



**NORTH ITASCA
ELECTRIC**

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

**WATTS
NEWS**

VOL 26 NO. 11

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NOVEMBER 2023

CEO Report

Good afternoon NIECI!

To put things in perspective a little, I'm writing this article on 10/19/23. A lot will change by the time you get this in your home or cabin.

This weekend I get to take my oldest daughter out for the youth hunt. We'll spend a few hours in the stand trying to be quiet. We have a better chance if my youngest daughter hangs back, but we have more fun if she comes with. I don't know why; I can never win a game of crazy eights when those two girls are together. There seems to be a lot of snickering and giggling when I look away from the cards watching for deer.

I want to brag a little about our employees now. Recently Shiela

came to me and asked if she could enter Daryl and Krista to be recognized by National Rural Electric Association. NRECA for short, was running an article for Co-op Month highlighting one of our principles, Concern for Community.

Daryl and Krista are a big part of the Bigfork Improvement Group. That is the old Over 50 building across the street from the cooperative in Bigfork. They work together with the group to raise money for scholarships; many events are hosted in the BIG Building, one of my favorites is the pie social. Thank you, Sheila, for entering your friends into this contest, and congratulations to Daryl and Krista for being recognized nationally for your concern for



Brad Dolinski, CEO community! [See p. 6]

I want to thank our Member-Owners, your concern for community also needs to be recognized. We recently had our Operation Round-Up board meeting. Our nine Round-Up board members along with the cooperative attorney review the applications for funding. The board considers each application against the bylaws they must follow. Schools, community programs, food shelves, and first responders all see a CEO to p.2>

What is Load Control... and why call for energy reduction?

by Jerry Loney
Load control is when Great River Energy (GRE) sends out a signal to North Itasca Electric's load control receivers turning off higher consuming electrical devices of those enrolled on a load control program such as water heater, electric boilers, plenum heaters, central air source heat pumps, or baseboard heaters, naming a few, to prevent high demands on not only North Itasca Electric's system but also on GRE's electric grid.

North Itasca Electric Cooperative is not the sole participant in turning off these devices, but one of 27 other Cooperatives

which receive electricity from GRE. Once a month a billing peak is called by GRE which measures the amount of energy in kW demand along with kWhs needed by North Itasca Electric's members. Demand is the amount of energy needed at a specific point in time to supply all members with energy. The lower we can keep kW demand during this billing peak, the lower the demand charge would be billed to North Itasca Electric each month. For those living in and around Northhome you do not receive energy from GRE, but Minnkota

Power which also bills North Itasca Electric for demand, but instead of monthly, demand is measured twice a year to determining what North Itasca Electric's demand charges will be.

GRE and Minnkota both monitor energy demand loads and costs constantly to determine if or when a load control period will happen for those on load control programs.

Control to p.3>



Fall Round Up Awards

Operation Round Up Community Trust Board held its fall meeting in October to award grants to community organizations. This fall 33 grants were made totaling \$10,200.

Operation Round Up® is a charitable program designed to provide financial assistance to local nonprofit organizations and community projects. Nearly 85 percent of North Itasca Electric's 5,200 members voluntarily participate in the program by "rounding up" their electric bills to the nearest dollar each month. The extra change is pooled into a separate account, which is

used toward charitable giving purposes.

The average annual donation is less than \$6.00 per member. The maximum annual contribution is \$11.88 per year. Although the change comes in small amounts, when combined with other participating co-op members, the amount is enough to make a substantial difference for our community organizations.

Of the funds collected through Operation Round Up, 100 percent is distributed to charitable organizations.

Round Up to p.7 >

Emergency conservation appeal plan

As a member of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), our wholesale power supplier, Great River Energy, may be required in a grid emergency to ask its member-owners, including North Itasca Electric Cooperative, to issue an Emergency Conservation Appeal – an urgent appeal to the public to conserve energy to help restore balance to the grid. These situations are rare but are part of MISO's emergency operating procedures.

Our role

An Emergency Conservation Appeal requires us to issue a special message

alert through our website or social media channels, or by issuing public service announcements, asking our co-op members to reduce their electricity usage for a specific period of time.

Communications tools

If Great River Energy asks us to make an Emergency Conservation Appeal, they will provide us with messaging to share. A sample is on page 5. Listen for these announcements on radio or see NorthItascaElectric.com or Facebook.

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Christmas contests

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Fall Refrigerator Sale

pages 8, 9

Dryer lint issues

page 5

Office Hours

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

CEO Report (continued)

>from p.1
benefit from Operation Round-Up. This is only made possible from our members agreeing to round up their monthly electric bill. These funds are collected for six months and then given back to non-profits in our community. Thank you all for contributing to Operation Round-Up.

I have been working with the staff to nail down the 2024 budget. You have heard me over the past couple of years talk about the drastic climb in prices we have seen in materials. Unfortunately, this challenge has not improved yet. Our power supplier Great River Energy has informed me we can expect a roughly 2.4-2.8% rate increase. This rate

increase only affects half of your actual bill. By my calculations I expect our power cost to go up roughly \$109,000. This would be a 1.2% rate increase from GRE to you as a direct pass through. Now, I don't have the other 50% of the budget done yet. I promise you; I will do my best to keep our system safe and reliable while considering all costs at your Cooperative.

October is Cooperative Month. I want to thank all our Member-Owners, past, present, and future. Your drive and commitment to our communities made us what we are today. I am very grateful for the opportunity to work for you at North Itasca Electric Cooperative. If you ever want to look at some

of the history how we came to be, check out our website under About Us. I may be a little partial to the article, I know the author.

That is all for now. I'll continue to work on the budget with staff to ensure we have an accurate recommendation to our board for future rates. I do not set the rates. It is my responsibility to provide accurate information and reporting to our board. Our board has the authority, alone, to adjust rates base on the needs of the cooperative. I'm not trying to pass the buck, I want you to understand the responsibilities and pressures placed on our directors.

*By your side! Miigwech
Brad*

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WATTS NEWS

WATTS NEWS is published monthly by:
North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc.
301 Main Avenue
P.O. Box 227
Bigfork, MN 56628

Subscriptions for Members are included as part of the annual membership dues. \$12.00 per year or partial year for non-members, billed and payable in January for the following year.

Second class postage paid at Bigfork, MN 56628. USPS 016-849 **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to WATTS NEWS, North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 227, Bigfork, MN 56628-0227

Office Hours: 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday

Telephone: (218) 743-3131

After hours (to report power outages):
(800) 762-4048

Website: www.NorthItascaElectric.com

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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

A Safety Tip from the Cooperative



Tip #09-2023

When the Lines are Down

Each year, power lines end up on the ground due to a variety of reasons. A vehicle can crash into a pole and the line droops down. Or, a storm with high winds topples them like toothpicks. And, if you don't know what to do, a tragedy could occur. Why?

A downed line is not a DEAD line. It can still be energized or become energized when devices activate. Knowing what to do will save lives...and one of them could be yours.

- Always assume a downed line is still energized and dangerous!
- Stay in your vehicle (unless you see fire or smoke, and then see below how to exit)!
- Warn others to stay away; the ground can be energized.
- Call 911 and the cooperative/utility company.
- If you must leave your vehicle because it is on fire, do not touch the ground and vehicle at the same time.
 - Jump out of the vehicle with both feet together and avoid contact with both the vehicle and the ground at the same time. Shuffle away from the vehicle.
 - The proper way to shuffle away is by taking small steps and keeping your feet together on the ground at all times. This action will minimize the potential for a strong electric shock.
- Do not attempt to move any power lines.
- Do not drive over power lines.



Photo is not of actual scene in story.

30 utility poles were downed by severe storms in Westminster, Maryland, August 7, 2023, trapping 33 adults and 14 children in their vehicles on a major highway. Miraculously, no one was injured. All occupants remained in their vehicles.



