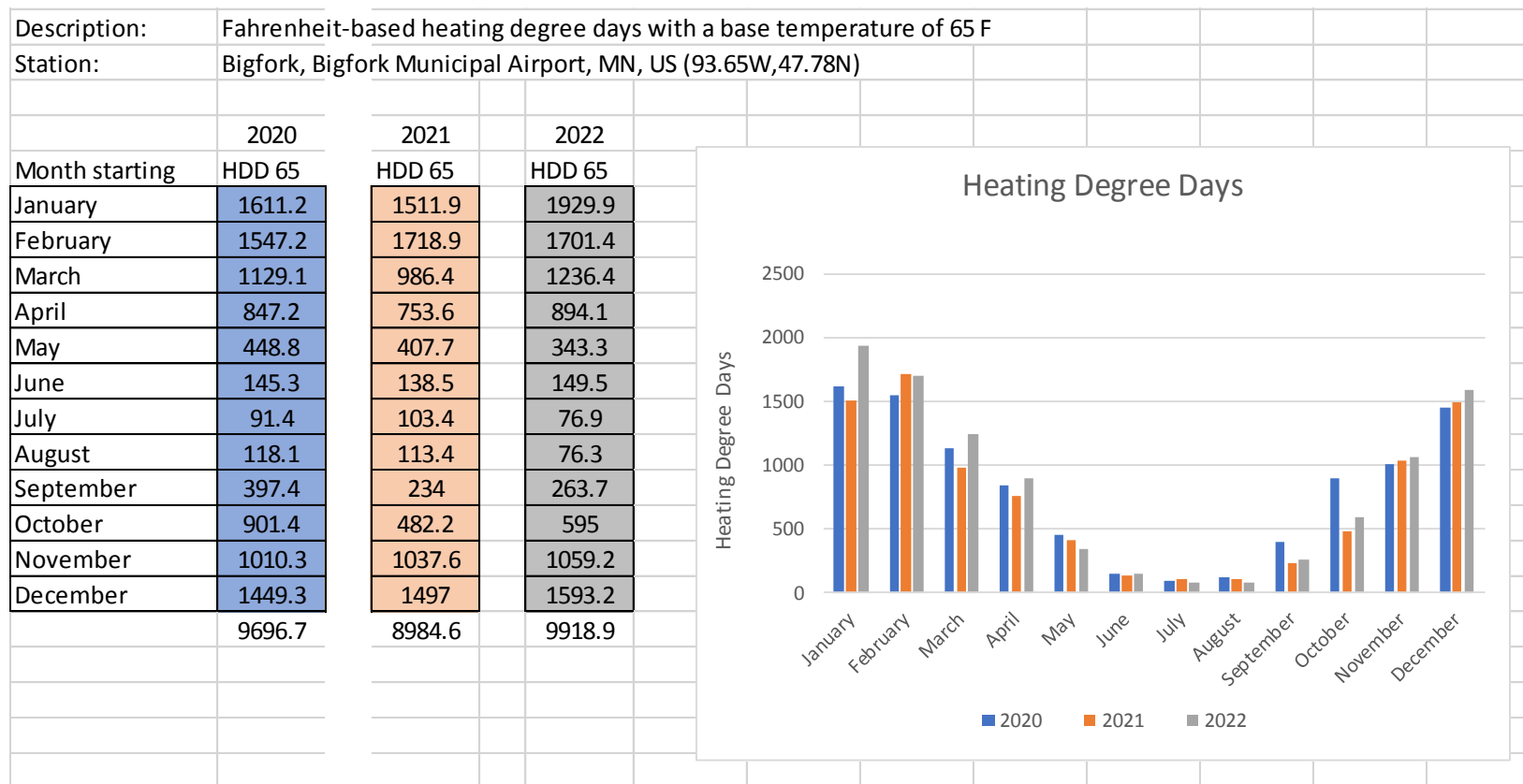
An example calculating HDDs: every one degree of outdoor temperature below 65 is one HDD. Your thermostat is set at 65 degrees, but the outdoor temperature drops to 60. The temperature difference of 5 degrees is calculated to be 5 HDDs.

The information in the graph below

is pulled from a site which calculates weather data worldwide. The data in the graph is weather information taken from the Bigfork airport. Even though last month had warmer days; it wasn't that way last January or December, looking at the graph. I remember the brutal minus 40-degree temp's driving to work in the morning which seemed as if they would never end. The graph also shows last December being much colder than that of 2020 and 2021.

Looking for lower bills in February...

Jerry



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

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Heat pumps prove efficient, effective in cold climates

If you are looking for ways to cut your heating and cooling costs, consider installing an energy-efficient air-source heat pump.

