



**NORTH ITASCA
ELECTRIC**

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

**WATTS
NEWS**

VOL 27 NO. 11

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NOVEMBER 2024

CEO Report

Good afternoon NIECI,
It is currently 70 degrees at the end of October as I write this. Bonus summer figure. Outside of the crazy infestation of Asian beetles I have at home, I'm enjoying the beautiful weather. I got to spend a little time with my daughters in the deer stand this weekend. The youth hunt didn't produce a deer for the girls, but I got some time together with them, that's a trophy in my book.

I'm nervously excited about our nuclear energy discussion tomorrow. The panel is lined up, our

legislators are booked to join us. I spent some time researching the topic. Todd Christensen, our director from Dixon Lake told me about the documentary, "Nuclear Now." I found this on my Amazon Prime account. I believe you can get this documentary anywhere you can stream content. I highly recommend watching this. I wasn't aware of the vast history of nuclear energy in the United States of America. I understand better today the strong feelings people have about nuclear energy. I also understand better today some of the



Brad Dolinski, CEO
shortcomings of previous facility designs and how technology has changed greatly.

I am not trying to tell you to support nuclear energy. You will have to decide if you wish to support this technology in the future or not. I am here to tell you we need
CEO to p.2>

Should we be looking at nuclear?

by Sally Sedgwick

With a national policy goal of eliminating coal fired plants, and a state mandate of producing completely carbon-free generation by 2040, how will energy needs be met?

"We cannot meet the power need with wind and solar," explained Brad Dolinski, CEO of North Itasca Electric Cooperative. "We have to talk nuclear."

According to the US. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, there are 95 nuclear power reactors licensed to operate in the country now, but the two Vogtle units commissioned last year in Georgia were the first to be constructed



Panel on nuclear power education: (l to r) Darrick Moe, MREA; Brad Dolinski North Itasca Electric; Mike Brasel, Blue Wave AI Labs; Kyle Leir, GRE; Mike Palmer, MP.

in over 30 years. Most operating units were constructed in the 1970s and 1980s and a lot has changed in design, safety and the industry.

Nuclear to p.6>

Member Services Update

by Drew Francisco

Hello again everyone! Fall is here, and I'm loving it. A close friend of mine always used to say, suffering through the cold winter and summer humidity mosquito fest, is all voided by the month of October; so far, he would have been spot on!

Over the last few weeks, I've been able to continue my journey of helping membership obtain many different energy related goals. Sometimes it seems a little contradictory to be finding ways to reduce energy usage when our

primary business is to provide it. But I'm learning that's one of the benefits of being apart of a cooperative like North Itasca. Providing energy safely and offering solutions/education to utilize

Member to p.2>



Operation Round Up grants awarded

Operation Round Up Community Trust Board held its fall meeting in October to award grants to community organizations. This fall 29 grants were made totaling \$11,000.

Operation Round Up® is a charitable program designed to provide financial assistance to local nonprofit organizations and community

Round Up to p.7 >

Preparing for a new state transmission backbone

by Priti Patel, GRE vice president and chief transmission officer

We all know that utilities and electric cooperatives are moving away from fossil fuels toward more renewable energy. At the same time, we are in the midst of transforming the electric grid in the Midwest region to assure electricity can be reliably transported from where it is produced to where it is needed. The utilities and cooperatives who own high voltage transmission lines in the Upper Midwest region are currently developing approximately \$10 billion worth of transmission line projects to bolster the electric grid and ensure continued reliability into the future. This first set of projects approved in July 2022 by the region's grid operator, MISO, was essentially low-hanging fruit. These

were "no regrets" projects needed for reliability as our power supply evolves.

A second set of projects – this time worth \$21-27 billion – is expected to be approved by MISO by the end of 2024. This portfolio, which is not final, but is in its "near-final" stages, currently consists of several 345-kilovolt (kV) and 765-kV transmission lines in Minnesota, essentially creating a new 765-kV backbone for the MISO region to support the evolution of the system. The 765-kV lines would work in conjunction with the other power lines to move power from generators across the Midwest to be used in each of our local communities.

Depending on how much attention you pay to power lines, you may realize that a 765-kV transmission line would

Transmission to p.7>

• inside • inside • inside • inside • inside • inside • inside • inside • inside •

Fall Range Sale

page 8

Energy Transition Town Hall

pages 16

*Troubleshooting
your water heater*

page 5

Office Hours

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

CEO Report (continued)

>from p.1
 something to generate electricity beyond wind and solar without producing carbon. Unfortunately, solar panels are about 11-15% efficient in Northern Itasca County. Wind resources vary between 30-40% efficient over the course of a year. This means we need much more wind and solar to meet our needs, we would also need batteries to carry us through the times when the wind doesn't blow, and the sun doesn't shine. The current technology for batteries is expensive and limited. Lithium-Ion batteries are roughly 90% efficient, we lose a little energy when you charge and discharge a battery. These batteries generally discharge over four hours. The sun is down for more than four hours every day.

Full disclosure, I do believe in nuclear energy. These are my personal beliefs. I don't know what your thoughts are, I don't know how the Member-Owners and in turn the Board of Directors feel about nuclear power. This is why we are meeting about this and learning together. In my job, I need to ensure you have power available at all hours of the day. It must be available with or without wind or the sun. Our options are limited and through the research I have done about nuclear energy I believe this will be the technology to bring us to a cleaner brighter future.

I have spent the past couple of months talking about nuclear energy in my article. I better switch subjects and circle back to the budget. This is the time of the year I dust off

the crystal ball and take a look at the Farmers Almanac. Ok, I don't have a crystal ball. I do look at weather data from wherever I can get it. Best guess is better than no guess when it comes to the budget. We scour through years of past performance and in turn give our best estimate of how the year will turn out. I'm pleased to say the clouds are not as dark as I even talked about last month. Our expected rate increase looks to be 7.12% from Great River Energy. This is roughly a 3.5% increase to your bill before I work on our "controllable" expenses. We are working very hard to get the preliminary budget prepared by this Thursday. I will have estimates for you next month in my article. It is my job to provide our Board with accurate information to make rate decisions on. I do not set rates, that is solely up to our Board based on information and recommendations I work with my staff to provide.

It's a crazy and busy time of the year at North Itasca Electric. I was blessed to stop by the Marcell Community Church today to ask for permission to use their parking lot for the meeting tomorrow. One of the first things I was asked, "is there anything we can pray for?" I gave a lot of information in a short conversation. I also offered to come share information with them or any group that would like to hear from North Itasca Electric Cooperative. There is a lot going on right now and sharing the information is very important. Thank you, ladies, for the prayers and the support of NIECI and myself.

By your side! Miigwech

Brad

Member Services

>from p.1
 that energy in the most efficient ways possible. A lot of my time has been spent learning of potential programs coming in the last few months of 2024 and 2025. These programs could be utilized by North Itasca, to extend more opportunities to the membership in obtaining home weatherization and high efficiency equipment upgrades. If you're a nerd like me, this is exciting!

As I have stated in prior articles, I have been working with Itasca Economic Development Group to educate myself on ways to impact not only the members specifically, but all the wonderful communities we are a part of. On the 16th I attended to Energy Transition town hall in Bigfork. I felt great conversations were had, and a lot of good ideas were presented. When people think of energy transition, I feel it's received as just shutting down the coal plants and plugging in the renewables. I wish it was that simple, but it isn't. Unfortunately, there is more of an impact than we realize. When a generating facility is "hypothetically" taken offline, it creates a ripple effect of changes that I feel are currently not priority when they should be. Infrastructure/Transmission upgrades, increased energy costs, increased taxes and job loss. All these layers of ripples roll across the shoreline of the end users. The small schools, businesses, healthcare facilities and communities that house all of us will be affected. I'm not saying the effort to clean up emissions is a bad idea, but if it's done without adequate solutions, we will be stuck in an even worse situation.



Drew Francisco

best way to create your own opinions and provide input on solutions. For meeting information please be sure to check our website and Facebook page.

Another exciting project I have been working on with the IEDC is a business revitalization grant. The thought process behind this idea is to help businesses in Bigfork and surrounding communities secure some funding to upgrade their business's exterior. Roofing, windows, signage and potentially high efficiency equipment. Members of the IEDC, North Itasca Electric, Bigfork Valley, Bigfork High School, Bigfork Improvement Group and the City of Bigfork are meeting monthly to discuss grant process and the potential to increase grant funding amounts. I'm hoping to see this grant have a positive impact and future sustainability for continued funding. Helping small businesses complete some of the tasks they may not have the budget for is vital on keeping them around.

With the cooler months ahead, just a friendly reminder to get some preventative maintenance items done. Change those furnace filters, check your smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries and get ready for another winter here in the northland. I'm available for home evaluations or any other items related to your home's efficiency at any time. Please feel free to stop in or reach out with any questions you may have. As always, I hope the remainder of your October is pleasant and the weather continues to be beautiful.

*Until next time,
Drew Francisco*



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.