Our safety tips are prepared by Minnesota Rural Electric Association that guides cooperatives in Minnesota through safety, legislative and educational initiatives. Minnesota's electric cooperatives provide reliable, affordable electric service for 1.7 million Minnesotans across 85 percent of Minnesota's landmass.

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

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

James White, District 1

Mary Rahier, District 4

Todd Christensen, District 6

Bruce Leino, District 7

Jeff Kilian, District 8

Highlights from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 28, 2023

Start time: 10:00 a.m.

End time: 1:20 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on August 31, 2023.

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

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

Absent: Tina Danielson

Start Regular Board Meeting: 11:00 a.m.

- o Pledge of allegiance was recited.
- o A motion was made to adopt the agenda, seconded; motion carried. A motion was made to consent agenda, seconded; motion carried.
- o A safety discussion was held. Brad spoke about the onset of colder weather; Carbon Monoxide Poisoning should be on everyone's radar again. Look for BLUE flames from your gas stoves, heaters, etc. A yellow flame means there is some type of issue. Dryer vents should be cleaned out. There should be a Carbon Monoxide detector in homes and fish houses.
- o A motion was made to show the Board Policy 300.50 Disaster Recovery was reviewed with no changes, seconded; motion passed. A motion was made to show that Bylaw Article 11 was reviewed, seconded; motion carried.
- o Brad reviewed the Operating Reports in Tina's absence. A motion was made to accept the Operating Reports as they were presented, seconded; motion carried.
- o Daryl gave the Line Department report. Jessie Lake transformer is scheduled to be delivered November 10. There were several underground outages last month. ROW clearing is on County Road 29. County Road 52 project is done. County Road 35 cable has been installed. We had minimal repairs to trucks this past month. Overall, the outages were very good. There were more underground outages which means higher time involved. So, the number of outages is down, and the time is up a little. Animal hits are up a bit.
- o Jerry Loney gave the Members Services report. Operation Round Up applications are due in the office at the end of the business day on Friday September 29. Operation Round Up meeting is scheduled for October 12th.
- o Lloyd gave the GRE report. A motion was made to approve the Resolution to Approve Dodge County Wind PPA, seconded; motion carried.
- o Brad gave the office report in Tina's absence. A motion was made to approve the 990 forms as they were presented, seconded; motion passed. The board reviewed Capital Credit Grand Total report and

Load control explained

>from p.1

Periods of load control can happen at any time but most often between the hours of 4:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. In the last couple years, we have even experienced control during the morning hours as well, most often when reaching subzero temperatures.

High demands are not caused only by those having electric heating systems installed on North Itasca Electric's system, but a collective of all members of the 27 cooperatives GRE serves and those served by Minnkota Power.

This September when the billing peak occurred, North Itasca Electric experienced one of its highest demand loads of 8,493.9 kW. Minnkota's demand was 1,340 kW totaling 9,833.9 kW.

These charges are not reflected in your electric bills.

These charges by month are:

June, July, and August – \$21.45

January, February, and December – Average \$17.57
March, April, May, September, October, and November – \$13.68

One can see reducing demand loads by any amount during billing peaks could save North Itasca Electric a tremendous amount in costs. How much is one kW? 1,000 Watts.

For example:

- Water heater – 4,500 Watts or (4.5 kW) X \$/kW above = month's demand charge.
- Space heaters – 1,500 Watts or (1.5 kW) X \$/kW above = month's demand charge.

If each of our 5,200 members could reduce energy even by 500 Watts during a billing peak, it would save 2,600 kW in demand charges.

June, July, and August – \$21.45 x 2,600 = \$55,770 each month.

projected Capital Credit distribution plan. Motion to retire 2001 remaining balance and considerations for early retirements was made, seconded; motion passed.

o Brad gave the CEO report. The fall CEO meeting in Spicer was outstanding. Our policy 400.40 Drug & Alcohol Policy has been sent to Pemberton Law. They will make changes according to the new laws. MMG met in Tower this month. Great location and meeting. GRE is expecting a 0.6% rate increase in 2024. This will potentially be \$270,000 to North Itasca Electric. Joe Kangas was introduced as a new employee. Jerry Loney has announced his retirement as of January 5, 2024. Brad reviewed the possible meetings for board attendance in 2024.

o W. Waller gave the MREA report. There will be a presentation to new cooperative employees on October 18th and 19th. This is for new employees who are new to the cooperative world.

o A motion was made to adjourn, seconded; motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.

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.

January, February, and December – \$17.57 X 2600 = \$45,682 each month.

March, April, May, September, October, and November – \$13.68 X 2,600 = \$35,568 each month.

Those on load control programs save money by paying lower rates because the rates North Itasca Electric pays for energy are lower, being able to avoid demand and higher energy costs. As we see above, one does not need to be on a load control program to help North Itasca Electric save money, which ultimately saves the membership money. Even though peak periods are not known until the day of control; North Itasca Electric's records show a pretty constant bill peak period being between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. If all of us could be vigilant during these hours, the savings for one month would cover my whole year's salary. (Just funning you, but true).

Until next month...

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Annual Co-op Christmas Cookie/ Candy Contest:

Once again it is that time of year – dust off your recipe books and send in your best candy and cookie recipes. We want to get as many recipes as possible so we can make a recipe book. Please get recipes in as soon as possible so we have time to retype and put them in a book. Please don't send copyrighted material, make the recipe your own!

Winners will receive \$50 for the 1st prize, \$25 for 2nd place and 3rd place is \$15. Plus, the winning recipes will be in the WATTS News so you will also get another \$10 off your monthly bill! You can mail or email the recipes to the Co-op at P.O. Box 228, Bigfork, MN 56628 or roxanne@nieci.com.

I look forward to seeing lots of good recipes. Please have them here by Friday, Dec. 8 so we have time to get them together.

Want to try some new recipes for the holidays? As soon as we have them ready, I can email or mail you a book, or you can stop in and get one in our entryway.

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, 2024. 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

LEECH LAKE ENERGY ASST.
115 6th St, Ste E, Cass Lake, MN 56633
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Roxanne's Repair Tips: Lint

Some people think of dryers as a *set it and leave it* appliance, but dryers need regular maintenance like anything else to work properly. One of the dryers' main functions besides drying your clothes is to remove as much lint from your clothes as possible.

Have you noticed there is a lot of lint left on your clothes after you wash and dry them? This can be caused by several things.

1. Your dryer lint trap or lint screen is blocked or full.

This lint screen should be emptied after each use, and the screen should be washed in hot soapy water about once a month. Fabric softeners and scent boosting products can create a film on the screen, blocking it from working properly. Some lint is so fine it will sneak past your screen and will end up in the bottom of your dryer. Periodically, pull the lint screen and use a lint brush to go in and pull any stray lint out.

2. Your dryer ducting is blocked or too long.

You should check your dryer ducting once a year and if there is lint build up in there, clean it out. You can purchase a duct cleaning brush at a hardware store or Walmart.

3. Your dryer drum is small, or you are overloading it.

You should take each item out of the washer and shake it before putting it in the dryer. This removes any excess lint and helps with wrinkles and keeps things from getting all tangled.

4. You might be running the dryer too long or on too hot of a setting.

Lint is loose threads and fibers that come from your clothes. Your dryer makes lint when it tosses your clothes around in the hot air.

5. You might be using too much fabric softener in the washer.

Too much fabric softener will plug up the dryer lint filter screen.

6. Lack of moisture in your home.

If you haven't changed your laundry routine, have ruled out all of the above and you are still ending up with lots of lint, this could mean you have too much humidity in your home. Try using a dehumidifier and see if it helps.

Sample public service announcement

[as described in "Emergency Conservation Appeal Plan," page 1]

Electric cooperatives ask members to do their part to conserve energy today

The heat wave we are experiencing is putting stress on the electric grid. This has prompted the electric grid operator in our region to issue a maximum generation emergency event. North Itasca Electric Cooperative is asking its members to do their part to manage this emergency and conserve electricity. Please cut back energy use until 10 p.m. today. North Itasca Electric Cooperative said the

conservation appeal is being made only after all other efforts to reduce electricity use or to increase power supply were implemented.

