



NORTH ITASCA
ELECTRIC

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WATTS
NEWS

VOL 26 NO. 12

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

DECEMBER 2023



Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

from your Board of Directors and staff



CEO Report

Good afternoon NIECI!

We've been having a splash of incredible weather lately! Today is the 15th of November; it's a lovely fifty-one degrees outside. This weather may not be great for the deer hunters, but it's nice not going toe to toe with old man winter yet. I was visiting with my friend and neighbor Linda last night about the weather and deer season, seems like a lot of us are down on our luck this year. I've been fortunate enough to see the same group of does and fawns hanging out, nothing I can harvest yet. I'm hunting in a bucks only zone, sooner or later one should present itself.

Monthly I attend a member manager meeting at Great River Energy. This meeting is to update all the CEOs on the

operations and finances at GRE. We discuss rates, programs and needs back home with GRE and my CEO peers from across Minnesota. I generally write my article after I've returned from GRE; often there are important things I want to share with you from this meeting.

First item, there has been some talk about reliability concerns this winter on the system we share. Several power plants have shut down throughout the MISO footprint and in other independent system operators' territories. These plant closures reduce the total amount of power that is available to be shared between systems. You can learn more about MISO by visiting their website at www.MISOENERGY.org. MISO is the air traffic



Brad Dolinski, CEO

control for the grid we are part of.

The warnings came from an organization called NERC. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) is a not-for-profit international regulatory authority whose mission is to assure the effective and efficient reduction of risks to the reliability and security of the grid. NERC develops and enforces Reliability Standards; annually CEO to p.2>

Deer Hunting Season doesn't stop North Itasca Electric from caring for its members

by Jerry Loney

Deer hunting season is a big deal in northern Minnesota and is a holiday by itself for many of us. Both my wife (Shelly) and I got our deer this year; Shelly on opening morning, and I got mine on Tuesday. We even processed them ourselves and had them in the freezer by the weekend.

Having an iPhone in my deer stand (on vibrate of course), I was still available for any issues that may have come up and there were. I received a call that a cabin's boiler was not working, and the temperature was dropping. Text messages were exchanged trying to troubleshoot the problem. I was able to text the cabin

owner through getting it running again until I could get there to look at the issue further.

The load control receivers North Itasca Electric uses for controlling loads have proven to be very reliable, but as with any mechanical devices, they can fail. The 5-amp relay that caused this problem Care to p.2>

Electrification today

by Jerry Loney

Electrification has taken on a whole new landscape. We see fields full of solar panels and hilltops with wind turbines reaching high, grabbing for the strongest winds.

These sites are not only becoming a large part of our electrical generation but have become the future of our landscape in many places. These sites, known as renewable energy

resources, have become a norm in energy production. There are a few other renewable sources in the mix, such as hydro and digestors to name a couple, but the largest sources of renewable generation are wind and solar.

The electrification of our homes has changed; we not only receive light from the sun but also energy.

Electrification to p.4>

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Christmas contests

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Christmas Appliance Sale

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Office Hours

Monday - Friday
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CEO Report (continued)

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assesses seasonal and long-term reliability; monitors the bulk power system through system awareness; and educates, trains and certifies industry personnel. NERC's area of responsibility spans the continental United States, Canada, and the northern portion of Baja California, Mexico. NERC is the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) for North America, subject to oversight by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and governmental authorities in Canada. NERC's jurisdiction includes users, owners, and operators of the bulk power system, which serves nearly 400 million people. This information was cited from www.nerc.com.

What are we doing about this? GRE has assured me we have plenty of power in our region to carry the winter peak. MISO requires us to have resource adequacy to 107% of our peak load to be a participant

in MISO. Recently the Public Utilities Commission approved our need to install diesel capability at one of our peaking plants. This plant would only burn on diesel if natural gas was not available. This change improves the reliability of the system in extreme situations. These peaking plants are necessary to maintain the flow of power to your homes. The peaking plants are resources that are normally not run, they are called on in times of need. This could be due to load needs, or it could be because of events like transmission outages. Installing another source of fuel improves the resource adequacy of a power plant.

We are also working on transmission lines to our region. There has been significant work to improve the transmission system where congestion issues were causing problems. Congestion is like getting a cold, you can't breathe through your nose. Similarly, if

there is too much power in one region, it cannot flow to where it is needed, the lines just aren't big enough. Southern Minnesota has been the focus of this congestion. A lot of wind development has been happening in these areas. The system wasn't designed to carry power from all these wind farms back when it was built. We need to make improvements to correct this issue; these improvements ultimately cost money. This year I expect a 2.4% rate increase from GRE to North Itasca Electric. These increases will need to be passed to our Member-Owners.

Thanksgiving is next week; I want to wish all of you Happy Thanksgiving. Here's to eating too much with friends and family, safe travels, and soon great ice fishing.

By your side! Miigwech
Brad

Taking care of Members

>from p.1
has been known to stick open in the past but normally during extremely cold weather conditions. If moisture gets in the receiver, it can freeze open even when the load control period is over.

It has been discovered at times that when the sun comes up, the heat from it will dry up the moisture and close the relay and sometimes as unorthodox as it may sound, tapping on the receiver box itself is enough to close the relay, but this issue rarely happens.

I am expecting load control hours to increase some this winter, but nothing close to the amount allowable per the program guidelines of 400 hours per season. For the last few years, I have been seeing load control hours total around 50 or so. Even if one is controlled the max 400 hours per season, an average 2,000 square foot home having an average heat loss on the conservative side would need 10,000,000 BTUs which is equal to 109 gallons of propane (72 gallons of fuel oil). A 500-gallon propane tank would still last 4 years and a fuel oil tank 5.5 years.

Until next time. . .

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WATTS NEWS

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

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

Keep us up-to-date: Please keep your contact information current with our office. Please notify North Itasca Electric of any changes in property ownership, mailing addresses, phone numbers and email addresses.

North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Directors

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Treasurer: Roy Bain, District 9

Rep. to GRE Board: Lloyd Kongsjord, District 5

James White, District 1

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Highlights from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
October 26, 2023

Start time: 10:00 a.m.