A heat pump functions as both an air conditioner and heater, and it uses 72 percent less electricity than conventional air conditioners and furnaces by collecting and moving heat instead of generating it.

During the cooling season, heat pumps cool the air by pulling heat from the inside the conditioned space and pumping it outside. Alternatively, during the heating season, heat pumps pull heat from outside air — even when it’s cold out — and pump it inside.

Since heat pumps transfer heat rather than generate it, they are one of the most efficient means of cooling and heating your home.

While heat pumps are common in warmer climates, most people think these appliances will not work in places where temperatures drop below freezing — but that is no longer true.

When properly installed, many of today’s cold-climate air-source heat pumps (ccASHPs) can keep your home warm even during the coldest months of the year and use far less energy than other types of heating systems.

The key feature in a ccASHP is a variable speed compressor, enabling a single heat pump to work efficiently and effectively. In addition, the variable-speed system holds a steadier temperature than a traditional single-speed heating or air-conditioning system.

There are both central-ducted systems and ductless systems of ccASHPs available. Central-ducted systems are designed and installed to meet the full heating and cooling needs of the home. Ductless systems deliver heat to a specific area of a home through a single interior head with no ductwork.

In cold-climate applications, ccASHPs typically require a backup system to provide heat when cold outdoor air temperatures limit the heat pump capacity. Ducted systems typically use a propane/natural gas furnace as a backup. These backups take over the load of the system at an outdoor air temperature where the capacity of the

heat pump is no longer sufficient. Homes with ductless systems typically rely on electric-resistance boards for backup heating.

Visit energywisemn.com/air-heat-pumps to learn more and watch an animated video about heat pumps.

Rebates from your cooperative as well as tax incentives may be available. Visit your cooperative’s website to find rebates currently available and be sure to watch for special promotional offers beginning in April 2023.

A tax credit of up to 30 percent of the cost for purchase (between Jan. 1, 2023, and Dec. 31, 2023) and installation of a heat pump, up to \$2,000, is available.

Visit energystar.gov for eligible products and

ASHP rebate correction

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 with a HSPF rating of 8.2 - \$500
- Central Air Source Heat Pumps with a HSPF rating of 9.0 - \$800
- Ductless Air Source Heat Pumps with primary heat being delivered fuels - \$300
- Ductless Air Source Heat Pumps with primary heat being electric - \$500

credit details. In addition, there will be a new point-of-sale rebate for people earning up to 150 percent of area median income that will apply to heat pumps. The rebate has a \$14,000 cap. Visit energystar.gov/rebate-finder.

Keeping the grid reliable

from p.1
out the electricity.

Great River Energy is also studying historical weather data and maps to determine which areas of its territory are most at risk for severe weather events well into the future. Engineering design standards are also being considered.

“We believe we are in a good spot,” said Paul Woodruff, portfolio project manager at Great River Energy. “Our current design standards are robust. We’re validating our designs and looking ahead to make sure we are designing them for tomorrow’s ice loading. As we replace older power lines, we need to build them for the next 50-plus years.”



Great River Energy heavily invests in a vegetation management program. Identifying vulnerabilities and keeping trees clear of the lines helps ensure that branches don’t hit or fall onto power lines, causing damage and knocking out the electricity.


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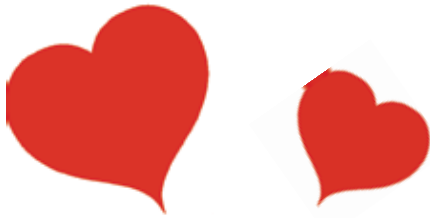
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vent type: 4-way venting
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depth: 30-1/4", height: 44", width: 27"



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Features:

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leveling legs
reversible door
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stainless steel interior
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Features:

total capacity: 7.4 cu. ft.
number of cycles: 10
number of options: 9
fuel type: electric
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vent type: 4-way venting
reversible door
depth: 30-1/4"
height: 44-9/16"
width: 27"



DVE46BB6700DA3 Regular \$607.36 sale \$546.62

Features:

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super speed dry
AI Smart Dial
MultiControl™
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flexible installation
Wi-Fi connectivity2
sensor dry
7.5 cu. ft. capacity
vent sensor
lint filter Indicator premium tempered glass door
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reversible dryer door ADA compliant3
19 total drying cycles
14 options
5 temperature settings
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WF46BB6700ADUS Regular \$607.36 SALE \$546.62

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shallow closet-depth fit1, large
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DNR Outdoor webinars

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources invites people interested in fishing, wildlife and outdoor skills to tune in to Wednesday noon webinars. Webinars via Webex are less than an hour and are free, but registration is required.