Energy-saving suggestions include:

- Postponing use of appliances such as washers, dryers and dishwashers until after 10 p.m.
- Turning off lights and appliances that are not essential to health and safety.
- Turning off computers and other electrical equipment when not in use.

Roxanne's Sales Talk

Ever wonder which is better, a gas or an electric range? Well after reading up on it, this I can tell you, it varies from model to model. I read a great article from Consumer Reports and will share some of what they found, so you can make up your own mind. They tested 190 electric glass tops and gas ranges and did one test according to the different heating temperatures.

Starting with **high heat**: Electric was faster by a pretty good margin. Of 72 electric smooth top ranges tested nearly half earned the top rating of excellent, 38% earned a very good rating.

For gas none earned the top rating of excellent but 56% of the 86 models earned a very good rating.

Testing on **low heat**: Electric won again, it was easier to maintain an even simmer. Slightly less than 2/3 of the ranges earned the top rating of excellence, and more than a dozen models earned a very good rating. None earned a rating of fair or poor. For gas about 3/4 earned either excellent or very good, but 12 models earned either a rating of fair or poor.

When testing **baking**: Gas was slightly better, 70% of the ranges received a score of excellent or very good. 1/4 of the ranges received a good rating and only one model received a fair rating. When it came to the electric for baking, 2/3 received a rating of excellent or very good, 30% earned a good and 2 models earned a fair or poor rating. When testing gas for baking, 15% earned an excellent or very good rating and 30% received a fair or poor rating.

Are you tax-exempt?

If you have a second meter for either Dual Fuel or Storage Space heating to heat your home with electric heat, you qualify for a tax **exemption status for the consumption of your heating equipment**.

It is easy to check by adding up all charges on your bill and multiplying them by \$0.07875. If the answer equals that shown on your bill, you are paying tax on your electric heat. You can avoid this tax by going to North Itasca Electric's website www.northitascaelectric.com and look for forms to select the tax-exemption form for completion.

• Keeping your shades pulled and doors and windows closed during the day.

• Using a microwave oven instead of a conventional electric oven or gas stove.

• Setting the thermostat on your central air conditioner to 78 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.

• Supplementing air-conditioner use with ceiling fans and other fans, which create a wind-chill effect that increases air-conditioning cooling efficiency.

• Taking shorter showers.

by Roxanne Prather, Member Services Representative

Benefits of a gas range:

- Chefs tend to prefer gas perhaps because the burners and ovens heat up faster.
- More precise temperature control, making them ideal for delicate tasks like baking.
- Faster cooking times.
- More energy-efficient than electric ranges.
- More durable.
- More evenly distributed heat.
- Superior heat for frying, sautéing, and boiling a host of dishes.
- Quick heat-up/cool-down time.
- Versatility.
- Easy to clean.

Benefits of an electric range:

- Typically, less expensive to install than gas ranges.
- Easier to clean since there are no open flames.
- Easier to control low heat.
- More direct heat transfer on stovetop.
- Dry, even oven heat ideal for browning or broiling.
- Flexible element sizes for various pots and pans.
- Easy to clean smooth cooktops available.

However, electric ranges do tend to take longer to preheat than gas and are more expensive to run on a daily basis.

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Making news: Co-op volunteers make national news at cooperative.com

Building Community

Posted on cooperative.com, a website of the National Rural Electric Association.



North Itasca Electric Cooperative's Daryl Pederson and Krista Erickson (scarecrow) are part of the Bigfork Improvement Group in northern Minnesota. (Photo By: Cindy Benson)

North Itasca Electric Cooperative Line Superintendent Daryl Pederson and Krista Erickson, an accountant, spend a lot of their free time helping the Bigfork Improvement Group, a nonprofit in northern Minnesota, raise money to renovate the B.I.G. Building, a community gathering place. Fundraisers include a haunted house, community breakfasts and flower deliveries. Proceeds also go toward scholarships.

Modern technology on the electric system

Technology makes today's electric grid more reliable, responsive and convenient for cooperative members. It also makes it possible for cooperative members to better manage their energy consumption and costs by allowing access to connected devices, such as smart thermostats, and providing better visibility into energy use data.

Electric cooperatives also realize significant benefits from these technologies, which can improve security, reduce peak loads, better facilitate the integration of renewable energy and lower operational costs.

Electric cooperatives across the nation are following this path toward "grid modernization," making one of the world's finest displays of technological innovation — the electric grid — even more impressive.

Great River Energy has updated its telecommunications networks over the past six years and is seeing much improved performance and reliability. The cooperative also employs a back-up network to ensure data continues to flow even if there is a telecommunications outage.

According to the Energy Information Administration, 81% of electric meters in the United States are advanced metering

infrastructure (AMI) or "smart" meters. These modern meters fulfill an integral role in providing data from homes and businesses to cooperatives and their member-owners. AMI automates metering functions using communication networks and eliminates the need for employees to go house-to-house to read meters. AMI also helps quickly verify where there are electric outages or when restoration is complete. Data collected through AMI can also be used to identify maintenance needs.

Furthermore, North Itasca Electric and Great River Energy have meter data management systems in place to ensure data that is collected from the smart meters can be analyzed and used to enhance operations.

Finally, Great River Energy and North Itasca Electric use modern demand response management technology so that in times of high electricity usage, the cooperatives can call upon member load management resources, such as air conditioners and water heaters, to more precisely reduce peak demand and save money for the cooperative.

Watch a video about today's electric grid at www.youtube.com/watch?v=dxPnLdrfdOw.



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at Marcell Community Church for our FREE Thanksgiving dinner on Saturday, Nov. 11, 5 - 7 p.m. Turkey dinner with all the fixings!

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Applicant Organization	Project Title	Amount Awarded
Town of Wirt	For safety: build a new deck ramp	\$500.00
New Beginnings Pregnancy + Family Support	Breastfeeding Packs for Mothers in Need	\$300.00
Northome School	Northome School food pantry	\$1,500.00
Kelliher/Northome Girls basketball	Operation Snack Bag for nutrition	\$219.41
Northome School	6th grade science aquarium	\$219.41
Northome School	Prom	\$219.41
Northome School	Back to school packs	\$219.41
North Itasca Emergency Food Shelf	2023 Holiday gift cards	\$1,200.00
City of Squaw Lake	New microwave for the Community Center	\$100.00
City of Squaw Lake	Halloween party	\$219.41
Mizpah's community events	Community events	\$500.00
Bigfork Parent Teachers Association	2023-2024 fall school supplies and educational opportunities	\$219.41
Northome School	Improve weight room	\$200.00
Northome School - Robotics	Lego Robotics	\$219.41
Deer River Sportsman Club	Youth Day supplies, food, training book, targets	\$219.41
Northome Community Ed-Youth basketball	Grades 3-5 youth basketball program	\$219.41
Northome School	Duck decoys	\$219.41
Northern Itasca Hospital District, dba Bigfork Valley	Pagers for Hospital Emergency Responders	\$219.41
Northern Itasca Hospital District, dba Bigfork Valley	Sandbells for use in Elder Fitness classes	\$180.00
City of Northome Playground Committee	Northome playground	\$219.41
Kootasca Senior Citizens	New water softener	\$500.00
Northome City Library	Programs and books	\$219.41
Deer River High School	Engaging Reading Series for Middle School	\$173.54
ISD 318 Bigfork Physical Education	7th and 8th grade downhill ski trip	\$219.41
Northome School ISD 363	Behavioral Health Department	\$219.41
Bigfork Improvement Group	Bigfork toys	\$219.41
Bigfork High School	Lab equipment upgrade	\$219.41
Bigfork Elementary	Reif Center performance for grades 2, 3, 4.	\$219.41
Bigfork School / PBIS Team	Positive Behavior Intervention incentives	\$219.41
Bigfork School Math / Science department	Calculators for Middle School Math / Science	\$219.41
Bigfork Art Department	Design, production and entrepreneurship	\$219.41
Bigfork School Math Department	Student Graphing calculators	\$219.41
Northern Itasca Hospital District, dba Bigfork Valley	Hyperice Normatec 3 - recovery system	\$219.41

Arvig commits to 100Mb speed target for rural areas

Arvig has elected to enroll in a newly modernized Connect America Model (A-CAM) program that has been granted additional project funding and includes higher internet speed targets.