WATTS NEWS

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

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

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

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.

Website: www.NorthItascaElectric.com

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

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

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

Getting to these meetings and learning about the potential impact of energy transition is the

**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 Tom Kallio, District 7
 Jeff Kilian, District 8

Highlights from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 26, 2024

Start time: 10:00 a.m.

End time: 1:45 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on September 26, 2024.

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

Also Present: CEO Brad Dolinski, Daryl Pederson, Andy Shaw, Drew Francisco, 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; a motion was made to change the November meeting to Tuesday, November 26th due to Thanksgiving. Seconded; motion passed. A motion was made to change the December meeting to Thursday, December 19th due to Christmas. Seconded; motion passed. The motion to consent agenda then passed.
- o Daryl spoke about the safety involved with equipment that is aging. A person should be checking trailer receivers, hinges etc. in equipment as it gets older to ensure that it is working properly to avoid injuries and accidents.
- o Brad gave the Operating Reports. A motion was made to accept the operating reports as they were presented. Seconded; the motion carried.
- o A motion was made to approve the submission of the 990 report. Seconded; motion passed.
- o A motion was made to approve Capital Credit payout through 2002 up to \$256,440.24. Seconded; motion carried.
- o A motion was made to approve Board Policy 400.25 Harrassment Involving A Director as it was presented. Seconded; motion carried. A motion was made to approve Board Policy 400.20 Harrassment – Employee as it had been revised. Seconded; motion carried.
- o Daryl gave the Line Department report. MREA was onsite September 18th to go over underground fault finding and troubleshooting. They also performed onsite crew visits. There were 5 new services in August. Highway 6 OH to UG is now complete. Crews are working on the County Road 35 project.
- o Drew gave the Members Services Report. Home evaluations are on the rise. A new partnership with Ferguson Plumbing Supply has been approved.
- o Brad gave the Office Report in Tina's absence. A motion was made to approve work orders 24713 and 24714. Seconded; motion carried.
- o Brad gave the CEO report. We received a grant of \$10,000 from CoBank for funds to put power into the baseball fields north of Bigfork. Darrick from MREA will be part of the panel discussion on October 22nd in Marcell. The event will start at 1:30 pm. GRE presented a rate increase of approximately 8.5 - 9.2%. Off peak rates will increase.
- o Wes Waller gave the MREA report.
- o Lloyd Kongsjord gave the GRE report. GRE broke ground on the Form Energy battery storage project in Cambridge.
- o A motion was made to adjourn. Seconded; motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Welcome, Eli Rahier



North Itasca Electric welcomed Eli Rahier as an apprentice lineman in its Line Department in April 2024. Eli lives in Grattan Township with his wife Riley and two children Sequoia, 2 years old and Kai, 6 months old.

After graduating from Northome School, Eli spent a year in college before deciding to attend the M-State Electric Lineworker program in Baudette. The program, located on 30 acres with a 7,200 square foot training lab, is part of the Minnesota State Community and Technical College System. Eli worked for the line department at North Star Electric Cooperative, which spans four counties along the Canadian border, before coming to Bigfork. He said that although there have been some long hours, working in the line department has been smooth sailing. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with his family, participating in outside recreation like hunting, and is an avid sports fan. For the future, Eli is looking forward to advancing through his career and raising his family.

Bob Ellies

WANT TO SELL OR BUY PROPERTY? GO with BOB

Learn what your property is worth with a complimentary Market Analysis.

218-259-3403
Bob@GOwithBOB.com
RE/MAX Advantage Plus
Grand Rapids MN

LENNOX **Carrier** Turn to the Experts.

NORTHERNAIR
PLUMBING & HEATING
(218) 327-9361

page 5

Tim Torgerson Owner License #060672-PM
33204 Shadywood Road • Grand Rapids, MN 55744
fax: (218) 327-9283 • northernairph@yahoo.com

RK Construction Services Inc.
"Serving the excavation needs of Itasca County and beyond since 1968"

Ray V. Kongsjord & Sons
www.rkconstructionservices.com
email: rkconstructioninc@gmail.com

Office: (218) 832-2842 • Demolition roll off service
Cell: (218) 244-6201 • Site preparation • Landscaping
39335 State Highway 286 • Basements • Septics • Shoreland
Marcell, MN 56657 • Gravel • Road construction
Bonded and licensed - MPCA Lic. 1204

Highway 46, Squaw Lake **218-659-2131**

Leino's RIVERSIDE PUB

Happy Hour Mon-Fri 4-6p
All day Sunday

Meat raffle every Sat at 6p

Full bar, on/off sale, pull tabs, e-tabs

Open daily at 11 a.m.

Full menu including Broasted Chicken

Kitchen is open Sun-Thurs until 9p
Fri-Sat until 10p

THE PILLARS OF GRAND RAPIDS
SENIOR LIVING | ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE

CALL TODAY!
Take a tour (218) 999-4999
PillarsSeniorLiving.com/grandrapids

PERSONAL TRAINING

Extra motivation to help stay on track
Be accountable to someone for your training & nutrition
Develop a routine that you can stick to long term
Personalized and effective training every workout
Proper technique and safe training
Fresh ideas to keep you interested
And of course.....fast results!

TRAINERS
Sue Myers
Jayme Rahier

REGISTER NOW (218) 244-5019
(218) 743-4275

Bigfork Valley Fitness Center



Daylight Saving Time ends
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

ENJOY THAT EXTRA HOUR OF SLEEP.

Glen Hopkins
Gravel and Dirt Work



Fill Dirt, Class Five,
Top Soil, Road Building,
Ditching, Culverts,
Clearing, Grubbing

(218) 743-3716

Talmoon Boat & Mini Storage




Archie and Sandy Wass
Phone: 218-743-3635
Cell: 218-341-8522

- Three storage sizes available!
- Boat, RV and Snowmobile
- Pontoon Trailer Rental
- Launch to Dock Service



TALMOON FIREARMS & SUPL'S, LLC



ED J. SHEAREN
ENDOWMENT MEMBER NRA
FFL
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
ejshearen@bigfork.net

P.O. BOX 12
49635 STATE HWY 6
TALMOON, MN 56637

218-832-4867
218-832-GUNS

GUNSTOCK CHECKERING

All types of gunstock checkering

We can create virtually any design or use your own

We can recreate your worn-out checkering like new

We refinish stocks with the hand rubbed English oil method

Custom stocks built here. Boyds and Richards microfit blanks.

RC Keith GUNSTOCK CHECKERING 218-897-5152

Kalvig & Associates

DWIGHT L. KALVIG
Accountant

EST. 1974

• Bookkeeping and Tax Service •

Bus: (218) 835-4546 Toll Free: (888) 888-6735 Fax: (218) 835-6590

359 Main St., Box 309 • Blackduck, Minnesota 56630
kalvigandassoc@paulbunyan.net

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

Energy assistance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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, 2025. 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.




800-252-1166 or 811

Whenever you plan to dig over 12 inches deep, 2 days before you start, call Gopher One at 811 or (800) 252-1166. It's required by Minnesota state law and it is a free service.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode. You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation mode setting to help you save on water heating costs, or you can simply lower the temperature manually.

Small actions can also stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs and gaming consoles.



Roxanne's Repair Tips: Troubleshooting a water heater

There is nothing worse than not having enough hot water or having no hot water at all! When this happens, you have a couple of choices: either you fix it yourself, or you call an electrician. It's not that hard to fix if you know what you are doing.

First you need to know a little about water heaters and how they work. There are only a couple things on a water heater that can fail, your element or thermostat.

Cold water comes into your water heater through the top and is pushed down through a dip tube where it gets heated before it moves up. The bottom element heats the water, and the top element maintains the heated water. So, if you jump in the shower and have no hot water, check the bottom element and bottom thermostat first. If you have some hot water or it is warm, but it runs out quickly and normally wouldn't, then start at the top element and thermostat.

If the water heater is old and you have a lot of sediment in your water, the sediment can build up on the bottom of the water heater and cover the element, which would prevent it from working properly. You should notice this when trying to pull the bottom element. Sometimes it is so built up that you might have trouble getting the element out. If there is some sediment but it's not too bad, you might be able to pull some out with a metal coat hanger after removing the element, but if it's too bad then it's time for a new water heater.

Before trouble shooting anything make sure you shut the breaker off so there is no power to the water heater.

There are two access panels on the side of the water heater, one at the top and one at the bottom. Depending on what element or thermostat you want to check, remove that access panel and insulation and you will see a plastic cover covering the element and thermostat. Remove the cover but don't touch any wires. Use a volt strip (which is a little tool that will light up if there is any power) and touch the wire to verify there is no power. Then using a voltmeter on "ohms," on the bottom element touch one probe to one screw and the other one to a good piece of metal on the inside of the water heater to ground it. There should be no resistance; if there is any resistance the element is bad, and you need to replace it.