For additional information contact Benji at benjamin.kohn@state.mn.us or (651) 259-5178.

The February schedule follows:

Feb 1: Minnesota's Native

Mussels with Madeline Pletta, DNR's lead mussel propagation biologist.

Feb. 8: Burbot (Eelpout) Fishing with Carl Pedersen and Jody Derks, fisheries specialists with the DNR.

Feb 15: Bald Eagles in Minnesota with Lori Naumann, Nongame Wildlife outreach specialist.

Feb 22: Foundational Fire Starting with Pam Welisevich, a naturalist with Dodge Nature Center.

Master Woodland Owner course offered

The University of Minnesota Extension is offering a Master Woodland Owner online course starting Feb 13 through May 21. The course includes fourteen modules on woodland stewardship topics, three online Zoom sessions with direct access to forestry experts and three in-person field tours.

Course outcomes listed include the ability to: "Consider different reasons and ways to manage woods and wildlife, identify common native trees and invasive plants, select appropriate trees and know how to plant them, map the property and conduct a woodland inventory, meet and talk with local natural resources professionals, confidently make decisions for the logging and marketing of timber, discuss the financial considerations of land ownership (including tax incentives and estate planning) with family and advisors, and develop

specific actions that will provide a path to leaving land in a better condition for future generations.

Normally the course costs \$295, but Itasca County is supporting the course, so for county residents the cost is \$45.

Space is limited to 35 participants. Register and find further information at extension.umn.edu/event/master-woodland-owner-itasca.

Blandin Foundation scholarships available

Applications for Blandin Foundation's scholarships are available and being accepted until March 1, 2023.

The scholarships provide Itasca area students \$1,000 to \$5,000 or more per student for the 2023-2024 school year. Students may reapply each year, until they are age 25 or have earned up to a bachelor's degree.

The Foundation is boosting its scholarship allocation by \$350,000 to \$1.5 million — the largest scholarship funding pool in Foundation history — as part of its strategy to help Itasca area communities build a strong future workforce and keep that wealth of knowledge close to home.

Key points:

- College scholarships of \$1,000 to \$5,000 available to serve more Itasca-area students
- Will help fund college costs and provide connections to the financial, academic and other support resources that help students stay in school
- Nearly 20,000 Blandin Foundation scholarships have been awarded since 1956 totaling more than \$30 million

• Minnesota North – Itasca Campus students now apply directly to Blandin Foundation.

"We believe our communities are at a critical point in history to prepare the workforce with the skills and knowledge for the jobs of today and tomorrow," said Tuleah Palmer, Blandin Foundation president and CEO. "We need to get all hands on deck."

"Supporting students going to school is about so much more than financial aid," Scholarships Coordinator Jen Alger said. "Our program is adapting to be a resource for students and their families — whether you're heading to college right after high school, or returning to pursue your goals after some time off. We aim to answer questions, be good listeners, and find ways for students to navigate the complex systems of school after high school, so they can learn best and land the jobs they want."

Who is eligible and how to apply

Scholarships are available to local students under the age of 25 who will graduate, or have graduated, from: Bigfork, Blackduck, Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig,

Deer River, Grand Rapids, Greenway, Hill City, Nashwauk-Keewatin, Northern Lights Community School, Northome and Remer. Home-schooled and online students who would have attended any of these schools also are eligible.

New this year, students who are attending Minnesota North – Itasca Campus should apply directly to Blandin

Foundation. For more information on eligibility and to access the online-only application, please visit blandinfoundation.org/scholarships. Call 218-326-0523, or 1-877-882-2257, or email scholarships@blandinfoundation.org with questions. **Deadline to submit an application is March 1, 2023.** Scholarships will be awarded May 2023.



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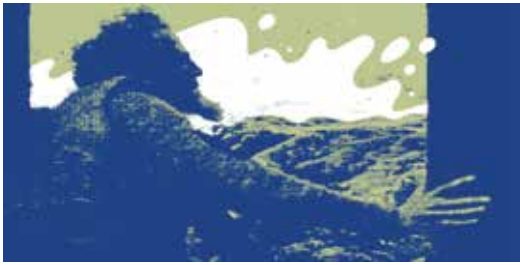
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Edge Center for the Arts

Live music, silent film on tap at the Edge on Feb. 5

On Saturday, Feb. 5 at 2 p.m., the Edge Center Theatre in Bigfork will host an unusual event. A classic 1917 Swedish silent film, "A Man There Was," will be screened with a live original score performed by a Twin Cities ensemble, The Poor Nobodys.

Do you like classic films? Live musical performances? This show is for you, and it is suitable for all ages.

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



The Poor Nobodys

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 many 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.