The Federal Communications Commission established Enhanced A-CAM after adopting an order to raise target speeds to 100 Megabits per second (Mbps) download and 20 Mbps upload in eligible project areas. The updated program also makes a share of \$13.5 billion available to Arvig and the nation's 446 other participating service providers.

Through this federal program, Arvig will

invest in network projects across dozens of rural communities in the coming years to bring high speed internet to thousands of households in the region. Arvig is on track to easily meet the higher speed targets of up to 100 Mbps/20 Mbps, with many eligible areas projected to receive access to internet speeds up to 8 Gbps.

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Fall Round Up grants announced

>from p.1 member volunteer Trust Board.
See chart to the left for Applications and recipients of the Fall 2023 grants. more information about Bi-yearly application Operation Round Up deadlines are April 1 is available at www. and October 1. Grants northitascaelectric.com. are awarded by a nine



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Refrigerator Sale

(Good through November)



GTS17DTNRWW \$682.85 SALE \$614.56

GE top mount 28" 17 c.f. white refrigerator with an internal water dispenser, adjustable temperature controls, in the door storage, LED lighting, 2 basket / bins, 3 shelves, 1 wire shelf in freezer, adjustable shelves and gallon door storage in the door.

GLF11UWEG16 \$490.93 SALE \$441.84

Galanz 11 c.f. white, convertible freezer/refrigerator. Garage ready, electronic temperature controls. LED interior light. Frost free, 4 full glass shelves. 1 full plastic basket. 4 full opaque door bins.

DAR110A1WDD \$496.17 SALE \$419.83

Danby 11 c.f. white, all refrigerator. 4 full width and 1 half width glass shelves. Integrated door shelving with tall bottle storage. Vegetable crisper and cover. Mechanical thermostat, LED interior light, scratch resistant top, integrated door handle, reversible door hinge.



GTS17DTNRWW \$682.85 SALE \$614.56

GE 16.6 c.f. top mount white frost-free refrigerator. 1 adjustable wire freezer shelf, 2 fixed door shelves 2 wire fresh food full shelves, 1 glass door cover. 2 full width gallon storage door shelves. LED interior lighting. Dairy compartment.

FRQG1721AW \$1168.70 SALE \$1051.83

Frigidaire 17.4 c.f. 4 door brushed steel refrigerator with dual evaporator. French door style with adjustable space wise glass shelves. LED lighting, store more crisper drawers for fruits and vegetables. Adjustable freezer storage. Easy access control panel on the refrigerator door. 4 - door design.

FFTR1835VW \$706.77 SALE \$636.09

Frigidaire 18.3 c.f. top mount white refrigerator with glass shelves. Even Temp cooling system. Flexible interior storage system. 2 humidity controlled crisper drawers with roller support. Auto close door. Optional Slim ice maker. LED interior lighting. Frost free freezer design. Reversible door swing. 2 full width gallon bins, 1 full width half gallon bin. 2 glass shelves.



GTS19KGNBRW \$810.33 SALE \$729.30

GE 19 c.f. top mount white refrigerator. Up front temperature controls. Gallon door storage bins, clear crisper doors, dairy compartment, glass freezer shelf. Dual controls mean separate controls for fresh food and freezer section. Edge to edge glass adjustable shelves, LED lighting.



MRB19B7AWW \$734.07 SALE \$660.66

Midea 18.7 c.f. white bottom mount refrigerator, 30" wide. Frost free freezer, LED lighting, Energy Star certified. Full width door shelves in refrigerator. 2 humidity controlled crisper bins. Adjustable glass shelves. 2 level freezer drawers.

FFTR2045VS \$810.77 SALE \$729.69

Frigidaire 20.4 c.f. stainless top mount refrigerator with glass shelves. 3 fixed clear gallon door bins. 2 adjustable glass shelves. 2 clear crisper drawers. LED lighting, auto defrost. 2 adjustable glass shelves.

FFTR2045VB \$776.20 SALE \$698.40 Black

XRS22KGABWW \$1056.25 SALE \$950.62

Crosley 22 c.f. top mount white refrigerator. 2 glass shelves, right hinge crisper drawer, auto defrost, 2 adjustable glass shelves, 2 adjustable humidity drawers, LED lighting and movable snack drawer.

(1) XRS22KGABWW \$1056.25 minus \$50 for a dent
\$1006.25 SALE \$905.62



LFCS22520S \$1901.43 SALE \$1711.29

LG 21.8 c.f. French door stainless steel refrigerator. Multi air flow cooling, smart cooling system. Electronic and digital controls. Premium LED lighting, factory installed ice maker. 4 split spill protector tempered glass shelves in the refrigerator. 8 refrigerator door bins. Glide and serve door, door alarm, 2 tier organization freezer drawer. Lo Decibel quiet operation, auto closing door hinge.

GRSS2352AF \$1658.37 SALE \$1492.53

Frigidaire 22.21 c.f. side by side with smudge proof stainless steel. 2 clear adjustable 2 liter door bins. 2 clear adjustable gallon door bins. 3 adjustable shelves and 2 crispers. Pizza and ice cream shelf, door alarm, control lock, power failure alarm, Sabbath mode, water filter indicator. Dispenser with crushed ice , cubed ice , water.

FRSS2623AS \$1200.60 SALE \$1080.54

25.6 c.f. 36" stainless side by side refrigerator. Frost free LED lighting, door alarm, gallon door storage, dairy compartment, temperature alarm, power failure alarm, water and ice dispensers, 4 adjustable door bins, 3 adjustable shelves, 2 crispers.

MRF266N6CBE \$1402.70 SALE \$1262.43

Mora 27 c.f. Black French door 36" wide refrigerator. Internal filtered water dispenser. Full width pantry drawer. Gallon door bin storage. 2 clear humidity controlled crisper drawers. Energy star, door alarm, super cool, super freeze, electronic control, 4 half width and one sliding refrigerator shelves. 6 adjustable gallon door bins. 2 half crispers and one full width pantry. LED lighting.

**MRF266N6CWE \$1402.70 SALE \$1262.43
(Same as above but white)**



If you have questions, please call Roxanne at (218) 743-3132.

Volleyball team helps clean up the community



The Bigfork High School volleyball team cleaned the ditches for Adopt a Highway in conjunction with the First State Bank of Bigfork. It was a great effort to clean up our community and work hand in hand with Nanette Fisher (center in red shirt) and the bank!



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Edge Center will host Jason Waldron

by Sandra LeBlanc-Boland
The Edge presents The Jason Waldron Band on Saturday, November 18 at 7 p.m.

Father and son duo Jason and Blake Waldron from Effie, Minnesota have been busy performing their classic country sets locally in the Edge of the Wilderness Community and throughout Minnesota's Northland, pleasing audiences with their blended sound of guitar and vocals. With dad Jason on vocals and Fender guitar, and son Blake on his Ibanez, their familial gift of musicality and love of performing shine through. Jason and Blake are joined by drummer Tom Breiwick, the band's original percussionist,

who has spent several years touring professionally as a drummer.

The Jason Waldron Band enjoys playing cover songs by Tyler Childers, Hank Williams x3, Buck Owens, Johnny Cash, Johnny Rivers, to a bit of rock crossover with Stone Temple Pilots, Nirvana, and most recently, The Beatles. Jason's low range has a pitch perfect comparison to Cash, the man in black.