If you are checking the top element, with a probe you would touch the screw on one side and the screw on the other side with the other probe. If the element is good, your ohmmeter should read between 10 and 16 ohms or somewhere close to that. If there is no reading, your element is bad and should be changed. If the elements are good check the thermostats the same way as the elements, sometimes all that is wrong is that the thermostat snapped off. This can happen if there is a surge in power, or it is sometimes caused by an element going out. You might be able to hit the reset button on the thermostat and be good to go. But if it happens again you need to troubleshoot to see what is causing the problem.

There are 2 types of elements, a screw-in and a bolt-on, you should be able to tell what you have by looking at the end, the screw in one looks like a big bolt and requires a special tool to get it off. The bolt on

the other type has 4 bolts holding it on. Always replace the one you take out with the same amps, voltage and style as the one you took out.

To change the bottom element, you should open the pressure relief valve for a minute then reclose it. Then go to the bottom of the water heater and put a container under the drain nozzle and open it for a few seconds and then shut it off. This will get rid of some of the water before you remove the element. Pull the element straight out, being careful not to ruin the rubber seal. Make sure you have the new one ready to go in quickly to avoid more mess.

If you are changing thermostats, make sure you have the same one as the one you took out. Pay close attention to where the wires come off on the old one so you can remember where they go on the new one. Some people take a picture before they take them off to refer back.

When you're all done put the plastic shield back over the element and replace the insulation and the access cap. Then make sure the water heater is completely full of water before you turn the breaker back on. If the water heater isn't full and any part of the element is out of the water, it will burn out when you turn the power back on.



SQUAW LAKE
POLAR 
 Fiberglass • Spray Foam • Cellulose
 Floor Coatings • Roofing/Coatings
218-659-4351
 Tom Kallio • PolarInsulating.com


-Windows -Siding -Decks
General Contractor
 35334 HWY 2 Grand Rapids, MN
 218.327.9505
 Free Estimates #BC775961


 **Itasca Services LLC**
 Heating & Cooling
\$50 Furnace Inspection Special!
 Prepare your home for the colder months with our **\$50 Furnace Inspection** from Itasca Services LLC! Ensure your system is running efficiently and safely with a thorough check-up by our expert technicians.
 Full inspection of your furnace components
 Safety checks for peace of mind
 Expert advice on any necessary repairs or maintenance
Book your \$50 Furnace Inspection Today!
 **218-245-5449**
 Don't wait until it's too late! Get your furnace inspected now to stay warm all winter long.

Hill Brothers Electric
Small local family contractor that offers a variety of electrical services.
Openings available now.
Please call and we can schedule your electrical needs ASAP.
 Residential – Commercial
 LICENSED – INSURED – BONDED
218-966-4455
 hillsbroselectric@gmail.com 


YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR GASOLINE, ON ROAD DIESEL, OFF ROAD DIESEL, LIVE BAIT AND TACKLE, GIFT SHOP, PROPANE, GROCERY, AUTO PARTS, AND YOUR LOCAL FEED STORE.
 U.S. POST OFFICE BOXES AND STAMPS AVAILABLE HERE
 WE ARE LOCATED AT: 49926 STATE HWY 6 / P.O. BOX 26 TALMOON, MN 56628 (218)-832-3804

Should we be looking at the nuclear power option?

Education about nuclear energy is needed, Dolinski realized, if people are to form an opinion on whether to support it, especially since legislation would be needed to reverse the existing moratorium in the state on nuclear power construction.

North Itasca Electric put together a panel of experts to speak to its membership at a meeting on Oct 22. Included were:

Darrick Moe, CEO of the Minnesota Rural Electric Association; Mike Brasel, senior vice-president, Nuclear Product Solutions, Blue Wave AI Labs; Kyle Leir, manager of Resource Strategy and Development for Great River Energy; and Eric Palmer, manager of Utility Planning for Minnesota Power. State legislators Sen. Grant Hauschild and Rep. Spencer Igo also spoke to the audience.

Modern nuclear power

What is nuclear energy today? Brasel described one of the concepts for modern nuclear power, the small modular reactor (SMR), defined as a unit with output less than 300 MW (one MW will power about 500 homes). There are currently 80 different designs for SMRs, with 22 from the U.S. He said SMRs have already been placed in Russia, China and Argentina.

Constructed in a factory and moved to the site, an SMR costs less than a plant built onsite. Putting several units in one powerhouse also reduces the risk



of losing a large generating source during an outage. Another concept is the microreactor with output from one to 10 MW.

Today 20% of the state power needs are met through its two operating baseload nuclear plants, Monticello and Prairie Island, pointed out Moe, both owned by Northern States Power (Xcel Energy). Power from those plants is carbon-free.

World-wide, nuclear plants are being built, and in the U.S. some states are reversing moratoriums, like Illinois. Nationally there is a lot of energy toward doing this, said Moe. One audience member pointed out that private companies are entering the market, with Microsoft planning to repower Three Mile Island to support its computing needs, and Bill Gates developing plants in Wyoming.

In planning, Lier noted that GRE looks at providing power that is affordable, reliable and sustainable. He believes that Minnesota is getting down to a tipping point on baseline energy where nuclear may be the only option.



Brasel. A probabilistic risk assessment looks at every element in the plant with a risk standard of about one in 10-10 percent, like being struck by lightning.

New plant designs also use passive safety systems, which use gravity and natural circulation to cool the reactor core in case of failure, instead of traditional active systems which require electricity to run pumps.

Minnesota moratorium

Why can't Minnesota just build a nuclear power plant? Minnesota has had a moratorium on building new nuclear plants since 1994, primarily due to concerns over disposal of spent fuel.

Originally the federal government agreed to accept all nuclear waste. But then its designated site, Yucca Mountain in Nevada, was shut down in the wake of public activism. Some private companies are developing storage options and reactor designs that use spent fuel, but little is being done on the federal level.

However, said Brasel, dry cask storage technology is mature and the amount of waste is limited so at this time, waste is stored on site. When the plant at Genoa, Wis. was decommissioned, for instance, the waste from 20 years of operation fit into 5 casks, each the size of a small silo.

Fuel availability

The panel said that the fuel, U235, an isotope of uranium is available from mines in Canada, with some also from the U.S. The ore is converted to uranium flouride gas at a plant in New Mexico, then enriched and turned into pellets at GE and Westinghouse facilities. Those pellets, about the size of a pencil eraser, are stacked into rods to be placed arrays in a reactor vessel. New plants can use pellets that are enriched to 5%.

There are reactors that can use other fuels, said Brasel, like thorium or plutonium.

What's best for us?

How much power does North Itasca Electric need? North Itasca Electric is a small winter/nighttime peaking utility said Dolinski, where the system needs to handle large changes in demand.

He asked Kyle Leir, manager of GRE's Resource Strategy and Development and Eric Palmer, manager of MP's Utility Planning how they would design a system for the utility from the ground up.

"It's a planner's dream!" said Palmer, to start designing a system with a blank slate. First he would look at the end goal: is it to be carbon-free? Then he would optimize what was here in the area. For instance MP started with a 20-30 MW hydro plant and then built a baseload system with coal, later adding wind from the Dakotas and finally hydro from Canada.

For an overall view, Dolinski recommended the documentary Nuclear Now, available on streaming services.

Safety in design

Safety is built into current designs, said

Leir would plan for energy (like miles driven) and capacity (like vehicle size). He would use peaking plants where output can be moved up and down quickly with wind and natural gas as backup sources. Then he would consider nuclear for baseloading, pointing out that the plant could be built in an adjacent state. GRE's planning, he said, follows the three requirements of affordable, reliable and sustainable.

How do managers responsible for a future generation mix handle a shifting political landscape? It's not easy, indicated Palmer, to make recommendations for high dollar investments that will last 20 to 30 years. Minnesota Power looks for options that are win-win and technologies that are "future proof." For instance, one natural gas plant is being designed so it can also use up to 30% hydrogen fuel or carbon capture technology.



Minnesota legislators take questions from the audience: (l to r) Sen. Grant Hauschild and Rep. Spencer Igo.

Legislator input

Sen. Grant Hauschild assured the audience that he supports both green energy and nuclear power and believes that the state goals are unachievable without nuclear. He is working toward permitting reform and coordinating the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Department of Natural Resources reviews so that they arrive at the end of the review in agreement.

Rep. Spencer Igo is on the House Energy Committee, and has carried a bill since 2020 to abolish the moratorium. He said that legislators often get pressure from delegates from outside Minnesota on legislation based on their organizational priorities instead of Minnesota needs, like a recent carbon capture bill.

Hauschild pointed out that northern Minnesota needs fought an uphill battle, and encouraged those with friends or family in the metro area to speak to their legislators on our behalf.

An audience member from Arrowhead Cooperative, Cook County, pointed out that they were the furthest from any generating sources and would have to change their mission statement of providing safe, reliable and affordable energy if the questions on power supply were not solved.