Classic movie series

February is Valentine's Day month, and each year the Classic Movie Series in Bigfork celebrates the month with a great love story movie. This year, Ginger Rogers moves away from dancing with Fred Astaire to star in a very funny romantic comedy from 1939, a memorable year for great Hollywood films.

Bachelor Mother sets up a screwball comedy situation when Ginger finds a baby abandoned on a doorstep and then is mistaken by everyone to be the actual Mother. This gets especially frustrating when Ginger is attracted to the rich, playboy, bachelor, David Niven, and at the same time finds herself getting attached to the baby. All this with a featured guest appearance by Donald Duck. Folks loved this movie in 1939. It was RKO's biggest hit of the year.

Bachelor Mother will be shown on Thursday, February 9 at 6:30 p.m in the Edge Center Theater in Bigfork. FREE! And all are invited, especially those who are in a romantic mood or want to be.

MARCH CLASSIC MOVIE: *Mrs. Miniver*, the 1942 winner of six Oscars, will be shown Thursday, March 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the Edge.

Arvig Annual Student Essay Contest: A chance to win a Youth Tour trip to Washington D.C.

Arvig is pleased to announce its annual essay contest to send one area student to visit Washington, D.C., for the Foundation for Rural Services (FRS) Youth Tour, May 31 to June 4, 2023. The essay prompt for the contest is "Technology and Rural Life." Essays and completed applications are due to Arvig by email before the end of the day on Friday, March 3.

"We know the kids in our rural communities are our future leaders," said David Arvig, Chief Operating Officer and Vice President at Arvig. "Opportunities like the Youth Tour allow students to meet people from across the country while learning more about how the decisions made in Washington directly impact our life in rural Minnesota. We're pleased to sponsor a student for this once-in-a-lifetime experience."

The winner will be one of more than 100 high school students from rural America who will explore the nation's capital and get an inside look at the legislation and governmental process of the telecommunications industry.

The FRS Youth Tour provides a forum for teens to meet and interact with their peers from other rural communities, as well as key legislative, regulatory and government figures. The Youth Tour delegates will explore historic sites including the Lincoln Memorial, the U.S. Capitol, Mount Vernon and Arlington National Cemetery.

Eligible students must be high school students, age 15, 16 or 17 at the time of the Youth Tour in June 2023, and receive Arvig internet, telephone and/or television services at their residence. Students and their parents should visit arvig.net/youthtour to download the essay prompt and contest requirements, application forms and submission details.

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Trout stocked by DNR for ice angling

Although walleye, pike and panfish are the species targeted by most Minnesota ice anglers, stream trout on inland lakes can be targeted starting Saturday, Jan. 14. Stream trout species that anglers can catch in lakes include brook, brown, rainbow and splake.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources manages seven natural lakes and three mine pit lakes in the Grand Rapids area for stream trout. Designated trout lakes include Camp Four, Deepwater, Erskine, Kremer, Lucky, Moonshine and Pickerel lakes, along with Kinney, LaRue and Tioga mine pit lakes. Designated trout lakes are typically stocked with trout once per year in the spring or fall.

Staff from the DNR and the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board stocked trout from the Spire Valley, Crystal Springs and Lanesboro state fish hatcheries into nine of the Grand Rapids area's ten designated trout

lakes this year; Deepwater Lake will be stocked in 2023.

Locally, Erskine Lake, 13 miles northeast of Bigfork, received 2,740 fingerling splake.

Matt Ward, DNR Grand Rapids assistant area fisheries supervisor, noted that each species of stream trout may behave differently from one another and differently during summer and winter seasons. He said he recommends doing a little pre-fishing homework and bringing a variety of baits. Good options include small artificial baits with a fish scent, live leeches, worms, wax worms and frozen minnows. Live minnows aren't allowed on designated trout lakes.

Seasonal trout fishing on the lakes above requires an annual angling license and a trout stamp. Anglers fishing for trout in these lakes with a 24- or 72-hour angling license are not required to purchase a trout stamp. Fishing hours for stream trout on inland waters run from

one hour before sunrise to 11 p.m. The 2023 winter season for anglers on the lakes listed above is from Saturday, Jan. 14, through Friday, March 31, while the summer season is from Saturday, May 13, through Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2023.

Anglers can find stocking and fish survey information using the DNR Lakefinder(mndnr.gov/lakefinder). More information about fishing for stream trout in lakes can be found on the DNR fishing page (mndnr.gov/fishing) and in the Minnesota Fishing Regulations handbook.

Road conditions:
Call 511 or visit 511mn.org for maps, cameras, weather alerts.