Join us for a special evening featuring a little bit of country, a little bit of rock 'n roll and a whole lot of fun, Saturday, November 18 at the Edge Center for the Arts in little old Bigfork. \$10 for adults, \$5 for children.

Bigfork HS celebrates Homecoming



(left) Homecoming Court (l to r) Kyra Eischen, Chase Jacobson, Tinley Ernhart, Aiden Gotchie, Ayianna Dial, Brock Simonson. Junior Attendants: Augustus David, Layla Douglas



(below) Bigfork teachers participate in the Homecoming parade: (back to front) Erin Pocquette, Emily Saude, Michelle Carnahan, Polly Olson, Bailey Seifert, Stu Ostendorf, Aimee Rahier, Paula Newman



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Edge Gallery: Dibaajimo: To tell a story

by Gail Blackmer

Tradition – it’s a word that’s been heard often at the Edge Center for the Arts in Bigfork. The Edge Gallery committee continues the tradition of featuring Anishinaabe artists for the final month of rotating exhibits of the 2023 season when Sam Zimmerman brings his vibrant paintings inspired by his Ojibwe heritage to the gallery for the month of November.

Sam focuses on his learnings and experiences in nature by reimagining the symbolism of the clan animals while incorporating the natural landscape of Lake Superior’s North Shore. His work preserves the Anishinaabe tradition of storytelling by embedding the themes of environmental stewardship and conservation. Also an educator, Sam has illustrated bilingual Ojibwemowin/English books for children and a coffee table collection of paintings and stories. His artistry has been recognized by grant



awards received from the Minnesota State Arts Board, Arrowhead Regional Arts Council and Duluth Superior Community Foundation. As the short, gray days of November fall upon us, don’t miss this opportunity to connect with brightly colored themes that connect us to the natural world around us and the symbolic images of our animal partners on this earth.

For an opportunity to meet the artist, please plan to attend a reception with refreshments, to be held Friday, Nov. 17 from 5-7 p.m. at the Gallery. Sam plans to bring copies of a calendar for sale, perfect

timing, along with his book. Note: this is a change from the usual first Friday date for the artist reception.

Sam Zimmerman’s exhibit will be on display at the Gallery next to the Bigfork School from November 2 through

December 2, free and open to the public on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 1-4 p.m. Following this show, the Gallery will display the pieces we have in our own permanent collection during the times that an event is scheduled at the Center. This collection grows each year as we receive pieces we’ve chosen from our exhibitors, or through donations.

The Gallery committee will soon begin to consider artists to feature next year and welcomes ideas and contacts of new exhibitors. Thank you for your support of visual arts in our community.

Classic Movie Series

by Jack Nachbar

November’s Classic Movie in Bigfork features a great cast starring in *Key Largo* (1948).

The film captures a postwar World War II mood of questioning the American future. Humphrey Bogart is the disillusioned veteran. Lauren BaCall is the war widow. Edward G. Robinson is the gangster trying to get back on top. And Claire Trevor earned an Oscar as the gangster’s moll.

The four are thrown together in a broken down hotel in *Key Largo* in Florida. Tension and violence rise as a hurricane bears down and threatens to destroy all of them.

Key Largo also had great technical credentials. Famous names abound. John Huston directed. Max Steiner wrote the music. Karl Freund was the cinematographer. It’s no surprise that the picture was a 1948 box office hit.

Key Largo will be shown at the Edge Center Theater in Bigfork at 6:30 on Thursday, Nov. 9. FREE!!

DECEMBER CLASSIC MOVIE: Young love via Shakespeare comes to Bigfork in a beautiful version of *Romeo and Juliet* (1968). Thursday, Dec. 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Edge.

Itasca Waters Practical Water Wisdom

The final water Wisdom program of the season will be at noon on Thursday, Nov. 2 with Dr. Lesley Knoll, assistant professor at Miami University (Ohio) and a freshwater ecologist with a focus on how global change affects freshwater systems. She will present “Ice formation and melting on lakes: What we know and why it matters.”

Some of her recent work focuses on warming winters and lakes showing that lakes are biologically active in the winter, that it can shape lake dynamics in the summer, and that lakes provide important cultural ecosystem services to people during the winter.

Register at www.itascawaters.org/water-wisdom-2023.

This series is supported by Itasca Waters’ members, Minnesota Sea Grant, Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations, Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District, KAXE/KBXE, Rapids Radio, and Grand Rapids Herald-Review.



WATTS Wonderful!



Friends,

I want to take a moment to thank the Squaw Lake and surrounding areas for the wonderful pancake breakfast, bake sale/silent auction for me.

After losing my second leg the communities took it upon themselves to help a fellow citizen, which was absolutely unreal and restored faith in humanity.

This is why we live in the greatest area here in northern Minnesota so once again I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

...Pete

Hunter's Suppers

Friday, Nov 3

Bigfork Improvement Group

Location: BIG Community Center Bigfork

Time: 4-7 p.m.

Cost: Free will donation

Menu: Swedish meatball dinner & dessert

Silent Auction

Northwoods Saddle Club

Location: Effie Community Center

Time: 4-7 p.m.

Cost: Suggested donation \$8

Menu: Turkey dinner & dessert

Mustang Volleyball

Location: Northome Senior Center

Time: 4-7 p.m.

Cost: Free will donation

Menu: Beef stew dinner & dessert

Saturday, Nov 4

Balsam Volunteer Fire Dept.

Location: Balsam Community Center

Time: 5-8 p.m.

Cost: \$15 adults

Menu: Roast beef dinner & dessert

Raffle tickets at door.

SAIL classes

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:

- 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.

Tax-Aide volunteers needed

AARP Tax-Aide is a free tax preparation service for the elderly and peop of modest income. Our goal is to serve 750 clients this year and we need a few additional tax preparers to do so.

> Work as much or as little as you like.

> Work from home, take that vacation in warmer climates-

> Just give us some part of your time during the tax season (February 1st - April 15th).

We train counselors to IRS standards and assign each a mentor to help during training and throughout the tax year as need. For more information, call Jim at 218-245-9202

November 7 is election day!

School Districts ISD 317 and ISD 318 will have questions on the ballot

ISD317 (Deer River)

Ballot question: Shall the board of Independent School District No. 317 (Deer River), Minnesota be authorized to issue general obligation school building bonds in an amount not to exceed \$24,195,000 for acquisition and betterment of school sites and facilities including, but not limited to, upgrades, renovations, and improvements to accessibility, security, mechanical, electrical, roofing, windows, doors, and instructional space?

Vote at King School, Ball Club Community Center, Inger Community Center or Jesse Lake Lutheran Church, 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. For more information, see isd317.org.

ISD318 (Grand Rapids/Bigfork)

Question One determines the fate of the other questions. If Question One does not pass, then Question Two and Question Three automatically fail, no matter their vote totals. Question Two can only pass if Question One passes. Question Three can only pass if Question One and Two also pass. For more information, visit www.weare318.org.

Question One: \$1,100 per pupil operating levy providing \$4.6 million annually for seven years

Question Two: \$2.5 million annual capital projects levy

Question Three: \$300 per pupil operating levy providing \$12 million annually for seven years

The school board may reauthorize operating levies without voter approval for an additional seven years.

Vote at your election locations, see the list at: www.weare318.org/vote.

Community Cafe in Deer River

The Community Cafe is available to anyone who is in need of a meal. Each Monday - Thursday, 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. (or until gone), a nutritious three-course meal is served. Location: King Elementary School door #9. For more information, visit communitycafemn.org.

area bookmobile stops

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

Tuesdays: Nov.14; Dec. 5, 26

12:00 - 1 p.m. Bowstring Store

2:30-3:30 p.m. Effie: Effie Cafe

4:00-5:30 p.m. Bigfork: City Hall

Thursdays: Nov.16; Dec. 7, 28

11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Togo: Junction Bar & Grill

Mondays: Nov. 13; Dec. 4

12:30 -1:00 p.m. Gemmel; Comm. Church

1:45 - 2:30 p.m. Northome; Apartments

3:15 - 4:15 p.m. Alvwood; Hoot-n-Holler

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

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

— Community Education —

Bigfork: Register for classes at 743-3444, or online at www.getlearning.org,

MAKE-IT, PLAY-IT DAY

Date: Thurs., Nov. 9

Time: 4:15-6:15 p.m.