New state 765 kV transmission backbone planned

>from p.1
 be something new for Minnesota. Great River Energy, wholesale electric provider to North Itasca Electric, certainly believes the timing is right for this as there are important benefits to 765-kV transmission. This is tried and true technology that is used in other parts of the country and the world. GRE has been working closely with MISO through their planning process to advocate for the transmission projects that are in the best interest of its member-owner cooperatives.

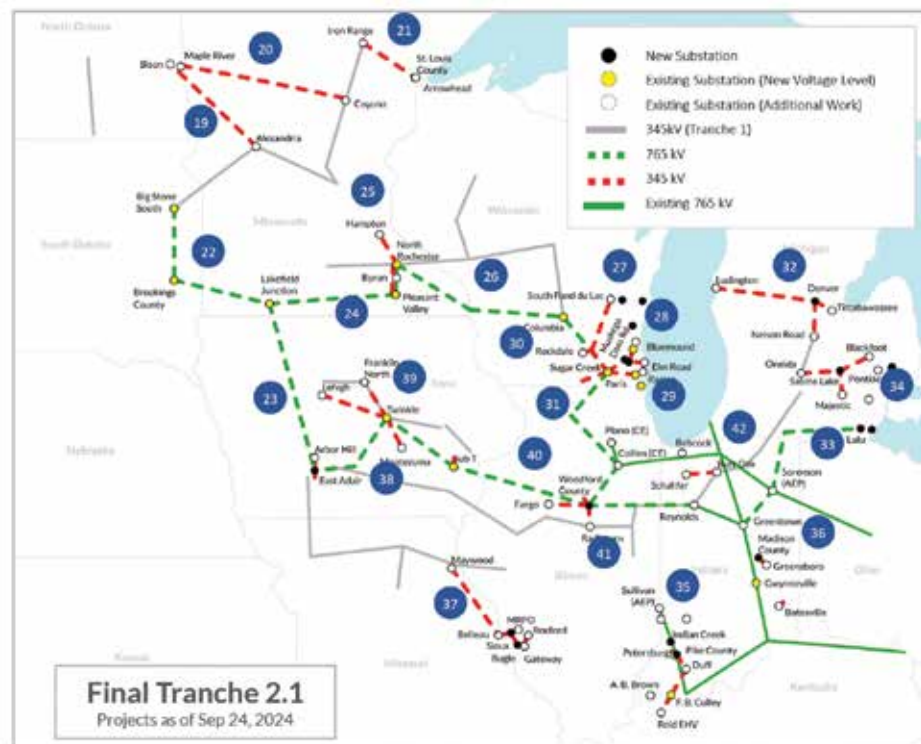
The Minnesota electric grid has reached a point where there is so much change required that a different approach is needed to maintain the

reliability of the grid in a manner which is most affordable and least impactful. Much like the situation in the 1960s when the federal highway system was first developed, Minnesota needs a new transmission superhighway for power to flow through Minnesota and the broader Midwest region.

One of the most important benefits of 765-kV transmission is the efficiency of land use, which is critical to cooperative members who host so much electric infrastructure on their property. Just one 765-kV transmission line can take the place of six single-circuit 345-kV transmission lines, which means there would be

much less land and public impact to move the same necessary amounts of power.

The map shown is this “near-final” map of this second set of projects that MISO released earlier this summer. Although there could still be changes to the portfolio before it is approved at the end of the year, we aren’t expecting many more changes and we want to share with our cooperative communities the first glance at the general areas where some new transmission may be developed in the coming years. All projects in the portfolio will require regulatory permits and will go through a rigorous routing and siting process where public input will be deeply valued. Depending



Courtesy of MISO

on what is finalized, GRE may be involved in one or more of these projects.

Like the initial stretches of the federal highway system, the likely 765-kV

transmission is a big step that Minnesotans have for Minnesota, but one continued access to which sets up Minnesota’s affordable, reliable and grid for generations carbon-free generation to come. Creating this superhighway will ensure

Fall Round Up Awards

>from p.1
 projects. Nearly 85 percent of North Itasca Electric’s members generously participate 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 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. Grants are awarded by a nine member

volunteer Trust Board. Bi-yearly application deadlines are April 1 and October 1. Applications and more information about Operation Round Up is available at www.northitascaelectric.com.

Northern Minnesota Robotics Conference (NMRC)	NMRC's Battery Boost Kits	\$390.47
Blackduck High School Trap Club	Fall Trap Season	\$390.47
Bigfork Volunteer Fire Department	Truck retooling	\$390.47
Winter fest kids fishing derby	Kids Fishing Derby	\$390.47
Christmas gifts for kids	Christmas gifts for kids	\$390.47
Town of Wirt	Playground pieces and ground cover	\$390.47
Bigfork Parent Teacher Association	Field trips or Band equipment	\$390.47
City of Squaw Lake	Annual Halloween Party	\$390.47
Kootasca Senior Citizens	New sewing machine	\$390.47
Blackduck Area Senior Center	New flooring	\$390.47
Northome School ISD 363	Behavioral Health Department	\$390.47
Bigfork Football	Headset purchase	\$390.47
Bigfork Baseball	Pitching mound	\$390.47
Northern Itasca Hospital District (Bigfork Valley)	Hyperice Normatec- Recovery system	\$390.47
Northern Itasca Hospital District (Bigfork Valley Communities)	Prints and framing of prints for Bigfork Valley LTC	\$248.20
Northern Itasca Hospital District (Bigfork Valley Communities)	New TV and TV stand for LTC	\$387.99
Northern Itasca Hospital District (Bigfork Valley)	Small exercise balls and yoga blocks -elder fitness	\$225.84
Mizpah community events	Easter egg hunt/Home town christmas	\$390.47
Mizpah community events	Trunk or Treat	\$300.00
New Beginnings Pregnancy and Family Support	Free infant car seat program	\$390.47
Northome School	Ice fishing rod building	\$390.47
Bigfork Music Boosters	Rebuild Bigfork School Band	\$390.47
Northern Itasca Emergency Food Shelf Inc	Thanksgiving meal	\$1,000.00
Wildwood-Plum Creek Cemetery Comm. Assoc.	Purchase of additional fencing to fix broken ones	\$100.00
ISD 317 Deer River High School	Engaging texts for middle school/high school	\$147.59
Kelliher School Post Prom	Post Prom 2025	\$390.47
Bigfork Improvement Group	Bigfork Toys	\$390.47
Northome Prom	Prom	\$390.47
Grade 4 at Bigfork Elementary	Snow Fun Day	\$390.47
		\$10,999.96

Bigfork Mini-Storage

37944 Hwy 14

Bigfork, MN. 56628

Call 612-240-2610

Located off of Hwy 14 and 38 North of Town.

- Gated Entry/driveway.
- Engineered all Steel Buildings
- Insulated ceilings
- 24 hour access / 7 days a week.
- Many Small and Large sizes available.
- Only 1 mile north of town.
- Several payment options available.

Go to BigforkStorage.com

24/7 for sizes and availability

Creek Bank Printing

Banners Mugs

Plaques Magnetic Signs

Photo Panels Tumblers

Apparel Signs & More

*ATV License Plates *Boat License *Signs

*Stainless Steel Mugs & Tumblers

Personalized with logos photos etc.

218-259-9041

Bigfork, MN

creekbankprinting.com

Fall Range Sale

LREL6321S Regular \$885.30 SALE \$796.77

LG 6.3 c.f. 30" Stainless, electric range. 5 radiant elements (left & right rear) are 6" 1200W, (front right & front left) are expandable 3200W (9") 1400 (6") ultra heat. Center warming zone 7" 100W. Oven bake element 3400W. Broil 4200W. Features: bake, broil, easy clean (10 min.), keep warm, oven light, auto shutoff after 12 hours, 7 rack positions. Front control knobs for the burners & oven control type is a keypad. Has clock, kitchen timer and cook timer. Cooking complete timer, low, medium, or high beep. Has certified Sabbath mode. Smart features: Wi-Fi connectivity, ThinQ, works with Google Assistant and Amazon Alexa, SmartDiagnosis™, third party recipe app- Sidechef, Innit, Drop, Tovala. Proactive customer care service has a storage drawer.



FCRE3062AW Regular \$787.80 SALE \$709.02

Frigidaire 30" white, electric smooth top range with even temp & steam clean. Has electronic clock and timer, self cleaning mode, keep warm function and child lock. Features: oven light, temperature display, hot surface indicator light, delay bake, delay clean, steam cleaning, delay start, control lockout, hidden bake element, Even Temperature technology. Adjustable Volume Feedback, change between continuous bake setting or 12-hour energy saving feature. Bake element 2500W, Broil 3000W, storage drawer. 5 elements front right 9" 3200W, rear right 6" 1400W, front left 9" 3000W, front right 6" 1200W.



GEC-NN-JB256OMWW Regular \$741.00 SALE \$666.90

GE 30" white, free standing electric range with 4 coil burners. 5 c.f. oven capacity, Sensi-Temp technology, dual element bake, Sabbath mode, self-clean, and storage drawer.