Bigfork welcomes new councilors

The Bigfork City Council opened its first meeting of 2023 with the oath of office for two new council members, Sarah Scheff and Jerry Denny.

During the public forum Sarah Stone of EOWSKI! requested a donation from the city toward a snowmobile and grooming equipment for the RiverWalk Trail. Stone will bring back a written proposal.

Resident Gus David asked about the runoff to the river from the snow being piled on his property during Highway 38 street clearing. Mayor Bryan Boone will discuss the snow removal agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Estimates from the

Department of Natural Resources for the fishing pier costs ranged from \$30,000-\$50,000 for a permanent structure or \$50,000 - \$100,000 for deck structures. The project would be funded through the Blandin Foundation Community Development Grant and some funding also may be available through the DNR. A decision and more detailed quotes from contractors will be sought this spring after the ice goes out.

The Assembly of God presented a proposal for

rental of the City Hall for services at \$50 per week with some flexibility for scheduling community events. The city clerk found this would be legal, but rental must also be open to other groups. The proposal was accepted on a 6-month trial and will be revisited in June.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. It was noted that the March meeting has been rescheduled to March 21 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum.

Effie Council looks at addressing

by Sally Sedgwick

The Effie City Council made yearly appointments at its first meeting of the year on Jan. 9 and administered the oath of office to re-elected council members Lil Longtine and Tom Lamont.

Addressing within the city limits was discussed. In the postal system Summit Avenue rather than Highway 38 is the dividing line for east and west designation, and there are two addresses that are county fire numbers. The importance of getting addresses right and visible for emergency services was noted.

In other business, the

council:

- Set the meeting schedule for 2023 as the second Monday of the month, 6 p.m. at the Effie Community Center.

- Heard that the Effie Café on-sale liquor license is still in process due to a miscommunication on forms and until proof of insurance is received.

- Identified a need for an additional \$2,200 in the Playground Fund for playground equipment installation next spring.

The next regular council meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 13 at the Community Center.

Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum.

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Tax-Aide available Feb-April

Tax-Aide is an AARP Foundation group that provides free tax preparation services to Itasca County families and individuals of all ages and backgrounds, with a focus on older adults and those with low-to-moderate incomes. AARP membership is not required.

It is available by appointment only. For appointments and more information, call (218) 245-9202. There is some limited duration face-to-face contact service.

ElderCircle is the sponsoring agency. This program is funded through a grant provided by the State of Minnesota.

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.

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Community Cafe in Deer River

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.

Northome School Food Pantry

The Northome School Food Pantry is open during school hours, as needed, or by appointment. The pantry is stocked with fresh, frozen, and shelf-stable foods, household goods and personal products. Free and accessible to all.

For an appointment or more information, call the school at (218) 897-5275 and speak to Colleen Elhard, Behavioral Health Support at Ext. 159, Steph Soret, Indian Ed. Coordinator at Ext. 141 or Principal Macenzie Lehn at Ext 155.

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.

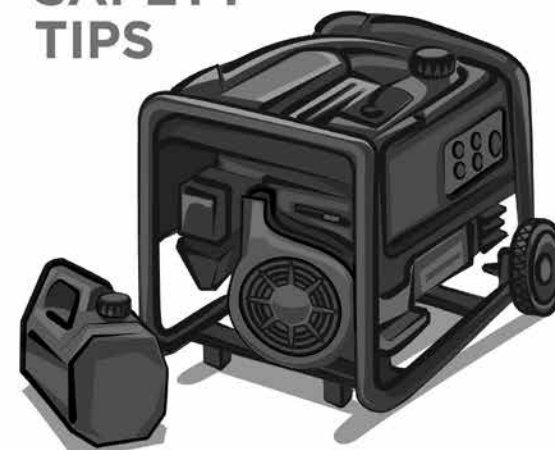
PIN needed for Interlibrary Loan

Arrowhead Library System and Duluth Public Library are implementing an additional security measure to protect your privacy. Starting this month, in addition to your patron barcode, your PIN will be required to access interlibrary loan services through the MNLINK statewide catalog. This is the same PIN you use to access the Arrowhead Library System online catalog or the Duluth Public Library online catalog. This course of action is taking place statewide to improve the MNLINK system security.

Please contact Arrowhead Library System (218-741-3840), Duluth Public Library (218-730-4200), or your local library with any questions.

area bookmobile stops
New to the area? Get your Arrowhead Library Card on the Bookmobile.
Tuesdays: Feb. 14; March 7, 28
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: Feb. 16; March 9, 30
11:45-12:45 Togo: Junction Bar & Grill
Mondays: Feb. 13; March 6, 27
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

GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS



Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment.

Stationary Generator:

An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from the electric co-op, should be installed by a professional.