Location: Bigfork School Art Room

Cost: \$25

Create an assortment of projects, fun novelties and games. Register by Nov. 3. Ages 8 to adult.

Deer River: Register for classes online at (218) 246-8241, Ext. 60227 or www.getlearning.org

ANISHINAABE CULTURAL NIGHT

Date: Tues., Nov. 21

Time: 5-7 p.m.

Location: King School cafeteria, media center, Room.17

Cost: free

Crafts, demonstrations, Native sports.

CANVAS WITH MY IDS

Date: Thurs., Nov. 9

Time: 5-7 p.m.

Location: Deer River HS Art Room 116

Cost:\$20 plus \$10 each child

Go home with a canvas created by your child.

INTRO TO SPORTS 5 & UNDER

Date: 6 Tuesdays starting Nov. 7

Time: 5-6 p.m.

Location: King SchoolCafeterium West

Cost: \$30 per family

Practice dribbling, kicking different balls. Parent/guardian must accompany child.

B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork

Coffee Club Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m.

Bingo every Thursday 1-3 p.m.

Northome Food Shelf

12059 Main St

Bring your own bags.

1st Mon.: 9 a.m.-noon

2nd Mon.: 2-5 p.m.

3rd Mon.: 9 a.m.-noon

4th Mon.: 2-5 p.m.

Blackduck Community Library:

(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.

Northern Itasca Emergency Food Shelf

200 Main, Bigfork

Thursdays

12:30-3 p.m.

3rd Thursday

4-5:30 p.m.

(218) 256-4170

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

Resource Centers:

Blackduck:
(218) 835-5768

Northome:
(218) 897-5952

Community News

~ November Calendar ~

Bigfork

The Edge of the Wilderness Art League is hosting its annual Art & Craft Sale at the Bigfork City Hall on Nov. 17 and 18. Unique art and craft items from the Bigfork area Arts Community.

Marcell

Everyone is welcome at Marcell Community Church's annual free Community Dinner on Saturday, November 11 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the church. Enjoy turkey and all the fixings.

Northome

Senior citizens of Northome will be having their annual craft sale and salad luncheon at the Senior Center from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18.

Sand Lake

The Festival of the Nativities will be held at the Sand Lake Alliance Church the afternoon and evening of the Saturday after Thanksgiving on Nov. 25. Over a hundred Nativity scenes from around the world and in many different media are displayed from the collection of Susan DeVries. Live Christmas music and refreshments are also featured. It's a memorable Christmas celebration that will start your holiday season in a wonderful way.



Marcell Family Center

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

MFC hours:

Fitness Center, gymnasium, multi-purpose room, public computer room and WiFi hotspot.

Mon: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 4-7 p.m.
Tues, Thurs: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 4-7 p.m.
Fri: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

OCT

- 31 Bigfork Valley Hospital board meets in public meeting, 9 a.m. For information on joining the meeting online, call (218) 743-1772. Note that the hospital board will now meet on the last Tuesday of the month.
- 31 Trick or Treat through the Haunted House at the B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork, 4 p.m.-7 p.m. Free for all ages.
- 31 Halloween Bash at the Marcell Family Center, 5-7:30 p.m. Children First! event. Free.

NOV

- 1-8 *Lefse for the Holidays* at Jesse Lake Lutheran Church. Order Oct. 29-Nov. 8 at (218) 832-3883 or e-mail office@jesselakelutheranchurch. \$5 package of 4 rounds. Pickup on Sat., Nov. 18, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Sun., Nov. 19, 10 a.m.-noon
- 1 "The Club I Never Wanted to Join" breast cancer support group meets 3:30 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in the chapel, south entrance, Grand Rapids. More info with Lynn (218) 832-3612, lynn_ettl@msn.com
- 2 First Thursday online programs over the lunch hour with Itasca Waters. November program is "Ice formation and melting on lakes" with freshwater ecologist Dr. Lesley Knoll, from Miami University (Ohio). Register at itascawaters.org.
- 3 No school, Blackduck School
- 3 Veteran's Day program at Northome School, 10-11 a.m. Supper served, reserve by Oct. 27 at (218) 897-5275 ext. 100
- 3, 4 Hunter's Suppers.
- 5 Daylight Savings ends, set clocks back one hour.
- 6 No school, all schools.
- 7 ISD 317 and ISD 318 referendum voting.
- 8 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
- 11 Veterans Day

- 11 Holiday Craft Fair at Blackduck School, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Many crafters in the high school gyms and hallways. Basketball Boosters will serve lunch.
- 11 Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Marcell Community Church, 5-7 p.m. Turkey dinner with all the fixings! Free.
- 13 ISD 317 School Board meets at Deer River HS, 6 p.m. Public forum 5:45 p.m.
- 13 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 13 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 13 Blackduck ISD 32 School Board meets, 6 p.m. in the Media Center.
- 14 Stop & Stitch meets at the Marcell Family Center the 2nd Tuesday of every month, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. More info, call Debbie at (218) 360-1503. Note change of time.
- 14 ISD 318 School Board meeting at Admin. Board Room Grand Rapids or at watchictv.org, 6:30 p.m. Information: jrasmussen@isd318.org or call (218) 327-5704. Livestream from link at isd318.org.
- 14 Classic Movies at the Edge Center in Bigfork presents Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall in *Key Largo* (1948), 6:30 p.m. Free.
- 14 Bigfork City Council at City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 16 No school, Bigfork
- 17 No school Deer River, Bigfork
- 17 Edge Center Gallery in Bigfork hosts the paintings of Sam Zimmerman in "Dibaajimo: To tell a story" during November. Artist's reception Fri. Nov. 17, 5-7 p.m. Gallery is open Thursdays-Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. More info: (218) 743-6670.
- 18 The Edge Center in Bigfork presents the Jason Waldron Band, 7 p.m. \$10 adults, \$5 children.
- 17-18 Annual Art and Craft Sale by Edge of the Wilderness Art League. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday at the Bigfork City Hall.
- 18 The Kootasca Senior Center in Northome will host Christmas Traditions, a Craft Sale and Salad Luncheon, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information, call Gail at (218) 556-2838.
- 25 Festival of the Nativities at Sand Lake Alliance Church on Co. Rd. 4 west of Spring Lake, 1 p.m. through the afternoon. At 7 p.m. join a Christmas Sing-Along. Refreshments served.
- 27 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 23-24 No school, all schools. Thanksgiving.
- 30 Bigfork Valley Hospital board meets in public meeting, 9 a.m. For information on joining the meeting online, call (218) 743-1772.
- 30 Craft & Bake Sale at Bigfork Valley 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Call (218) 743-4144 or email bkelley@BigforkValley.org to reserve a table.
- 30 Ribbon cutting at Bigfork School to celebrate new locker rooms and fitness center 3:45 p.m.