End time: 1:10 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on October 26, 2023.

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

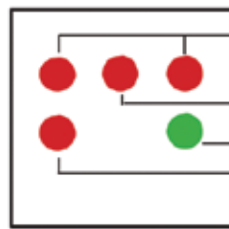
Also Present: Andrew Shaw, CEO Brad Dolinski, Jerry Loney, Daryl Pederson and Kim Giesen.

Absent: Tina Danielson

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

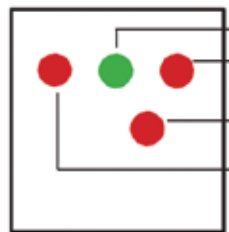
- o Pledge of allegiance was recited.
- o A motion was made to adopt the agenda. Seconded; motion carried. A motion was made to consent agenda. Seconded, which included board calendar, board minutes, new members, contract loans, check register and EFTs. Motion carried. The Board Calendar was reviewed, November board meeting will be held on Monday November 20, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.
- o A safety discussion was held. Brad reported that MREA was here for PPE training. He stressed that we need to be diligent at home with PPE as well. Hearing protection, eye protection, gloves, chaps, and boots for cutting wood are highly recommended.
- o Brad reviewed the Operating Reports. A motion was made to accept the Operating Reports as they were presented. Seconded; motion carried.
- o A motion was made to show the Board Policy 300.60 Vegetation Management was reviewed with no changes. Seconded; motion passed.
- o Directors reviewed RUS AL45 loan documents. A motion was made to approve the Secretary's Certificate along with Board Resolution approving and authorizing necessary signatures to complete the Loan Documents. Seconded; motion carried.
- o Preliminary 2024 Budget was reviewed. The budget has a 1.2% rate increase included.
- o Daryl gave the Line Department report. Jessie Lake transformer will be completed at the manufacturer on November 13. Daryl will schedule setting it around the 1st week of December. New services are winding down now. ROW clearing is in the Dora Lake / Wirt / County Rd 52 area. Outages are looking good with 309 so far this year.
- o Jerry Loney gave the Members Services report. There were 33 organizations that received a total of \$10,200 in Operation Round Up grant money.
- o Brad gave the CEO report. There was a 2.4% increase in purchased power. MMG recommended GRE board to consider a rate change to transmission.
- o The GRE statement was reviewed. It was noted that the billing peak occurred Labor Day weekend.
- o Wes Waller gave the MREA report. Wes spoke at the St. Cloud program for new employees to the cooperative world.
- o Lloyd Kongsjord gave the GRE report.
- o A motion was made to adjourn. Seconded; motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.

Understanding your load management receiver indicator lights



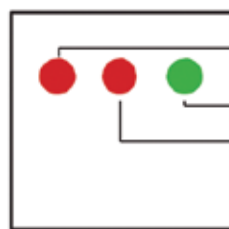
Converge

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



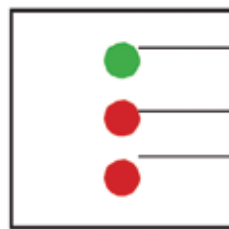
Relm/Regency

Green Light will blink upon receipt of a sent signal.
Right Red Light is for electric heating or cycled air conditioning. When the red light is on, the electric heat is off or air conditioning is being cycled.
Optional 3rd Light (if applicable) is for heat storage or dual fuel. When the light is on, the heat storage or dual fuel is off. **(This light is not used)**
Left Red Light is for water storage only. When the left red light is on, water heaters are turned off.



Scientific-Atlanta

Left Red Light is for water storage only. When the left red light is on, water heaters are turned off.
Green Light is on only briefly when receiver is first energized or when power is restored.
Middle Red Light is for electric heating or cycled air conditioning. When the red light is on, the electric heat is off or air conditioning is being cycled.



Scientific-Atlanta

Green Light is on only briefly when receiver is first energized or when power is restored.
Upper Red Light is for water storage only. When the upper red light is on, water heaters are turned off.
Lower Red Light is for electric heating or cycled air conditioning. When the lower red light is on, the electric heat is off or air conditioning is being cycled.

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Electrification

>from p.1

The light received by the panels is converted into electrical energy, but the heat is also captured in a sense as well. When the sun heats the earth, this heat warms air molecules, and we know warm air rises. This rising air builds up and creates a pressure gradient and begins to move causing wind, and this wind is being used to generate electricity known today as wind power.

Electricity before now could not be stored, but with new technologies in heating systems and batteries, this has changed. We

can store this energy now with our off-peak load control programs called Electric Thermal Storage (ETS). This ETS storage is found in water heaters and space heating equipment allowing us to store energy from nighttime low-cost generation from the wind and use it the next day.

Renewable energies were realized some time ago but with new initiatives, the country has recognized the importance of it and is now making great progress in renewable energy resources and technologies.

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

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Holiday Schedule

North Itasca Electric offices CLOSED:

- Monday, December 25
- Tuesday, December 26
- Monday, January 1

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Roxanne's Repair Tips:

Is your ice dispenser on your refrigerator leaking water?

There are four reasons that your dispenser would leak water.

1. Dispenser door

The dispenser door is opened by a motor or solenoid to dispense the ice, if the door is broken it won't open right to release the ice. You should inspect the dispenser door for any damage and see if the components need to be replaced. You might have to remove the dispenser control panel or frame to access the dispenser door.

2. Low water pressure from the house supply

The water inlet valve supplies water to the water dispenser. The water inlet valve requires 20 psi to function right. Check the water flow to make sure you have 20 psi.

3. The refrigerator dispenser actuator

The dispenser actuator is the component that activates the switch or switches to send voltage to the dispenser. If the actuator is damaged it might not be able to activate the switch. Inspect the actuator and replace it if broken.

4. Refrigerator dispenser switch

The dispenser switch sends voltage to the dispenser. If one of the dispenser switches is defective, the dispenser will not work. You can test the dispenser switch with a multi meter. If there is no continuity, you will need to replace the switch.

Remember you can go to RepairClinic.com to trouble shoot, watch how-to videos and purchase parts.