Portable Generator:

Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.

Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated area outside the home. Make sure it's out and away from your garage, doors, windows and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is **deadly**.

Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator.

Start the generator first **before** connecting appliances.

Source: SafeElectricity.org

B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork
Coffee Club Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m.
Bingo every Thursday 1-3 p.m.

<p>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.</p>	<p>Northern Itasca Emergency Food Shelf 200 Main, Bigfork Thursdays 12:30-3 p.m. 3rd Thursday 4-5:30 p.m. (218) 256-4170</p>
<p>Blackduck Community Library: (218) 835-6600 Tues: 1-6 p.m.. Wed: 9 a.m.-noon. Thurs:12-5 p.m. Fri: 12-5 p.m. Sat.: 9 a.m.-noon.</p>	<p>Northome Library (218) 897-5952 Mon: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues: 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Wed: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Thurs: noon - 6 p.m. Fri: 9 a.m.- noon</p>
<p>Resource Centers:</p>	
<p>Blackduck: (218) 835-5768</p>	<p>Northome: (218) 897-5952</p>

Community News

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

~ February Calendar ~

Bigfork

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. In February there will be two two-hour standalone classes, 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, February 1 and 8. You will receive hands-on instruction and feedback taught by professionals in the field.

Suomi

Save the date! Suomi Lutheran Church (Deer River) is planning a Mother's Day Auction on May 12, 6:30 p.m.

General Interest

Itasca Waters is sponsoring free monthly lunch hour online programs on "Practical Water Wisdom." Learn from experts! Topic for Feb 2, 12-1 p.m is "Loons and Bald Eagles: Can they co-exist?" with Dr. James Paruk, Professor of Biology, St. Joseph's College, Standish, Maine. On March 2 the topic is "Water plants and woody debris in shallow water: Friend or foe?" Register at itascawaters.org/water-wisdom-2023. More information at info@itascawaters.org or call (218) 256-5998.

- 1 "The Club I Never Wanted To Join" breast cancer support group meets 3:30 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
- 2 First Thursday "Practical Water Wisdom" online programs over the lunch hour with Itasca Waters. Topic: "Loons and Bald Eagles: Can they co-exist?" Register at itascawaters.org. (see Community News.)
- 1, 8 The Edge Center in Bigfork is offering free training for all things video in two-hour classes on Feb 1, 8. Call Val (218) 259-4490 for information.
- 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.
- 6-10 Homecoming Week at Northome School.
- 7 Bigfork Valley Hospital Board meets, 9 a.m. Contact (218) 743-1772 for telephone or virtual attendance information.
- 8 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
- 9 Classic Movies at The Edge Center, Bigfork. *Bachelor Mother* (1939) starring Ginger Rogers and David Niven - with a guest appearance by Donald Duck, 6:30 p.m. Free.
- 13 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 13 ISD 318 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.
- 13 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 13 Blackduck ISD 32 School Board, 7 p.m. in the Media Center.
- 14 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.
- 14 ISD 317 School Board meets, 6 p.m., public forum 5:45 p.m.



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.

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

- 14 Valentine's Day
- 17 No school, Deer River
- 20 No school, all schools, President's Day.
- 21 Bigfork City Council meets at City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 23 North Itasca Electric hosts an Open House at the Edge Center in Bigfork, 5 p.m. on Briggs & Stratton generators and battery storage systems. Open to all co-op members and the trades. Information on how to become certified for installation and service.
- 25 10th annual Blackduck Stumpjumpers Drag Races on Blackduck Lake. 15 race classes; more info on Facebook.
- 27 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.

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



New DNR tool provides health information for thousands of lakes

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has created a new online tool, called the Watershed Health Assessment Framework for Lakes (WHAF for Lakes), providing easy access to water quality and health information for thousands of Minnesota lakes.

WHAF for Lakes is part of the DNR’s Watershed Health Assessment Framework and is funded by the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.

“Our staff did very innovative work over the past year to create this valuable new tool,” Ecological and Water Resources Division Director Katie Smith said. “WHAF for Lakes will benefit anyone who wants to know more about a particular lake’s water quality and the health of the aquatic habitat and community

in that lake. It will also help guide decisions about lake protection and restoration.”

Users can compare a lake’s health measures to other nearby lakes. Along with graphics showing lakes’ relative water quality, biology, and hydrology, WHAF for Lakes includes information about basic lake characteristics and lake stewardship.

A lake’s watershed includes all land and surface water upstream of a lake outlet that contribute water to that lake. Land uses within a watershed influence lake health. Alterations of the land, the shoreline, and nearshore vegetation affect the quality of the water and the health of the aquatic community in a particular lake.