GCRG3060BF Regular \$985.40 SALE \$886.86

Frigidaire 30" smudge-proof stainless steel, gas range with total convection and air fry. Cooking controls: air fry, bake, bake time, broil, clock, convection bake, convection roast, cook time, delay clean, delay start, door lock, keep warm, kitchen timer, light, lockout, no preheat, numerical keypad, off, oven light, probe, self-clean, slow cook, start, steam bake and steam roast, temperature display, timer on/off, user preferences. Cooking controls functions: change between continuous bake setting or 12-hour energy saving feature. Program to Fahrenheit or Celsius or silent control panel. 2 cast iron cooking grates, 1 cast iron griddle.



JB655DKBB Regular \$1054.95 SALE \$949.45

GE 30" black, electric range. No preheat air fry, 1- 12"/9" dual element, 1- 9"/6" power boil element. 5 c.f. oven, self clean, cook time, time delay, timer.



FFCF13083AS Regular \$1113.09 SALE \$1101.78

Frigidaire 30" stainless, 5.3 c.f. 4 burner element, slide in front control, self-cleaning, induction range with convection. Adjustable leg heights, delay bake/delay start, oven light, Sabbath mode.



LREL6323S Regular \$999.23 SALE \$899.31

LG 6.3 c.f. 30" stainless, electric range. 5 radiant elements (left & right rear) are 6" 1200W, (front right & front left) expandable 3200W (9") 1400 (6") ultra heat. Center warming zone 7" 100W easy clean. Oven bake element 3400W. Broil 4200W. Bake, broil, easy clean (10 min), keep warm, oven light, auto shutoff after 12 hours, 7 rack positions. Front control knobs for the burners & oven control type is a keypad. Clock, kitchen timer, cook timer. Cooking complete timer low, med., high beep. Has certified Sabbath mode. Smart features: Wi-Fi connectivity, ThinQ, works with Google Assistant and Amazon Alexa, SmartDiagnosis™, third party recipe app- Sidechef, Innit, Drop, Tovala. Proactive customer care service, convection fan, storage drawer.



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

Letter to Santa

North Itasca Electric's Letter to Santa

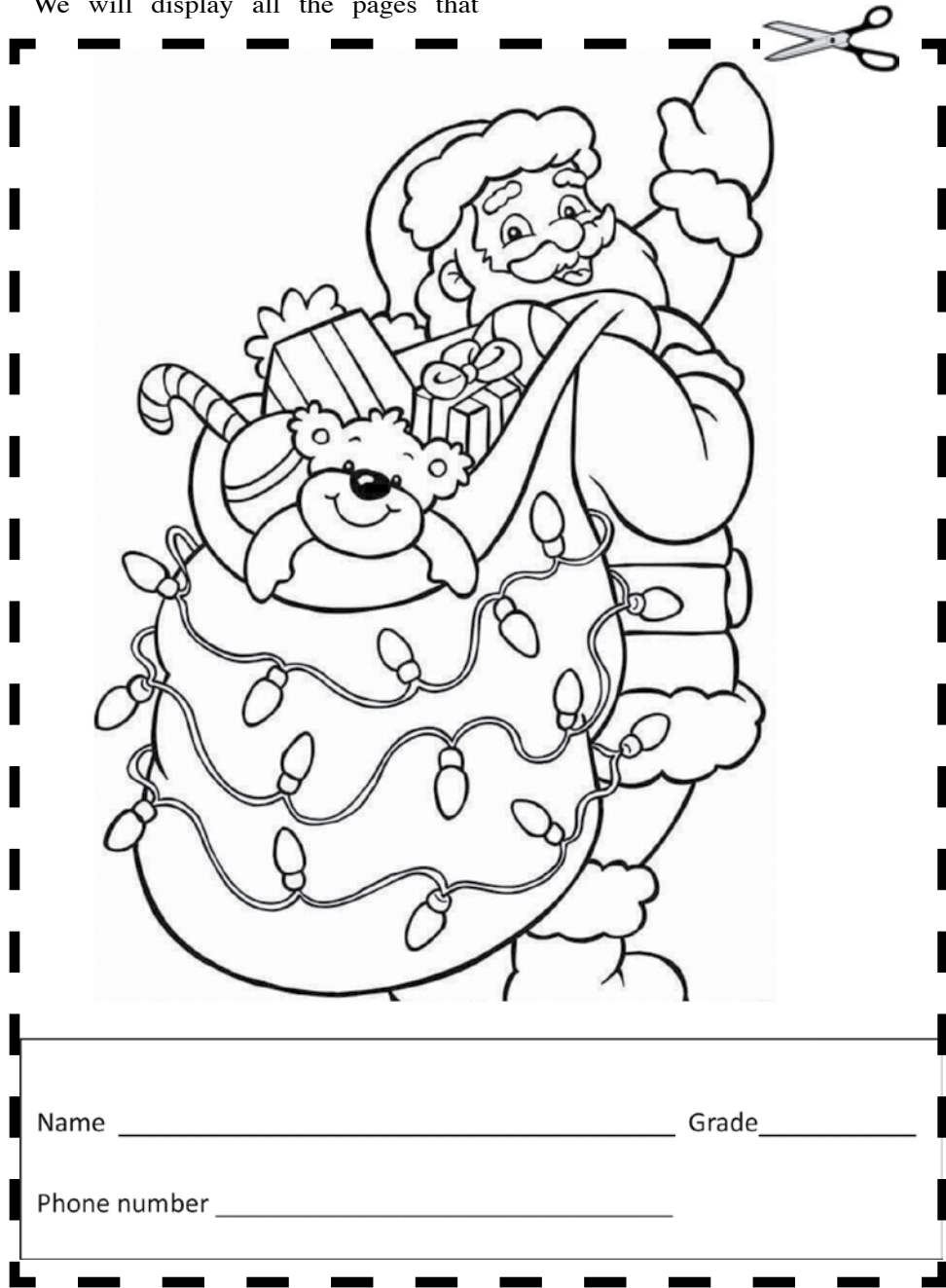
Dear Santa: _____

Signed: _____

Grade: _____

Coloring Contest:

One winner will be picked from kindergarten, first, second and third grade. Please turn in your entries by **Friday Dec. 6**. 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 pages that come in and judge them on Dec. 9. Coloring pages will all be published in the January WATTS News unless for some reason you wish them not to be. Winners will be called - please pick up prizes as soon as you can!



Name _____ Grade _____

Phone number _____

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!

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 roxanep@nieci.com.

I look forward to seeing lots of good recipes. Please have them here by Friday, Dec. 6 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.

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

THE SHOP

Four Season Small Engine Sales & Service
 306 Main Ave Bigfork, MN 56628
 218-743-3666 or 800-431-1477
 www.wearetheshop.com
 M-F 10:00 AM - 2:00PM

Edward Jones Member SIPC

Retiring soon? Let's talk.

Brad Johnson, AAMS™
 Financial Advisor
 72 S.E. 7th Street Suite A
 Grand Rapids, MN 55744
 218-327-7280

MKT-5894N-A edwardjones.com

Bigfork, MN

WILD PINE BUILDERS

Tom Urman 218-244-3553
 Dustin Ritter 218-256-8598

License # BC706317

Keep your investments safe by hiring your local hometown licensed contractor.

- New construction
- Garages
- Remodels
- Reroofs

Check us out on Facebook
 License # BC706317 WildPineBuilders@msn.com

Edge Center Gallery

The current show at the Edge Gallery which features photography and paintings from artists Paul Rome and David Mataya has been extended through Nov. 9.

The next show runs from Nov. 14 through Dec. 15 and features Native painter Jason Hirdler and Native drummer Chris Baldwin. Keep your eye out for the Artist Reception, which will be announced at a later date!

Visit edgecenterarts.org for more information.



Paintings by Jason Hirdler and drums by Chris Baldwin.



Classic Movie Series

Right after the November election, a great musical comedy should be just what the doctor ordered. Fortunately, the Classic Movie Series in Bigfork has just what we all need. *Top Hat* (1935) stars the greatest musical team ever, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, and features five tunes written for the film by legendary song writer, Irving Berlin.

Top Hat will be shown at 6:30 p.m at the Edge Center Theater in Bigfork on Thursday, November 14. FREE! To paraphrase Irving Berlin, you will find the happiness you seek when you see Fred and Ginger dancing cheek to cheek.

Top Hat is a nutty screwball comedy of mistaken identity played on stunning art deco sets. The main attraction, however, is Fred and Ginger's dancing together, high points in American musical movies. The picture was a huge success, the second top grossing movie of the year, and studio RKO's biggest hit of the decade. *Top Hat* gave relief from the Great Depression just as it will relieve our election depression now.

DECEMBER CLASSIC MOVIE: John Wayne and his two outlaw partners try to save an infant newborn in a Western for the holidays, *3 Godfathers* (1949). Thursday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m at the Edge.