Roxanne's Sales Talk

by Roxanne Prather, Member Services Representative

It's hard to believe it is already December and another year has gone by!

It's been a pretty good year in the sales department. I want to take a moment to thank all of you who made it possible. I'm glad things have opened back up and it's not taking months to get appliances in, like it was for a while when COVID was going strong.

I'm also grateful that the road construction is finished up and we can use our front door again! North Itasca has some construction being

done in the office at the Co-op as well. We replaced the glass wall on the north side of the building with some smaller windows on that wall. We were losing so much heat through all the windows; on windy days you could feel the wind blowing right in. Those sitting back there have already noticed a difference. I think we will see a big difference in our electric bill. Working through the construction has been challenging at times, but the finished product is going to be great.

I've been able to keep the showroom full, with a variety of appliances. There have been members that have not had good luck in the big box stores and have found what they wanted here. The big box store would have to order their appliance and then the wait could be two weeks. This made me feel pretty good.

I wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I look forward to working with you next year.

Annual 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 227, Bigfork, MN 56628 or roxannep@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.

Reliable Power for Today—and Tomorrow

by Anne Prince

Ring in a new year sparks a sense of renewed hope and optimism about the future. It's a time to reflect on where we are and where we're going. At the heart of this reflection, your co-op thinks about ways we can better serve you, the members of the cooperative.

North Itasca Electric and its power supplier Great River Energy is always looking ahead, exploring ways to innovate and utilize new technologies to improve services. As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. We're committed to powering—and empowering—our community at a cost local families and businesses

can afford.

So how are we working to ensure reliable and affordable power while adapting to a changing energy landscape and our community's evolving needs?

One critical component of reliable power is the mix of energy resources used to generate the electricity that keeps the lights on. Increasingly, we are using more electricity generated from renewable energy sources, but we still depend on a diverse energy mix to ensure reliable power that's available to our members whenever they need it.

In addition to managing a reliable energy mix, North Itasca Electric is using technology to enhance our local grid, limit service disruptions and improve outage

response times.

Advanced metering technology, also known as AMI, enables two-way communication between the co-op and consumers. In the event of a power outage, AMI helps pinpoint the exact location of the outage and can even analyze damaged or tampered meters. AMI helps the co-op save money with real-time data, and ultimately improves power reliability for our entire community.

Proactive tree trimming is another way we limit service disruptions. Scheduled trimming keeps power lines clear from overgrown limbs that are likely to fall.

One of the best methods for improving our services to you is monitoring trends and leading practices from

other electric co-ops in Minnesota and across the country. Learning from other co-ops is one of the many benefits of the cooperative business model because for us, it's about cooperation, not competition.

As we turn our focus to 2024, North Itasca Electric will continue working to provide the reliable, affordable electricity you expect and deserve—for today and tomorrow.

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

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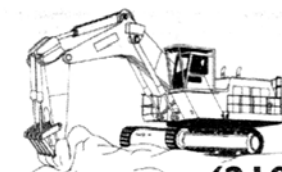
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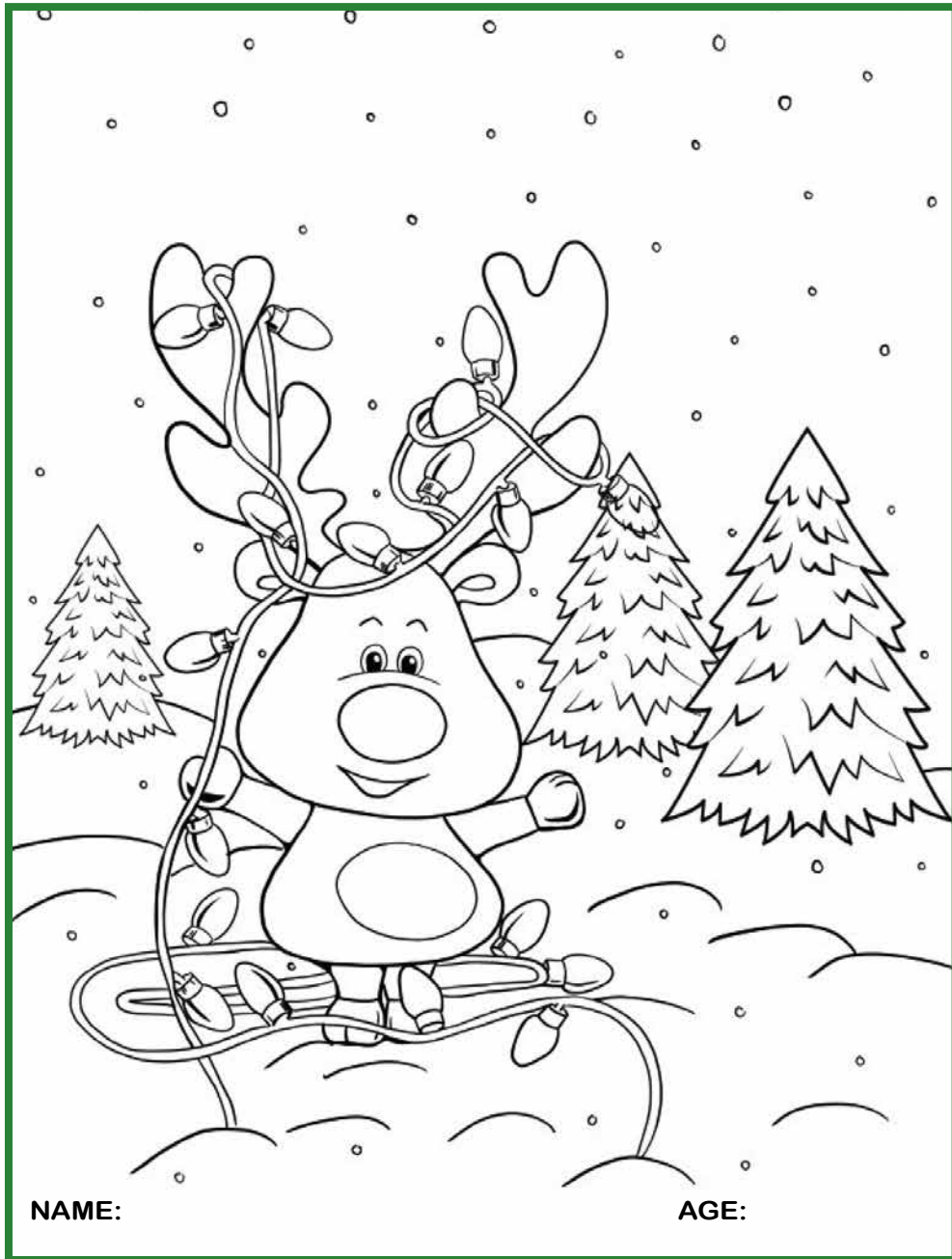
North Itasca Electric Kids Coloring Contest