“A healthy lake is

one that is nearest to its natural state — free from pollution and with a natural shoreline that protects the bank and filters runoff — which allows it to withstand changing conditions and seasonal fluctuations,” Smith said. “Healthy lakes depend on people who value these resources and invest in the protection and restoration of the water, watershed, and biology.”

WHAF for Lakes can be accessed by searching for a particular watershed (arcgis.dnr.state.mn.us/ewr/whafakes), exploring watershed health with the WHAF Map (arcgis.dnr.state.mn.us/ewr/whaf2), or using the DNR’s popular LakeFinder page (mndnr.gov/lakefind).

2022 Christmas Recipe Contest Cookbook

NOTE for last month’s recipe for **Christmas Cherry Bars**: The final bake time after the filling has been added to the pan is **30-35 minutes**.

Thank you to our wonderful Members and staff who submitted the following recipes to the Christmas recipe candy and cookie contest. All the recipes below are available in the 2022 Christmas Recipe Contest Cookbook available at the front door of the headquarters building in Bigfork or by contacting Roxanne at roxannep@nieci.com.

Jumbo Raisin Cookies – Linda Penn; **White Chocolate Chip Cranberry Cookies**; **Melting Moments** – Ellen

Bomstad; **Candy Cane Fudge**; **Cheery Cherry Bars** – Janet Kogler; **Date Nut Krispies** – Nettie Waller; **Walnut Wedges** – Nettie Waller; **Almond Roca** – Jan Mackenthun; **Christmas Cherry Bars** – Jan Mackenthun; **Caramels** – Ellen Bomstad; **Festive Christmas Fudge**; **Mexican Wedding Cakes**; **Caramel Pretzel Turtle Bites**; **Perfect Cherry Brownies** – Ellen Bomstad; **Velveeta Fudge**; **Best Toffee Ever**; **Chocolate Chip and Cinnamon Oatmeal Cookies** – Ellen Bomstad; **Slow cooker Peanut Clusters** – Jan Mackenthun; **Hazel Nut Birch Cookie** – Elaine Hafertepe; **Divinity Candy**.

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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.

Date Nut Krispies

Congratulations to Nettie Waller for this winning cookie recipe!

- 2 beaten eggs
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 cups dates



Cook into a thick paste and remove pan from stove.

- Add:
- 2 cups Rice Krispies®
 - 1 cup chopped walnuts

Roll into balls the size of a walnut. Roll in flaked coconut, then powdered sugar.

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 (please do not send copyrighted material) to the editor, WATTS NEWS, P.O. Box 43, Spring Lake, MN 56680 or email the editor at sedgwick@paulbunyan.net.

Perfect Cherry Brownies

Congratulations to Ellen Bomstad for this winning cookie recipe!

- 1 cup cocoa
- 1 cup butter
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 1 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 1 cup pitted, sliced fresh or frozen Bing cherries



Melt butter, remove from heat, add cocoa and stir.

Add sugar and eggs. Beat well.

Add flour and vanilla. Beat well.

Mix in the chocolate chips and cherries. Spread in a greased 13" x 9" pan. Bake at 350° for 23 minutes (use a timer).

CLASSIFIEDS

AD DEADLINE

for the MARCH issue: Fri., Feb. 17

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Available in granite and bronze. Also do final dating, foundation work and cleaning.
FREE estimates. Serving your area.
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Call (218) 743-3711

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Many sizes
24 hour access.
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Located off Hwy 14 just west of Hwy 38
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Gus David

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or 218-743-3613

-WANTED-

Looking for someone to work on console stackable record players, have several. Repair in my shop in Squaw Lake area. Call for information 218-659-4750 3/23

Looking for a handyman to do small repairs, carpenter/plumbing Big Bear Lake area. Call (763) 229-8652 3/23

Wanted to purchase: book by Curtis L Newstrom, titled Memories Of A Small Town In Marcell Mn. Call Ed Shearen (218) 832-4867 3/23

-FOR SALE-

For sale: World War II Commemorative M1 Garand Rifle. New in box with sling. \$2,000.00. Call or text 218-259-7504 3/23

For sale: Strikemaster ice auger. 8", 3 hp. Good cond. \$150. Call (218) 832-3329 3/23

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

-VEHICLES-

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

For sale: For sale: 2018 Sportsman Polaris 4x4. Very low miles, super clean mach. Brush guards, hand warmers, winch, windshield, loaded. On 2020 Camso TS 4 Tracks. Great for all winter fun. \$17,000.00 Call (218) 256-3829 3/23

-FARM-

For sale: Square bales, mixed grass 35-45 lbs. \$5 per bale. Call (218) 244-0957

Ads are a service to our members. North Itasca Electric and the WATTS News do not endorse advertisements. Please use your good judgment.