Area Church Directory

Alwood Community Church Sun 10:00a
58712 Co. Rd. 131
Blackduck 56630 218-659-4681

Balsam Bible Chapel Sun 10:00a
41516 Scenic Hwy 7
Bovey 55709 218-245-1960

Bear River Lutheran Church Sun 10:00a
11141 Hwy 22
Cook 55723 218-376-1012

Bethesda Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a
Mizpah 56660 218-897-5654

Bowstring Chapel Sun 10:15a
45114 Co Rd 133
Deer River 56636 218-832-3171

Calvary Covenant Sun 10:30a
54764 Co. Rd. 31
Northome 56661 218-897-5684

Centennial Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a
Hwy 46
Squaw Lake 56681 218-259-0115

Deer River Bible Church Sun 10:00a
33276 State Highway 6
Deer River 56636 218-246-9570

Dora Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a
59329 Co Rd 145
Northome 56661 218-659-4551

Effie Fredheim Lutheran Church (ELCA) Sun 8:30a
Hwy 1
Effie 56639 218-743-3368

First Presbyterian Church, BF Sun 10:15a
109 Ash St.
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3783

Gemmel Community Church Sun 10:00a
10609 Town Rd 34
Gemmel 56660 218-897-5966

Grace Community Church (ELCA) Sun 10:15a
401 State Hwy 38 N
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3368

Hope Lutheran Church Sun 10:30 a.m.
12234 Third St.
Northome 56661 218-897-5654

Jehovah's Witnesses Tu 7:00p., Sun 10:00a
Hwy 38
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3275

Jesse Lake Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a
45834 Co. Rd. 4
Talmoon 56637 218-832-3883

Marcell Community Church Sun 10:30a
49103 State Hwy 38
Marcell 56657 218-832-3200

Northome Community Church Sun 10:00a
12071 Bartlett St.
Northome 56661 218-897-5040

Northwoods Chapel Sun 9:00a
50539 Mushgee Rd. (corner of Co. Rd. 622)
Deer River 56636 218-659-2784

Old Scenic Community Church Sun 9:00a
25747 Co. Rd. 340
Bigfork 56628 218-659-2727

Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church Sun 9:00a Mass also Tu, W, 9:00a.
320 Golf Course Ln
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3255

Sand Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a
55581 Co. Rd 4
Spring Lake 56680 218-659-2872
Church website: www.sandlakealliancechurch.org

St. Catherine's Catholic Church Sat 4:00p
52265 State Hwy 46
Squaw Lake 56681 218-743-3255

St. Michael Catholic Church Sat 7:00p
12026 Lake St
Northome 56661 218-743-3255

Seventh Day Adventist Sun 11:30a
12352 Hwy 46
Northome 56661 218-897-5723

Suomi Evangelical Lutheran Church Sun 10:30a
42935 Co. Rd. 48
Deer River 56636 218-832-3883

True Life Church Sun 10:00a
45976 Terry
Talmoon 56637 218-244-7089

Wilderness Church Sun 9:30a
City Hall
200 Main Ave.
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3500
wildernesschurchMN@gmail.com

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

- 18 The Kootasca Senior Center in Northome will host Christmas Traditions, a Craft Sale and Salad Luncheon, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information, call Gail at (218) 556-2838.
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 - 30 Ribbon cutting at Bigfork School to celebrate new locker rooms and fitness center 3:45 p.m.
- ### DEC
- 1-2 Deer River Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Winter Festival with "family activities, craft sales, and holiday fun to kick-off our winter season!"

OLD SCENIC COMMUNITY CHURCH

25747 County Rd 340, Bigfork

Pastor Frank Knoop

218-743-3953

A Bible Based, Christ Centered Fellowship.

Come and join us in worship, and a study of the Word.

Sunday School: 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service: 9-10 a.m.

<https://www.oldscenic.com>



Knights of Columbus donate winter coats EAB in Cass County



The Knights of Columbus came to Bigfork school and donated 90 winter jackets and several snow pants for the students that need winter gear. Coats will be distributed throughout the school year. (l to r) Principal Ken Decoster; elementary students Karly Jones, Avett Olson, Elliott Wolfson; and Mark Greniger from Knights of Columbus.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has confirmed emerald ash borer (EAB) in Cass County near Remer. There are now 45 counties in the state, including Cass, with EAB.

Because this is the first time EAB has been identified in Cass County, the MDA is enacting an emergency quarantine for portion of the county south of Remer, which limits the movement of firewood and ash material out of the area.

The MDA issues quarantines for all areas known to have EAB to reduce the risk of further spreading the tree-killing insect.

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12' X 30' 10' X 10' DOORS
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• recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes •

Cranberry Fluff

Thank you to Joe Ann Powell for this November recipe!

- 1 –14 oz.. can whole cranberry sauce
- 1 – 20 oz.. can crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 – 8 oz. tub of whipped topping

In large bowl, combine cranberry cause and pineapple. Stir well and add topping and marshmallows.

Chill well before serving.

Please share your recipe with us! If your recipe is chosen, you will receive a \$10 credit on your electric bill from North Itasca Electric Cooperative. Send your recipe to the editor, WATTS NEWS, P.O. Box 43, Spring Lake, MN 56680.

Beef Soup

Thank you to Janet Kogler for this November recipe!

- 1 1/2 lb. beef stew meat, or meaty soup bone plus chuck
- 6 cups water
- 2 beef bouillon cubes
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 2 bay leaves
- pinch oregano
- 1 Tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 20 ounces (about 3 large) chopped tomatoes
- 1/4 cup green pepper, diced
- 4-5 medium carrots, sliced
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 cup chopped cabbage



Bring to a boil then simmer for about 3 hours on stovetop. Taste and adjust seasonings.

AD DEADLINE

for the DECEMBER issue: Weds., Nov. 15

CLASSIFIEDS

-SERVICES-

Dahlke Forestry Services, LLC

218-929-7228

DahlkeForestry@hotmail.com

DahlkeForestry.com

- √ Storm Cleanup
- √ Tree Removal
- √ Trail Development
- √ Habitat Improvement
- √ Private Forest Mgmt.
- √ Firewood processing

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Gus David

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20 yrs experience

218-248-0717

or 218-743-3613

-FREE-

Free: Yamaha Electone Organ. Call (218) 398-4680 11/23

-SALES-

Art and Craft Sale by Edge of the Wilderness Art League. Fri, Nov. 17, 10 a.m - 4 p.m.; Sat Nov. 18, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Bigfork City Hall. Unique handbags, dryer balls, pottery, stained glass, rosemaking, soaps, decorative items and much more.

-WANTED-

Want to hire: Someone with a mobile sawmill who can come to my cabin near Marcell to mill six 8' red pine logs into boards. If you are interested, please call (218) 341-4235 12/23

Wanted: Used 36 inch wooden door with a window for a shed. Call (218) 832-3453 12/23

Help Wanted: Strong teenager to move firewood, brush, etc. around my cabin on Turtle Lake. Call (218) 259-0713, leave message.

12/23

-WANTED-

Wanted: Single rollaway bed. Call (218) 832-3208 11/23

-FOR SALE-

For sale 2 piece wood extension ladder each is 12 feet long. \$50 call in the evening (218) 743-3375 12/23

For sale: Large amounts of knitting yarn also knitting needles. Viking Husqvarna sewing machine, model 150, \$50, Pelonis electric heater, model HO-0250H, new, \$25; metal pet crate, 27" long, 20" wide, \$30 Call (218) 910-6610 12/23

For sale: 30 inch 2-stage Ariens snowblower. Electric start. good condition. \$900. Call (218) 832-3329 12/23

For sale: Beautifully handcrafted cremation urns made by local craftsman. Larger size made from Maple, Oak, Birch, Walnut, Pine or other woods. Prices start at \$150 and up according to wood used. Call (218) 812-9794 12/23

For sale: Browning Bar II Safari, Belgium made. 30-06, 2 clips, 8 boxes shells, excellent condition \$1275. text or call 9218) 259-2336 12/23

For sale: 2 piece china cabinet, 6 ft. high x 4 ft. wide, \$140. Coffee table 3 ft. long x 19 in. wide with diamond willow legs. \$35 Call eves. (218) 743-3375 12/23

-FOR SALE-

For sale: Stihl chain saw MS251 Wood Boss. Like new, \$250. Call (218) 659-4432 12/23

For sale: Coffee table and 2 end tables. Amish made. Excellent condition. \$200 Text to (320) 493-2699 11/23

For sale Craftsman 42" Lawnmower. Kohler Pro 16.5 engine. Works great! \$350 Text to (320) 493-2699 11/23

For sale: Cleaning out unused items! Shop Vac \$40, Film camera w/200 zoom \$30, 2 wetsuits \$30 each, coat rack \$20, antique mirror \$35, bike rack \$20, red/black checkered jacket \$20, large backpack \$35. Text to (320) 493-2699 11/23

For sale: Mens blaze orange deer hunting jacket and bibs. Game hide brand. Size extra large. Very good condition. \$100 for both. Call (218) 832-3329 12/23

For sale: Leupold Spotting Scope 12x40-60mm. Includes case and tripod. Like New! \$1,000. Text to (320) 493-2699 11/23

For sale: Aspen & Birch firewood cut and split into stove length. 2 cords delivered to the Wirt, Dora Lake and Spring Lake areas. \$200. Call (218) 659-2901 11/23

Emails will be answered If no reply, please resend.