Christmas contests at the Co-op

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

Deadline:
Friday December 8th



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.



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LG 7.3 c.f. dryer: 8 programs cotton / normal, perm. press/casual, heavy duty, bulky/bedding, delicate, speed dry (manual dry), air dry (manual dry), freshen up (manual dry). 7 options: wrinkle care, control lock, more time, less time, damp dry signal, energy saver signal. 3 temperature settings, 3 drying levels, manual dry, 60, 40, 20, minutes, more or less.

WT7150CW \$828.24 Sale \$761.98

LG 5 c.f. 8 wash programs: deep wash, normal, bedding, heavy duty, speed wash, delicates, waterproof, tub clean. 9 options: soak, extra rinse, delay wash, control lock, water plus, cold wash, signal, rinse+spin, spin only. 3 wash rinse temps: hot, warm, cold. 3 spin speeds: high, medium, low. Plus much more.

WT7400CW \$863.75 SALE \$794.65

LG 5 c.f. 8 wash programs: deep wash, normal, bedding, heavy duty, speed wash, delicates, waterproof, tub clean. 9 wash programs: soak, extra rinse, delay wash, control lock, water plus, cold wash, signal, rinse+spin, spin, 3 wash rinse temps: hot, warm, cold. 3 spin speeds: high, medium, low. Plus much more.

DVE41A3000W \$612.30 SALE \$563.32

Samsung 7.2 c.f. dryer. 8 preset drying cycles: very dry, more dry, normal dry, damp dry, time dry, air fluff, quick dry, wrinkle release. 2 additional drying options: wrinkle prevent, child lock. 4 temperature levels: high, medium, low, extra low. Plus much more.

DLE7000W \$744.47 SALE \$684.91

LG 7.3 c.f. dryer 8 programs: normal, perm press, heavy duty, bedding, delicates, speed dry (manual dry), air dry (manual dry), freshen up (manual dry). 7 options: wrinkle care, control lock, more time, less time, damp dry signal, energy saver, signal. 3 temperature settings, 3 drying levels, manual time dry 60, 40, 20, min.

CRS NTX62E8STWW \$514.58 SALE \$573.41

Crosley 6.2 c.f. white dryer. Aluminized drum, 3 cycles, 3 temps, 80 min timed dry, reversible door, end of cycle signal selector, auto dry cycle, drum light, wrinkle prevent, 120 foot long run capable.



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Sale good through December

WA54CG7105AWUS \$588.43 Sale \$541.36

Samsung 5.4 c.f. washer. 12 preset washing cycles: normal, bedding/waterproof, heavy duty, colors, whites, activewear, delicates, quick wash, self-clean, rinse + spin, deep wash, downloaded. 5 downloadable washing cycles: permanent press, wool, eco cold, denim, power rinse. 10 additional washing options: delay end, presoak, sound off, child lock, fabric softener, deep fill, Super Speed, Smart Care, Smart Control, Spin Only. 5 Temperature Settings: hot, warmer, warm, cool, cold Plus much more.

WT7400CV \$926.47 SALE \$852.35

LG 5.5 c.f. mega capacity graphite steel washer. 8 programs: normal, heavy duty, bedding, deep wash, prewash + normal, delicate, waterproof, downloaded. 16 options: soak, extra rinse, add garments, delay wash, control lock, water plus, cold wash, rinse + spin, spin only, stain care, tub clean, signal, remote start, wi-fi, turbo wash, speed wash. 5 wash rinse temperatures: hot, warm, semi warm, cold tap, cold. 5 spin speeds: extra high, high, medium, low, no spin. Number of water levels: automatically adjusts to the load size.

DLE7400VE \$926.47 SALE \$852.35

LG 7.3 c.f. ultra large high efficiency graphite dryer/ easy load door. 8 programs: normal, heavy duty, bedding, delicates, perm press, speed dry (manual dry), air dry (manual dry), downloaded (manual dry). 12 options: wrinkle care, custom program, program save, child lock, more time, less time, signal, damp dry signal, energy saver, default on/off, wi-fi, connect, remote start. Temperature settings: high, medium high, medium, low, ultra-low drying levels very dry, more dry, normal dry, less dry, damp dry manual dry, times 60, 40, 30, 20 min, more-less. **DLE7400WE \$983.45 SALE \$904.77**

DVE52A5500W \$702.70 SALE \$646.48

Samsung 7.4 c.f. smart electric dryer. 12 preset drying cycles: refresh, steam sanitize+, normal, heavy duty, permanent press, bedding, delicates, activewear, time dry, air fluff, quick dry, downloaded. 6 downloadable drying cycles: wrinkle away, eco normal, towels, shirts, denim, rack dry. 10 options: damp alert, wrinkle prevent, adjust time (up), adjust time (down), child lock, alarm off, eco dry, smart care, drum light, smart control. 5 temperature settings: high, medium high, medium, medium low, low. 5 dry levels: more dry, normal-more dry, normal dry, normal-less dry, less dry.

DVE45T6200W \$734.60 SALE \$675.83

Samsung 7.5 c.f. white electric dryer with steam sanitize+. 10 preset drying cycles: refresh, steam sanitize+, normal, heavy duty, permanent press, bedding, dedicates, time dry, air fluff, quick dry, 9 additional drying options: mixed load bell, wrinkle prevent, adjust time (up), adjust time (down), eco dry, smart care, drum light, child lock, sound. 5 temperature levels: high, medium high, medium, medium low, low. Lint filter indicator, drum light, 4-way venting.