Edge of the Wilderness Art League Art & Craft Sale
Bigfork City Hall

Friday, Nov 22 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Saturday, Nov 23 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Distinctive purses and jewelry, dryer balls, soaps, pottery, wood burned items, felted pieces, handpainted decorative items, stained glass, and much more.

Plus a bake sale!

FIRST STATE BANK
OF BIGFORK

BIGFORK OFFICE 218-743-3145
www.fsbigfork.com
KELLIHER OFFICE 218-647-8222

SCS SPECIALTY CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

SCS-MN.COM
35334 HWY 2 Grand Rapids
218-327-9505

Land Clearing - Site Prep - Road Building
- Shoreline Restoration - Demolition

Licensed Septic Installation

Concrete Flat Work - Foundations

General Contractors License #BC775961
SSTS License #L4180

FREE ESTIMATES!!!

SharMar Optical Solutions
EYEGLASS BARN

Exceptional Bargains
(218) 452-1134

Marcell Family Center • Tues., Thurs. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. or by appointment

WILLIAMS SEPTIC & ELECTRIC, INC.

Licensed & Bonded

- Septic Installation Inspection Design
- Hauling & Excavating
- Residential & Commercial Wiring

Contact: Brian Williams at (218) 659-4216

P.O. Box 633 / 52034 Silk Rd. Squaw Lake, MN 56681

ANDY'S SKID STEER SERVICES LLC

Andy Dreher
(218) 556-3106
Andy's Skidsteer Services LLC

BRUSH REMOVAL, DIRT WORK, TRAIL MAKING, SNOW REMOVAL, AND MORE

EDGE OF THE WILDERNESS REALTY

Serving ALL of Itasca County
Call us for all of your Real Estate Needs!

MARCELL OFFICE
48921 STATE HWY 38
MARCELL, MN 56637
218-832-4000

GRAND RAPIDS OFFICE
501 S. POKEGAMA AVE
SUITE 102
GRAND RAPIDS, MN 55744
218-326-3411

WWW.EOWREALTY.COM
love where you live

Scenic Rivers Clinics

Medical, Dental, and Behavioral Health
Quality and Compassion
For Every Patient for Life

Cook • Bigfork • Tower • Eveleth • Northome
Floodwood • Big Falls

Same Day Appointments Available
24-Hour Emergency Care in Cook and Bigfork
(877) 541-2817
www.ScenicRiversHealth.org

Spring Lake Heating and Air

WE SERVICE ALL MAKES & MODELS
"OUR SPECIALTY IS HEATING AIR CONDITIONING VENTILATION"

Charlie Hazzard
218-259-8903

RESIDENTIAL-COMMERCIAL-INDUSTRIAL
SERVICE-REPAIR-REPLACEMENT-RETROFIT
Over 27 years of personal experience in HVAC/R
LICENSED, BONDED, INSURED & LOCALLY FAMILY OWNED
Springlakeheating@gmail.com

Arts on the Edge

by Sandra LeBlanc-Boland

Please mark Saturday, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m. to come in to the Edge Center in Bigfork and enjoy Bemidji-based "Figuring It Out - Abello Acoustics Band," a musical group of siblings and their dad.

When you hear Figuring It Out play, you never know what style they will pull out that day - swing, bluegrass, traditional folk, Celtic, contemporary, Sons of the Pioneers, '50s pop and more. This band loves a wide range of music but generally sticks to acoustic.

Officially established in 2016, the Band has made four albums, including "Figuring It Out" (2018), "Just A Jaunt" (2020), "Fremont Canyon" (2022) and "Smile! You're Alive" (2022). In addition to CDs, the band also has lots of videos from their different performances which you can watch on their website at: www.figuringitoutbluegrass.com.

The band includes: Louisa on guitar, piano, accordion and vocals; Olivia on upright bass, cello and vocals; Elijah on the 5-string fiddle, upright bass and vocals; Adelynn on mandolin, banjo, guitar, upright bass and vocals; Abram on banjo, guitar, upright bass and vocals; Greta on ukulele and vocals; Georgiana on fiddle and vocals; Hazel on guitar and vocals; Gideon on banjo and vocals; and Andy (dad) on fiddle and vocals.

Figuring It Out loves to perform at a variety of different venues, taking each performance as a new adventure.

So take a break from the deer stand, or make this your "alternative to hunting night out"! Either way, we'd love to see you!

Tickets \$15 for adults, \$5 for students. Available at the door or online at: edgecenterarts.org.

Call (218)743-6670 for further information.

The Edge Center is located at 101 2nd Ave., Bigfork, MN 56628

Hunters' Suppers

Friday, Nov. 8

Northwoods Saddle Club

Location: Effie Community Center

Time: 4 to 7 p.m.

Cost: Suggested donation, \$10

Menu: Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, corn, cranberry sauce, dinner roll and dessert.

B.I.G. Community Center

Location: Main Street, Bigfork

Time: 5-8 p.m.

Cost: Suggested donation, \$8

Menu: Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll and dessert.

Also: Bake sale and silent auction

Mustang Volleyball

Location: Senior Center, Northome

Time: 4-7 p.m.

Cost: Free Will donation

Menu: Meat balls, mashed potatoes, corn, buns and dessert

Saturday, Nov. 9

Balsam Volunteer Fire Department

Location: Balsam Community Center

Time: 5-8 p.m.

Cost: \$15, children 10 and under free

Menu: Roast beef dinner w/mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, coleslaw, roll and dessert

Also: Raffle, tickets \$2

FILTHY CLEAN (218) 327-9186
www.filthycleanmn.com

WE DON'T CUT CORNERS, WE CLEAN THEM!

• Office Cleaning	• Residential Cleaning
• Carpet/Upholstery Cleaning	• Debris/Trash Removal
• Window Washing	• Emergency Clean-Up
• Construction Clean-Up	• Insurance Claims
• Floor Care/Waxing	• Water Damage Cleaning
• Restroom Sanitizing	• Fire/Smoke Damage
• Janitorial and Custodial	• Odor removal
• Pressure Washing	• Grout Cleaning/Sealing
• Janitorial Supplies	• General Cleaning and More

Jesse Lake Lutheran Free Community Meal

All are Welcome!

Tuesday, Nov. 19 4 p.m.-6 p.m.

meat loaf, mashed potato & veggie

45834 County Road 4 (2 miles from Talmoon)

Drawing for a \$25 Spring Lake Store Gift Certificate!

Lakeside Lumber & Hardware

Office 218-832-3300 Cell 425-233-1835

Eric Elhardt
Owner

www.lakesidemarcell.com | 49208 State Hwy 38
eric@lakesidemarcell.com | Marcell, MN 56657

Powell Excavating & Tree Service

www.robpowellexcavating.com

• Landscaping	• Paving Stone
• Excavating	• Gravel
• Land Clearing	• Class 5
• Boulder Walls	• Sand
• Site Prep	• Top Soil
• Food Plots	• Black Dirt
• Road Building	• Septic Install
• Driveways	• Stump Grinding
• Culverts	• Wood Chips
• Tree Planting / Removal	

218-244-7152

49407 State Hwy 38
Marcell Mn 56657

MN Up North Realty

WWW.MNUPNORTHREALTY.COM

Call Your Local Real Estate Agents!

Dave Ritter-Broker 218-360-1200
Cheryl Ritter-Clerk 218-360-4111
Jason Ritter-Agent 218-244-4711
Lisa Ritter-Agent 218-259-4249

218-832-3121

PEDERSON HOVILA AGENCY
INSURANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES

friendly, personal service for over 40 years

- AUTO, HOME, FARM
- ANNUITIES, LIFE INSURANCE for all stages of life
- MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS, LONG TERM CARE EXPENSE PLANS AND ALTERNATIVES

218-743-3545

Call Kevin for a no-obligation quote or policy review

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

Grief Support Group

Thursday mornings at 10am
Jesse Lake Lutheran Church
45834 County Rd 4, Talmoon

For more information, contact
Marion Leimbach, 320-293-5741 or
email pineloft@bigfork.net

M.A.D. GUTTERS

Office: 218-743-6448 SEAMLESS GUTTER INSTALLATIONS
Cell: 218-929-7134 www.madgutters.com

THE ULTIMATE GUTTER PROTECTION SYSTEM

- Keeps leaves, pine needles and seed pods out of your gutters
- Fits on your existing gutters
- Gutterglove's patented design eliminates gutter cleaning forever!
- Strongest & most durable gutterguard on the market today!

Gutterglove PRO HEAVY DUTY FREE ESTIMATES
GUTTER PROTECTION

GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

800-252-1166 or 811

Call before you dig

ITASCA RELIABLE
insurance agency, inc

Choice You Deserve.
Service You Trust.

Our Experienced Agents are Committed to Our Community and Your Needs!

1121 Hwy 169 East • Grand Rapids, MN
218-326-8518 1-800-873-1471

AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS • HEALTH

Visit Our Website for On-line Quotes.
www.itascareliableinsurance.com

— Community Education —
Register for classes at 743-3444, or online at www.getlearning.org,

ART CHAT

Date: Sat., Nov. 9

Register by: Nov. 4

Time: 10 a.m.