THE TIMBERWOLF INN

IS HIRING!

We are looking for servers, bartenders, cooks, & dishwashers for end of summer, fall, and winter! We have many employees heading back to school and a variety of different spots to fill.

CALL US AT 218-832-3990, EMAIL AT TIMBERWOLFINNMARCELL@GMAIL.COM, OR STOP IN FOR AN APPLICATION!

-FOR SALE-

Firewood for sale: Cut, split, seasoned birch and maple firewood. Call (218) 910-6610 11/23

For sale: 7 gas lights, \$125 for all. Duotherm oil heater, \$100. R/V refrigerator/freezer w/ 12v/gas operation, \$150. 85 year old hunting camp being dismantled. Call (763) 331-1220 11/23

-VEHICLES- SNOWMOBILES, ATVs

For sale: '09 Yamaha 550 with a snow plow. Exc condition, low miles. Call (218) 256-6668 12/23

For sale: Snowmobile. 2021 Polaris 800 Titan SP 155. New Condition. Never been trail ridden. Mfg. recall pending \$11,500. Call (218) 832-3245 Talmoon Area 11/23

For sale: 2012 Polaris 500 HO 4 wheeler, 910 miles, adult ridden with a winch and brush guard bumper. \$5,500. Talmoon Call (218) 910-5566 12/23

-VEHICLES-

For sale: 1994 Chev Silverado ext. cab pickup. 130,000 miles V8, 4WD, clean. Stored inside. \$8,000. Call (507) 383-9957 11/23

-WATER SPORTS- MOTORS, DOCKS, GEAR

For sale: Vexlar Fish Finder, \$100. Text to (320) 493-2699 11/23

For sale: 5' sled with ice auger, fishing equipment, etc. \$100. Text to (320) 493-2699 11/23

For sale: 6 - 10 ft long wood dock sections. 3 of the sections are 27" wide and 3 sections are 36" wide. Poles not included. \$20. Call (952) 456-1085 11/23

-FARM-

For sale: 60 inch Bush hog mower for a 3 pt. tractor hitch. Recommended for a 25-40 h.p. tractor. Works good. \$850. Call (218) 832-3329 12/23

For sale: Hay, square bales, mixed grass. Baled dry, stored inside. \$5 per bale. Call (218) 244-0957 12/23

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.

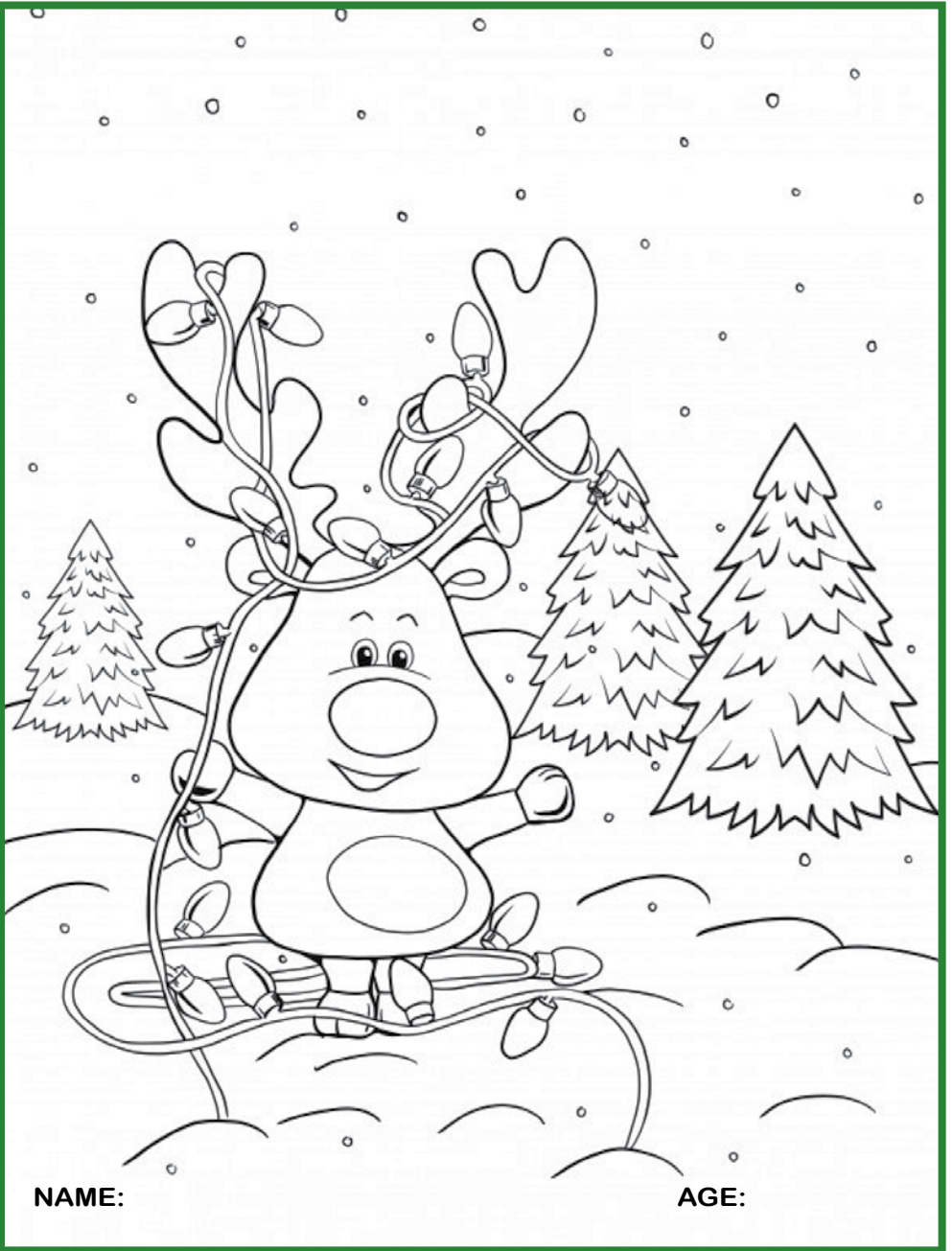


Christmas contests at the Co-op

- Kids Coloring Contest
- Letters to Santa
- Christmas Cookie/Candy Contest
- (See p. 4)

Deadline:
Friday December 8th

North Itasca Electric Kids Coloring Contest



NAME:

AGE:

Coloring Contest:

One winner will be picked from kindergarten, first, second and third grade. Please turn in your entries by Dec. 9. They can be dropped off in our entryway drop box or mailed to P.O. Box 227, Bigfork, MN 56628. We will display all the photos that come in and judge them on Dec. 11. Coloring pages will all be published in the WATTS News unless for some reason you wish them not to be. Winners will be called to pick up their prize.

TO: SANTA
NORTH POLE

FROM:

Dear Santa,

Love,

Bigfork, MN

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Edge of the Wilderness Art League

Annual Art & Craft Sale

at Bigfork City Hall

Friday, Nov. 17
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 18
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Distinctive handbags and jewelry, dryer balls, soaps, charcuterie boards, rosemary, wood burned items, felted pieces, Christmas ornaments, decorative items.

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