WF45B6300AW \$675.52 SALE \$621.48

Samsung 4.5 c.f. white large capacity smart front load washer with super speed, Super Speed Wash, Wi-Fi Connectivity 1, steam, Energy Star, Antimicrobial Technology, scratch-resistant tempered glass door, closet-depth, Vibration Reduction Technology+, Swirl+ drum interior, self-clean+, ADA Compliant, accessibility (AUI, Braille), stackable, internal water heater, 1,200 rpm maximum spin speed, direct drive motor, 23 Total washing cycles, 9 additional washing options

DLE3600V \$1023.23 SALE \$865.81 (special price)

LG 7.4 c.f. ultra large capacity graphite electric dryer with sensor dry and Wifi, Energy Star certified, sensor dry, ThinQ app, tempered glass door. FlowSense indicator helps you avoid lint backup. Closet depth, LoDecibel quiet operation, Reversible door. Intelligent electronic controls with LED display. 10 drying programs: normal, heavy duty, bedding, small load, perm press, delicates, towels, speed dry (manual dry), air dry (manual dry), downloaded. 9 drying options: more time, less time, damp dry, signal, wrinkle care, control lock, Wi-Fi, energy saver, remote start, signal. 5 temperature settings: high, medium high, medium, low, ultra-low. 5 drying levels: very dry, more dry, normal dry, less dry, damp dry, compatible with Amazon Alexa and Google assistant. 4 adjustable legs for simple installation, 4-way venting.

**Refrigerators****GTS17DTNRWW \$682.85 SALE \$628.22**

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 storage in the door.

GLF11UWEG16 \$490.93 SALE \$451.66

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.

GLF11URDG16 \$490.93 SALE \$451.66

(Same as above / red)

DAR110A1WDD \$496.17 SALE \$456.48

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.

FRQG1721AW \$1168.70 SALE \$1075.20

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 \$650.23

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.

FFTR2045VS \$810.77 SALE \$745.91

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.

FFTR2045VB \$810.77 Sale \$745.91

(Same as above but black)

XRS22KGABWW \$1056.25 SALE \$971.75

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-(\$50 for a dent \$1006.25)
SALE \$925.75**

LFCS22520S \$1901.43 SALE \$1749.32

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.

FRSS2623AS \$1200.60 SALE \$1104.55

Frigidaire 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 dispenser, 4 adjustable door bins, 3 adjustable shelves, 2 crispers.

MRF266N6CWE \$1403.19 Sale \$1290.93

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.

GLR16FS2K16 \$828.93 SALE \$762.62

Galanz 16 c.f. white, French door refrigerator w/icemaker. 3-door refrigerator. Frost-free design prevents frost for simple upkeep. Built in ice maker produces up to 3 lbs of cubed ice per day. Large-capacity pull-drawer freezer compartment. Energy Star certified. Half-width crisper grip. 3-piece handle design makes the refrigerator easy to open. LED lighting brightly illuminates the interior.

Freezers**CHEST**

EFRF5003 5 c.f. Frigidaire \$243.42 SALE \$223.95

EFRF9003 9 c.f. Frigidaire \$379.70 SALE \$349.42

DCF050BLWM 5 c.f. Danby \$379.70 SALE \$332.48

GLF14CWED11 14 c.f. Frigidaire \$611.00 SALE \$562.12

**UPRIGHT**

FFU18F2VW 18 c.f. Frigidaire \$1028.44 SALE \$946.16

WHS-50772FWEW1 21 c.f. Midea \$923.14

SALE \$849.29

WHS507FWEW1 13.8 c.f. Midea \$577.20 SALE \$531.02

DISHWASHERS

CRS XDF350PGRBB \$487.31 SALE \$448.33

Crosley 24 Inch black built-in dishwasher with 3 wash cycles, 12 place settings, 59 dba noise Level, Energy Star certified, hard food disposer, stainless-steel tub.

FFBD2420UW \$697.45 SALE \$641.65

6 cycles, power plus (heavy), normal, 1 hr. wash, china/crystal, energy saver, rinse only, cycle indicator light, control lock. 3 wash speeds, 4 wash levels. Stainless tub, removable filter trap, hard food disposer, dba level 52 ultra quiet. Stainless steel filter. 12 place settings, 24-hour delay.

LDFN4542B \$729.30 SALE \$670.96

LG white 24" front control 48 dba, QuadWash, EasyRack Plus, 3rd rack, stainless tub, dynamic dry. 9 wash cycles: auto, heavy, delicate, normal, turbo, download cycle, machine clean, rinse, express options. 8 options: dual zone, half load, energy saver, high temp, extra dry, delay start, control lock, night dry. 3 spray arms, and much more....

LDFN3432T \$609.70 SALE \$560.92

LG stainless 24" front control dishwasher with stainless steel tub and pocket handle. Quad wash, 15 place settings, dynamic dry, 50 dB quiet operation. 5 wash Cycles: auto, heavy, normal, turbo, machine clean. 6 options: flex zone, high temp, extra dry, delay start, control lock, night dry. Number of spray arms: 3 top, upper, lower. Hidden water heater. And much more...

CRS XDF350PBB \$487.31 SALE \$448.33

Crosley 24" black 12 place setting dishwasher. 52 dba noise level, Energy Star certified, hard food disposer, stainless steel tub, 3 cycles.



RANGES

NE63A6311SS \$1012.00

SALE \$931.04

Samsung 6.3 c.f. 30" smart electric range. Stainless steel design, large oven capacity 6.3 cu. ft. Rapid Boil™ 3300 W, extra oven settings: bread proof, favorite cook, keep warm, storage drawer. Flexible cooktop: five burner cooktop, two dual ring burners (6"/9") two single burners (6") , warming center convenience, Wi-Fi connectivity, voice-enabled, SmartThings Cooking, self & steam clean. Hidden bake element, Sabbath mode, child safety lock, delay start, auto oven light, kitchen timer.