Location: Marcell Family Center

Cost: Free

Friendly gathering to share the love of arts. Bring a piece of your artwork or a favorite piece and discuss methods, materials and challenges.

Softening your water with minimal salt

On Nov. 7, Itasca Waters will host its last noon webinar of the year, “Chloride Effects on Our Water Resources and Ecosystem: What We Can Do About It,” with Alycia Overbo, U of M PhD candidate.

Salt pollution is an increasing concern in Minnesota, as salt use for water softening, deicing roads, and other applications can lead to increasing chloride levels in our lakes, streams, and rivers. Elevated chloride levels can be harmful to aquatic ecosystems and species like dragonflies and freshwater mussels.

This presentation will give an overview of alternatives to home water softening as well as some of the costs and benefits of these technologies. Register at: <https://itascawaters.org/water-wisdom-2024>

‘How to Say North’

The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to host “How to Say North” with the Sutter Brothers. The Sutter Brothers present a program that blends poems from Bart’s new book, Cotton Grass, with Ross’ versions of songs and tunes from the American, Celtic, and Scandinavian folk traditions. This free program is 50 minutes long and is geared towards adults. It will be at the Grand Rapids Area Library at 1 p.m on Thurs., Nov. 7.

This program, sponsored by ALS, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACFH). To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, please see our calendar at www.alplib.info.

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 12:30-4:30 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

Outdoor skills & stewardship

Try these Department of Natural Resources “Outdoor Skills and Stewardship” webinars. Each webinar begins at noon on Wednesdays and lasts less than an hour. For more information and to register, visit dnr.state.mn.us/fishwildlife/outreach.

Nov. 6: Minnesota’s rehorses

Nov. 13: Fall birding and photography

Nov. 20: Accessible hunting and fishing stories and opportunities

Nov. 27: What’s up with perch in Minnesota?

B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork

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

Bingo every Thursday 1-3 p.m.

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.

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.

Online 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.

area bookmobile stops

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

Tuesdays: Oct. 5, Nov. 5, 26
12:00 - 1 p.m. Bowstring Store
2:30-3:30 p.m. Effie: Hwys 1 and 38
4:00-5:30 p.m. Bigfork: City Hall

Thursdays: Oct. 17; Nov. 7
11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Togo: Junction Bar & Grill

Mondays: Oct. 14; Nov. 4, 25
12:30 -1:00 p.m. Gemmel; Community 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*

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

PS Form 3526
Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation
(All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP INC/WATTS NEWS	2. Publication Number 16849	ISSN	3. Filing Date 10/23/2024
4. Issue Frequency MONTHLY	5. Number of Issues Published Annually 12	6. Annual Subscription Price \$ 12.00	
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication PO BOX 227 BIGFORK, Itasca, MN 56628-0227			Contact Person BRAD DOLINSKI Telephone (218) 743-3131
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher PO BOX 227 BIGFORK, MN 56628-0227			
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor			
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) North Itasca Electric Co-op PO Box 227 Bigfork, MN 56628-0227			
Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Sally Sedgwick PO Box 43 Spring Lake, MN 56880-0043			
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address) North Itasca Electric Co-op PO Box 227 Bigfork, MN 56628-0227			
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)			
Full Name North Itasca Electric Co-op		Complete Mailing Address PO BOX 227, BIGFORK, MN 56628-0227	
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None			
Full Name		Complete Mailing Address	
13. Publication Title NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP INC/WATTS NEWS			
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 10/23/2024			
15. Extend and Nature of Circulation			Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
a. Total Numbers of Copies (Net press run)			0
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)			
(1) Mailed Outside County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)			4797
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)			135
(3) Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS			0
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)			0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), (4))			4932
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)			
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside County Copies included on PS Form 3541			0
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541			0
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)			0
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)			25
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), (4))			25
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)			4957
g. Copies not Distributed			5
h. Total (Sum of 15f and 15g)			4962
i. Percent Paid ((15c / 15g) times 100)			99.50 %
16. If total circulation includes electronic copies, report that circulation on lines below.			
a. Paid Electronic Copies			0
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies			4932
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies			4957
d. Percent Paid (Both Print and Electronic Copies)			99.00 %
<input type="checkbox"/> I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (Electronic and Print) are paid above a nominal price.			
17. Publication of Statement of Ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required. in the 11/01/2024 issue of this publication.			
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner	Title	Date	
Brad Dolinski	CEO	10/23/2024 10:52:26 AM	
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).			

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

Community News

Email editor at sedgwick@paulbunyan.net,

~ November Calendar ~

Bigfork

The Bigfork Toys Program needs your help! With your generosity, area children will see more gifts under their tree this Christmas as well as a new Coat, Snowpants and Boots! Donations can be dropped off or mailed to First State Bank of Bigfork, P.O. Box 257, Bigfork, MN 56628.

The Edge of the Wilderness Art League brings their artistic talents to Bigfork City Hall again this year on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 22 and 23 for their annual Art and Craft Sale, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday. This year they have been working on purses, jewelry, dryer balls, soaps, pottery, wood burned items, felted pieces, handpainted decorative items, and stained glass. There will also be a bake sale.

Sand Lake

Experience something truly amazing the Saturday after Thanksgiving, Nov. 30. The 2024 Nativity Festival: A Journey to Bethlehem at the Sand Lake Alliance Church will feature over 200 Nativities from around the world that are from the collection of Susan DeVries. Take time to pause and experience the true meaning of Christmas. Doors will open at 1 p.m. and there will be refreshments and live Christmas music all day. At 7 p.m. join a Carol Sing. Children can enjoy activities at the children's table. The Sand Lake Alliance Church is on Co. Rd. 4 west of Spring Lake.

General Interest

There is something for everyone as the fall craft season starts! November 2 is the Bigfork PTA craft and vendor sale at Bigfork School and the Christmas Traditions sale and baked potato luncheon at the Northome Senior Center. The large annual Holiday Craft and Vendor show at Blackduck School is on November 9. Bigfork Valley Senior Services hosts its sale on Nov. 12 at the hospital the Edge of the Wilderness Art League is at Bigfork City Hall on the 22 and 23, and the Bear River Bazaar is on Nov. 29 and 30. Be sure to mark your calendar!



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.

- 2 Christmas Traditions Craft Sale and Baked Potato Luncheon at Northome Senior Center 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Lunch \$8, coffee and bar, \$3. Handmade items.
- 2 Bigfork PTA hosts a Craft and Vendor Event, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Bigfork School
- 3 Daylight Savings ends, set clocks back one hour.
- 3-11 Scholastic Book Fair at Northome School
- 4 No school, Bigfork, Deer River Northome.
- 5 Election Day
- 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_etl@msn.com.
- 7 Jesse Lake Lutheran hosts a Grief Support Group at 10 a.m. on Thursday mornings. For more information, call Marion at (320) 293-5741.
- 7 "Practical Water Wisdom" online programs over the lunch hour, register at ItascaWaters.org. November program: "Low and No-Salt Water Softening and Conditioning" with Alycia Overboe, University of Minnesota.
- 8 Veteran's Day program at Northome School, 10-11 a.m. All are welcome. Lunch served with RSVP by Nov. 1 at (218) 897-5275.
- 8,9 Hunters' Suppers
- 9 Holiday Craft and Vendor Show, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Blackduck School. Gym, multipurpose room. One hour free childcare provided, concessions, hourly raffles.
- 9 Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Marcell Community Church, 5-7 p.m. Turkey dinner with all the fixings! Free.
- 9 Edge Center in Bigfork hosts the Bemidji family band "Figuring It Out - Abello Acoustics Band, 7 p.m. Tickets \$15 for adults, \$5 for students.
- 10 Winter Workshops making holiday decor at Harvest Moon Greenhouse, 12337 Town Road 425, Northome. Sundays through Dec. 15. \$35. See Facebook to RSVP or call (507) 456-7611.
- 11 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 11 Veterans Day. North Itasca Electric offices **CLOSED**.
- 11 Annual Veterans Day dinner hosted by the American Legion Waldron-Flaat Post 182 at Effie Community Center, 4 p.m.
- 11 Blackduck ISD 32 School Board meets, 6 p.m. in the Media Center.
- 11 ISD 317 School Board meets at Deer River HS, 6 p.m. Public forum 5:45 p.m.
- 12 Craft Fair at Bigfork Valley 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Call (218) 743-4144 or email bkelly@BigforkValley.org to reserve a table. Benefits senior services.
- 12 Bigfork Valley Hospital board meets in public meeting, 9 a.m. Note change of date for November.
- 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 ISD 318 School Board meeting at Administrative Board Room, 601 SW 7th St, Grand Rapids or at watchictv.org, 6 p.m. Open Forum, 6:30 p.m. Meeting.
- 13 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m..
- 14 Classic Movies presents *Top Hat* (1935) with Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, featuring songs by Irving Berlin. 6:30 p.m. at the Edge Center. Free.