Emails will be answered; if no reply, please resend.

How to place a classified ad: Contact the editor by one of the ways in the coupon at the bottom of the page or bring your ad into the office. You will receive a reply when ads are emailed. If not, please try again. Classified ads are free to members, \$5 per insertion to non-members or businesses. Paid ads are boxed.

Service classifieds are \$5 per insertion and are all text. Ads are boxed and may be limited in size. To place a service classified, contact the editor or email content content.



BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.

WATER

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.

TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.

FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Learn more at www.ready.gov

Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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, mycpsportal.com.

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.)

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

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

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

Carbon-free Energy Proposal Needs Safeguards for Cost, Reliability

News release from the Minnesota Rural Electric Association, Jan. 12, 2023

On January 5, the Minnesota Legislature proposed a bill to transition all electricity sold in the state to be carbon-free by 2040. **The bill must consider potential impacts to the reliability and affordability of the essential electric service provided by Minnesota cooperative utilities to their 1.7 million members.**

As new energy generation and transmission facilities are built to meet clean energy requirements, existing generation facilities are being retired early and are being replaced with renewable resources, such as wind and solar. This significantly impacts reliability as variable resources (i.e. wind and solar) cannot be counted on to always be available when needed. This bill would accelerate this troubling trend.

It is currently not possible to expect the electric system to function in Minnesota without significant gas, coal and/or nuclear generation. Technology to fully transition these generation fuels to renewable resources is not

developed yet, much less deployed.

Both MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator) and NERC (North American Electric Reliability Corporation) recently issued warnings about potential energy shortfalls during extreme weather in the Midwest. These warnings extend year-round for the next several years. In fact, just this past December 23, MISO declared a maximum generation emergency event to maintain the reliability of the electric system. These maximum generation events are warnings the system is nearing a point that rotating power outages may be required, and they are predicted to happen more often in the coming years.

Minnesotans are already experiencing rising costs of goods and services throughout the economy. Developing new renewable generation facilities, equipment, and infrastructure to support carbon-free energy will take significant time and money. Forcing premature energy resource decisions through mandates, as is the case in the proposed legislation, will only

drive costs up.

These new mandates are not needed to transition to a cleaner electricity system. Minnesota's clean energy transition in the electric utility sector is already well underway. In 2005, 65 percent of the state's electricity was generated by coal. Today, that number has dropped to 26 percent and is projected to be no more than 5 percent by 2035.

Additionally, 30 percent of our energy generation comes from renewable sources, up from just 5 percent in 2005. By 2035, renewable energy generation in Minnesota is projected to be 50 percent.

No other state in the country has reduced electric sector carbon dioxide emissions more successfully than Minnesota.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Help keep energy reliable and affordable to all Minnesotans, especially rural electric cooperatives. Make your voice heard on these issues by reaching out to your local legislators. An easy way to do this is to sign up for Voices for Cooperative Power.

Here is what we ask of our state legislators:

- **Eliminate the separate renewable energy mandate in the proposed carbon-free legislation**, which complicates the overall goal of reducing carbon emissions.

- **Eliminate the 2030 and 2035 compliance milestones.** These milestones are unnecessary and will force premature and costly resource decisions before more effective and economical technologies are available to meet the 100 percent carbon-free objective as affordably and reliably as possible. In the near term, these milestones will accelerate the closure of generation and add to the reliability challenges we're already experiencing.

- **Exclude gas resources with limited capacity factors, otherwise known as peaking plants, from the generation facilities used to determine compliance with the mandate.** These peaking facilities are crucial when energy demand is at its highest – usually the hottest or coldest days of the year in Minnesota.

- **Exclude non-Minnesota generation in determining compliance for those utilities whose carbon-**

emitting resources are located entirely outside of Minnesota.

- **Put cooperative boards in the role of balancing reliability and affordability in the event meeting deadlines would put them at risk.** The bill currently relies on state regulators to do that for all utilities, which is not appropriate for cooperatives, who rely on locally elected governing boards to balance these concerns.

- **Include all carbon-reduction resources and technology in the mandate.** This includes lifting the nuclear moratorium to allow small modular nuclear generation as a possible energy resource and allowing generation facilities to count carbon capture technology as part of their carbon emission reductions.

Cooperatives were founded by individuals working together to make their voice heard, leading change and bringing power to the people in rural areas. Today, we must remain unified and make our voices heard to ensure the transition to carbon-free energy maintains the affordability and reliability of electricity for all of Minnesota residents, especially rural electric cooperative Member-owners.