NX60A6311SS \$839.68 SALE \$772.51

Samsung 6.0 c.f. stainless, smart gas range, integrated, cast iron griddle. Extra oven settings: bread proof, favorite cook, keep warm. Edge-to-edge grates, storage drawer. Flexible five burner cooktop: right front: 18K BTU dual ring - left front: 12K BTU - right rear: 5K BTU - left rear: 9.5K BTU - center (oval): 10K BTU convenience, Wi-Fi connectivity, voice-enabled, SmartThings Cooking, self-clean, Sabbath mode, child safety lock, delay start, auto oven light, kitchen timer.

FFEF3054TW \$800.15 SALE 736.14

Frigidaire 30" white, electric smooth top, self-clean range. Bake, broil, add-a-minute, delay start, self-clean, quick clean option, delay clean, kitchen timer, times cook option, 12 hr. auto oven shut off, oven lock out. Right front element (12"-2700W), right rear element (6"-1,200W), left front element (space wise expandable 6"-12"-1,400W/3,000W), left rear element (6" 1,200W), keep warm zone. Hidden bake element.

FCRG3051AS \$921.27 SALE \$847.57

Frigidaire 30" Stainless, gas freestanding range with manual clean and continuous cast iron grates, bake 1,800 BTU. Bake, broil, timer, oven light,

JB655DKBB \$1,054.95 SALE \$970.55

GE 30" black , freestanding electric convection range. No pre heat air fry, 12"/ 9" dual element, fifth element warming zone. Large capacity oven.

If you have questions, please call Roxanne at (218) 743-3132; email roxanne@nieci.com.

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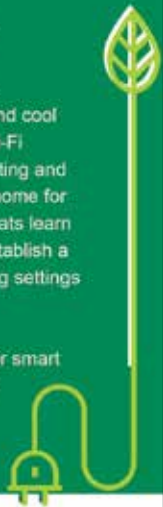
Whole Homemade Cheesecakes are available for purchase this holiday season and make a great gift or addition to any gathering! We have dozens of flavors to choose from.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Get smart with a better way to heat and cool your home! Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and automatically adjust heating and cooling temperature settings in your home for optimal performance. Smart thermostats learn your temperature preferences and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving settings when you're asleep or away.

For maximum energy savings, look for smart thermostat models with the ENERGY STAR® label.

Source: Dept. of Energy



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Edge Gallery

Following the last show of the season, Sam Zimmerman's exhibit "Dibaajimo," the Edge Gallery will display pieces in its permanent collection during the times that an event is scheduled at the Center.



This collection grows each year as the Gallery selects pieces from 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.

The Edge Center currently has an opening for an Administrative Assistant. It is a part-time, 20-hour a week job managing day-to-day operation of the Center's office, working closely with the public, board and committee members, school staff and students, and visiting performance and visual artists.

Skills the Center is looking for include: Ability to manage time and work as part of a team, knowledge of MAC and graphic design programs, willingness to learn to use organizational databases and new applications, written and oral communication skills, excellent phone manner, and being organized and self-motivated. Responsibilities of the position include: Designing, printing and preparing advertising and fundraising materials, maintaining a donor database; providing bookkeeping support; printing and selling tickets; and opening the Gallery during working hours.

If you are interested, please send your resume to admin@edgecenterarts.org.

The Edge Center for the Arts in Bigfork is a non-profit, volunteer-managed organization dedicated to bringing music, theatre, and visual arts to the Edge of the Wilderness.

Classic Movie Series

by Jack Nachbar

It's the Holiday season, and, all things being Merry and Bright, love is in the air. That being the case, the Classic Movie Series in Bigfork is presenting a very special treat.

The December Classic movie is the huge 1968 hit version of Shakespeare's beloved play, *Romeo and Juliet*. Instead of casting middle aged stars in the title roles, director Franco Zeffirelli chose two unknown teenagers, who would have been about the same age as Shakespeare's characters. Olivia Hussey and Leonard Whiting brought a fresh and passionate interpretation of the young lovers that made the film the fifth most popular movie of the year. And now, 55 years later, as you will leave the Edge Theater, you too will think, "Parting is such sweet sorrow."

Romeo and Juliet will be shown at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, December 14 at the Edge Center Theater in Bigfork. FREE!! Teenagers welcome! They love this picture.

JANUARY CLASSIC MOVIE: It's the 1930s in the slums of New York in the hard hitting, *Dead End* (1937) with Joel McCrea Humphrey Bogart, and the *Dead End Kids*. January 11, 2024 at the Edge.

Arts on the Edge

The Edge Center will present a special holiday classic movie matinee on Sunday, December 10 at 2 p.m., featuring the original "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" classic cartoon short and the holiday beloved movie "A Christmas Story."

This movie matinee extravaganza will include holiday songs performed by area youth just prior to the start of the movies, and treats afterwards. This event is free and appropriate for all ages.

Bigfork Toys

Please consider helping out Santa deliver toys to the Edge of the Wilderness!

Your monetary donation can be dropped off or mailed to First State Bank of Bigfork, P.O. Box 257 Bigfork MN 56628.

For qmore information, Please contact Krista at (218) 410-2258 or Cindy at (218) 259-9413. We appreciate all your support in bringing smiles to our community during the holiday season!

Like to Sing Christmas Carols?
Like to Listen to Others Singing Christmas Carols?

Join us for the **Caroling Experience** without the nasty weather.

3:00, Sunday, December 17th at Jesse Lake Lutheran Church (2 miles west of Talmoon on CR 4)

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Bigfork hears of interest in an outdoor horse arena

by Sally Sedgwick
 At its November 14 meeting, the Bigfork City Council heard a proposal from Tara Urman and Samantha Olson to repurpose vacant land by the baseball field into double outdoor horse arenas and storage shed. The arenas would be used by 4H and the Northwoods Saddle Club as well as community members. Mayor Bryan Boone said they would need to present a plan of exactly what they were looking at along with a cost estimate and funding options. Some money might be available from the pull tab funds. Caleb Standlie from Widseth spoke to the council on the status of the water system preliminary engineering report. Widseth is

currently confirming what infrastructure is in the ground, including mapping the mains, scoping the project for updating the water treatment plant and tower and developing a funding plan. Auditors Clifton Larson Allen have withdrawn from doing the 2024 audit due to understaffing. Other audit firms have been contacted for quotes. In other business, the council heard that there was a ribbon cutting for the school/community project at the school on Oct. 30. The city is still waiting for information on the status of the \$1.5 million state bond. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum

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 people 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

Effie appoints new councilor

by Sally Sedgwick
 At the Nov. 13 meeting of the Effie City Council, a new councilor was appointed, the final levy was set and projects remaining under 2023 grant funding were discussed.

District 5 Commissioner Casey Venema was present and discussed the jail and county budget during the public forum. Under the new 1% sales tax, \$4 million has been collected to date toward jail bonds. Cass County will use the Itasca County jail for its inmates, but the county will need an additional 6 jailers. Mesabi Metallics has paid back taxes, reducing the levy needed.

The council accepted the resignation of Jim Astry and appointed Brandon Francisco to serve the

remainder of his term. The council voted to finalize the proposed levy at \$40,425.

With remaining grant funding, the council decided to reroof the Community Center with metal roofing. The new heating system is operational. The new city sign at the intersection of Highways 1 and 38 has been installed.

The state has indicated that a variance is needed to take down the old Effie School due to asbestos content, and certified contractors (not available in the area) must be used. The process for a variance will be pursued.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. in the Community Center.

Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum

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

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 —

Blackduck Register online at blackduck.k12.mn.us/CE. Questions? Call (218) 835-5206 or email mcleveland@blackduck.k12.mn.us

ADULT VOLLEYBALL

Date: Wednesday nights

Time: 7-8:30 p.m.

Location: High School enter at gym door #3

Cost:\$3/night

Toys to Make Together

by Leah Ryan
 Arrowhead Library System

Let's make some toys!

Area libraries will be offering Handmade Toy Take & Create Art Kits December 4-30 (ages 6 and up) as the Arrowhead Library System's newest Legacy event.

This art experience, created by 321 Art Studio, explores toy making for beginners. Take & Create Art Kits will include supplies to create these four unique toys: yarn doll, string/button spinner, swing and catch cup and craft stick catapult. Follow-along instructional videos for each toy will be shared in the kit and online.

Locally, kits will be available at the Bookmobile and Mail-a-Book. Each location has a limited number of kits. Patrons must qualify for Mail-A-Book services, kit may be modified in order to deliver by mail.

This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

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.

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.

Northern Itasca Emergency Food Shelf

200 Main, Bigfork

Thursdays

12:30-3 p.m.

3rd Thursday

4-5:30 p.m.

(218) 256-4170

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.

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

~ December Calendar ~

Bigfork

The Bigfork Improvement Groups is hosting a Christmas Bazaar Sat., Dec. 9 at the B.I.G; Community Center in Bigfork from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call Cindy at (218) 256-5057 to check on table availability, \$15. Food for sale also.

General Interest

“Lights in the Pines,” a drive-through lighting display at the Itasca County Fairgrounds is new this year: \$10 per car. Dates before Christmas also include a Santa Land in the Commercial Building. The displays are open 5-9 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays before Christmas (plus Thurs., Dec. 7), and Dec. 26-31.

The Northern Lights Trio with Ron Olsen on piano, Terry Price on drums and Jerry Hagen on bass will team up with Harold Boege on harmonica, accordion and bass to play for the Grace House fundraiser “Home is Where the Heart Is.” It’s the fifth year the group has played for the dinner, said Hagen, raising over \$30,000 annually for the nonprofit which provides temporary housing and is the county’s only homeless shelter. A great cause! The event includes a prime rib dinner and is at the Timberlake Lodge in Grand Rapids on Thursday, Dec. 7. Call (218) 326-2790 for tickets or information.

Christmas Cookie and Candy Booklet

The Christmas Cookie/Candy recipe contest is underway! The co-op looks forward to this contest each year to see member recipes for the holiday season. After all recipes are in by Friday, Dec. 8, staff will judge and award prizes. The booklet with all the recipes will be available about Dec. 15, and Members can email Roxanne at rprather@nieci.com or call for a pdf file, or stop by the office to pick up a copy.

- 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!” Events downtown begin at 4:45 p.m. at the Big Fish with events during the day at King School.
- 2 Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale by the Effie American Legion Auxiliary 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Effie Community Center.
- 6 “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
- 9 Christmas Bazaar at the B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 10 Holiday Classic Movie Matinee at the Edge Center, Bigfork for all ages, 2 p.m. Youth concert before, “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” classic cartoon short and “A Christmas Story.” Treats follow.
- 11 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 11 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 11 Blackduck ISD 32 School Board meets, 6 p.m. in the Media Center. Truth in Taxation, 6:30 p.m
- 11 ISD 318 School Board meeting at Educational Services Center Board Room, 601 SW 7th St, Grand Rapids. (Note new location.) or at watchictv.org, 6:30 p.m. Truth in Taxation hearing, 6 p.m. Information: jrasmussen@isd318.org or call (218) 327-5704. Livestream from link at isd318.org.
- 12 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.
- 12 Bigfork City Council at City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 12 Northome School K-12 Holiday Music Concert, 6:30 p.m. in the large gym
- 13 ISD 317 School Board meets at Deer River HS, 6 p.m. Public forum 5:45
- 13 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
- 14 Classic Movies at the Edge Center in Bigfork presents *Romeo and Juliet* (1968), starring Olivia Hussey and Leonard Whiting, 6:30 p.m. Free.
- 15 Blackduck School K-4 Christmas Concert, 2:30 p.m.
- 17 Caroling at Jesse Lake Lutheran Church, 3 p.m. Enjoy the caroling experience without the nasty weather!
- 25-26 Merry Christmas! North Itasca Electric Offices CLOSED.
- 22-Jan.1 Winter Break/Christmas vacation: no school, all schools.
- TBD Bigfork Valley Hospital board meets in public meeting, 9 a.m. For information on joining the meeting online, call (218) 743-1772. Scheduled date is Dec. 26, call for a rescheduled date.

JAN

- 1 North Itasca Electric Offices CLOSED.



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.

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

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Festival of the Nativities

Whimical and traditional. Abstract and realistic. Crochet, wood, fabric, stone, clay, paper. Almost 140 different Nativity scenes from around the world were displayed at the Sand Lake Alliance Church during the Festival of the Nativities.

The Nativities were from the collection of Susan Devries who also crafted some as well as arranging the displays.

The evening included a light meal and Christmas music in the Sanctuary and ended with caroling.



WATTS Wonderful!



The Marcell Family Center would like to thank the following sponsors for contributing to the 2023 Marcell Family Center Halloween Bash:

- Timberwolf Inn
- Effie Country Service
- The Shop
- Bigfork Veterinary Clinic
- Scheff Logging & Trucking
- Lakeside Lumber & Hardware
- First State Bank of Bigfork
- Jack The Horse Resort
- Bigfork Ambulance Service Association
- Perry-Heide VFW
- Edge of the Wilderness Discovery Center
- Kokomo Resort



Crochet (above) and garden gourds (right).

Watch for Clearopathra!

64,075 people voted this year in the third annual Minnesota Department of Transportation Name a Snowplow Contest. District 1 in northeast Minnesota will have a new named snowplow on the roads: Clearopathra.

Clearopathra was the third place vote getter in the field of 60 suggested names. Other winners included Yer a Blizzard, Harry; Blizzo; Better Call Salt; Han Snowlo; Blader Tot Hotdish; Scoop! There It Is; and Sleetwood Mac.

Previous District 1 winners included: No More Mr. Ice Guy (2022) and Duck Duck Orange Truck (2021). In 2022, the district added an additional named plow, Giiwedid, the Ojibwe word for the North Wind. That truck plows Highway 53 near the Fond du Lac Indian Reservation.



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-FREE-

Free! Two matching maroon swivel rocking chairs. Picture can be emailed. Call (218) 743-2320 12/23

-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

-HELP WANTED-

Help wanted: Scenic State Park Year-Round General Maintenance Lead Worker for more details and to apply visit mn.gov/mmb/careers 12/23

Business consultant for the Itasca Economic Development Corporation. Job posting on Facebook @Itasca EDC. Send resume to Kayla Swanson at kswanson@itascadv.org by Friday, December 8.

.-FOR SALE-

For sale: Charmaster Chalet Furnace. Wood burning/+ or - gas plus accessories. \$1,900 OBO. Call (218) 832-3599 Cell (218) 259-3065 1/24

-FOR SALE-

For sale: Vintage Coast to Coast Stores model 40 Marlin Firearms Co. .22 long rifle only, semi-automatic tube feed rifle, includes Glenfield 4x15 scope Exc. cond., 100 rounds of ammunition. \$200. Call (612) 839-1695 1/24

For sale: Vintage Winchester Model 320 .22 S.L. or Long Rifle R.H. Bolt Action rifle, includes Browning 2 3/4 scope Bluing-excellent, stock-good, 100 rounds of ammunition. \$400. Call (612) 839-1695 1/24

For sale: John Deere 38 inch snowthrower for John Deere LX and GT tractors - Used - Good Condition- \$275. Call or text (763) 226-6404 1/24

For sale: Insulated chimney pipe. 30 in long, outside diam. 9 1/2 in, inside diam. 8 in. Sell for \$ 45 . Also have a metal reducer piece for \$ 10. Call (218) 659-2797 1/24

For sale: Electric heater, 7500 W 240 volt. Ceiling mount, fan forced. Brand new still in the box. \$240 new, sell for \$175. Call (612) 300-7705 12/23

For sale: Toro 521 (5 hp) (21" cut) snowblower. Electric start. \$275. Call (218) 897-9535 1/24

For sale: Printer. H.P. Envy Pro 6452. Works good. \$50. Call (218) 832-3329 1/24

-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: Pelonis electric heater, model HO-0250H, new, \$25; metal pet crate, 27" long, 20" wide, \$30 Call (218) 910-6610

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

-VEHICLES-

SNOWMOBILES, ATVs

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

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-WINTER SPORTS-

For sale: Strike Master Auger. XL 3000. 3 H.P. 8" auger. good condition. \$50. Call (218) 832-3329 1/24

For sale: Vexlar fish locator. FL 18 GENZ Black box. Good condition. \$100. Call (218) 832-3329 1/24

-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

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

Northome volunteers come together to build a new playground

Despite the cooler temperatures and misty weather, about 55 Northome community members volunteered 500+ manhours over two days late in October to install a new playground.

“The community has been working toward this day for a long time, and we’re excited beyond words to have the playground equipment installed before the snow came,” said Northome Mayor Karen Olson.

A playground is much more to a community than “just a playground.”

Whether a person is a current resident or someone looking to plant new roots, families often look for family-friendly communities that include safe amenities for children within walking distance and that take advantage of the beautiful outdoors in our area. In addition, visitors often look for attractions where children can burn off energy while the adults explore small shops and restaurants.

“The Northome project is a great example of community collaboration, particularly for a small

rural community like Northome,” said Lisa Randall of Community & Economic Development Associates). Some of the groups supporting the playground project include the city of Northome, Deerwood Bank, Ita-Bel-Koo DAC, Northland Community Church, the Togo Work Crew and Scott Winter’s Northwoods Playgrounds crew.

Donors include the Blandin Foundation, Ardenhurst Township, City of Northome, Deerwood Bank, Essentia Health,



North Itasca Electric, Koochiching County Economic Development, Nei Pepsi Bottling, Northern Star Cooperative, Northland Progressive, Ridge Runners Snowmobile

& ATV Club, Sanford Health and many private donors.

A Northome Playground Celebration is being planned early in 2024. To make a donation to the

Playground Committee or for more information, please contact Northome City Hall at (218) 897-5762 or northomemn@paulbunyan.net.

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