Area Church Directory

Alvwood Community Church Sun 10:00a 58712 Co. Rd. 131 Blackduck 56630 218-659-4681	First Presbyterian Church, BF Sun 10:15a 109 Ash St. Bigfork 56628 218-743-3783	Old Scenic Community Church Sun 9:00a 25747 Co. Rd. 340 Bigfork 56628 218-743-3953
Balsam Bible Chapel Sun 10:00a 41516 Scenic Hwy 7 Bovey 55709 218-245-1960	Gemmel Community Church Sun 10:00a 10609 Town Rd 34 Gemmel 56660 218-897-5966	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
Bear River Lutheran Church Sun 10:00a 11141 Hwy 22 Cook 55723 218-376-1012	Good Hope Church - Bigfork Sun 10:00a 101 Golf Course Ln. Bigfork, MN 56628 218-556-9856	Sand Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a 55581 Co. Rd 4 Spring Lake 56680 218-659-2872 Church website: www.sandlakealliancechurch.org
Bethesda Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a Mizpah 56660 218-897-5654	Grace Community Church (ELCA) Sun 10:15a 401 State Hwy 38 N Bigfork 56628 218-743-3368	St. Catherine's Catholic Church Sat 4:00p 52265 State Hwy 46 Squaw Lake 56681 218-743-3255
Bowstring Chapel Sun 10:15a 45114 Co Rd 133 Deer River 56636 218-832-3171	Hope Lutheran Church Sun 10:30 a.m. 12234 Third St. Northome 56661 218-897-5654	St. Michael Catholic Church Sat 7:00p 12026 Lake St Northome 56661 218-743-3255
Calvary Covenant Sun 10:30a 54764 Co. Rd. 31 Northome 56661 218-897-5684	Jehovah's Witnesses Tu 7:00p., Sun 10:00a Hwy 38 Bigfork 56628 218-743-3275	Suomi Evangelical Lutheran Church Sun 10:30a 42935 Co. Rd. 48 Deer River 56636 218-832-3883
Centennial Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a Hwy 46 Squaw Lake 56681 218-259-0115	Jesse Lake Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a 45834 Co. Rd. 4 Talmoon 56637 218-832-3883	True Life Church Sun 10:00a 45976 Terry Talmoon 56637 218-244-7089
Deer River Bible Church Sun 10:00a 33276 State Highway 6 Deer River 56636 218-246-9570	Marcell Community Church Sun 10:30a 49103 State Hwy 38 Marcell 56657 218-832-3200	Church directory sponsored by North Itasca Electric Cooperative, send changes to editor, sedgwick@paulbunyan.net
Dora Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a 59329 Co Rd 145 Northome 56661 218-659-4551	Northome Community Church Sun 10:00a 12071 Bartlett St. Northome 56661 218-897-5040	
Effie Fredheim Lutheran Church (ELCA) Sun 8:30a Hwy 1 Effie 56639 218-743-3368	Northwoods Chapel Sun 9:00a 50539 Mushgee Rd. (corner of Co. Rd. 622) Deer River 56636 218-659-2784	

- 14 No school, Bigfork
- 15 No school, Deer River, Bigfork
- 18 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m. Note rescheduled date.
- 19 Jessie Lake Lutheran free community meal 4-6 p.m. November meal is meat loaf.
- 20 Stitch-n-Bitch meets at the B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork the 3rd Wednesday of every month, 5-7 p.m. More info, call Krista at (218) 410-2258.
- 22, 23 Annual Art and Craft Sale by Edge of the Wilderness Art League. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fri., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat. at the Bigfork City Hall.
- 25 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 26 Northwoods Quilters meet 4th Tuesday at Marcell Town Hall, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Show 'n Tell and quilting techniques. Contact starr5848@arvig.net
- 28 Thanksgiving.
- 28, 29 No school, all schools. North Itasca Electric offices **CLOSED**.
- 29, 30 Bear River Bazaar. Questions? Call or text Janelle, (307) 996-6541 or email driscollrost@gmail.com
- 30 2024 Nativity Festival: Road to Bethlehem at Sand Lake Alliance Church on Co. Rd. 4 west of Spring Lake, 1 p.m. through the afternoon. Live music. 7 p.m. Carol Sing. Refreshments.

Gift Nest at Bigfork Valley set to reopen in December, seeks volunteers



The Gift Nest, located at Bigfork Valley, is preparing to reopen its doors this December. The reopening plan aims to operate the gift shop at no additional cost to Bigfork Valley. To help this effort, we are looking for volunteers and/or support.

Community members interested in volunteering in the Gift Nest or assisting with the reopening are encouraged to contact Bernie Hough or LaDonna Cole at thenestgift@yahoo.com. You can also call Bigfork Valley Human Resources at (218)743-3776 to inquire. Watch Bigfork Valley's website and Facebook page for the Grand Opening.

An Old Fashioned General Store

Spring Lake Store

218-832-3626

Happy Thanksgiving!

Turkey Drawing:
Sign up at the store and say what you are Thankful for!

Hours
Mon-Thurs: 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.
Fri-Sat: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sun. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Cheeses, deli meats, groceries, gifts, WiFi, post office, Fireside Room

State to hold land auction in November

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has state lands for sale in Aitkin, Cook, Itasca, and St. Louis counties. Six rural and lakeshore properties, including three in Itasca County are for sale, providing several recreational opportunities.

Annual land sales help the DNR optimize its land holdings and meet its responsibility to maximize recreational, conservation, and economic opportunities for the state. The properties for sale in November are school trust lands. The federal government granted these lands to the state to provide a continuous source of income for public education.

The revenue from the one-time sale of these lands will be allocated to the Permanent School Fund to support K-12 public education across Minnesota.

For a map of the locations, see www.dnr.state.mn.us/lands_minerals/landsale/map

• recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes • recipes •

Zucchini Soup

- 3 cups diced zucchini
- 2 strips of bacon
- 2 cups of beef stock or 2 cubes of bouillon in 2 cups of water
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 small bud garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon sweet basil
- 2 Tablespoons chopped parsley
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper

Combine and cook 30 minutes. Put into blender and garnish with Parmesan cheese.

Serve hot or cold.



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.

CANINE CHARISMA

Dog Grooming and Bathing

204 Main Street
Bigfork, MN 56628
(218) 743-2721

caninecharisma@hotmail.com
www.caninecharisma.com



Buying or Selling?

CENTURY 21
Land of Lakes

721 S Pokegama Ave
Grand Rapids MN 55744

Call the *Kutschats* for Great Service and Results!

Jim 218.256.5773
Michelle 218.256.5774

Visit Our Website for Hundreds of Available Properties:

www.C21Lakes.com

Michelle & Jim Kutschat

LOVDAHL ELECTRIC

PH. 218.398.1900

LovdahlElectric@lov-elec.com

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

OLD SCENIC COMMUNITY CHURCH

25747 County Rd 340, Bigfork
Pastor Sam Ketchum
218-743-3953



A Bible Based, Christ Centered Fellowship.

Come and join us in worship, and a study of the Word.
Sunday Worship Service: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

<https://www.oldscenic.com>

6 & 14 REPAIR

218.743.4000

***FULL AUTO REPAIR**
***FRONT END ALIGNMENT**
***BRAKES *TIRES *TIRE REPAIR**
***AC SERVICE *SUSPENSION**
***HYDRAULIC HOSES *BULK OILS**

Call-Email-Stop in - for Appointment
sixand14repair@yahoo.com
43576 Co Rd 14 Bigfork, MN 56628

GENERATORS

IN STOCK

THE SHOP

306 Main Ave Bigfork, MN 56628
218-743-3666 or 800-431-1477

Poenix Contracting LLC

218-246-2740
poecon@paulbunyan.net



42298 Co Rd. 48
Deer River,
MN 56636

We specialize in building homes, not just houses.

Remodels • roofing • ICF basements...

Serving Itasca County for over 25 years.

MN #BC637472



CLASSIFIEDS

AD DEADLINE
for the DECEMBER issue: Friday, Nov. 15

-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

Dahlke Dumpsters

218-929-7228

DahlkeForestry@hotmail.com

DahlkeDumpsters.com

Flat rates on dumpster rentals!

Flexible rental times!

Great Customer Service!

Bigfork Mini-Storage

Many sizes
24 hour access.

Located off Hwy 14
just west of Hwy 38

For immediate service,
call Keith at
612-240-2610

-SERVICES-

Gus's Auto and Recycling of Bigfork

Used auto parts, steel, tires and bridge beams.

A buyer of metals. Snowplowing

Wanted: dead vehicles

Over 30 years experience

(218) 929-7117

Hm: (218) 743-3598

Gus David

Monuments and Markers

Available in granite and bronze.

Also do final dating, foundation work and cleaning.

FREE estimates. Serving your area.

Jerry Pula, sales rep.

Call (218) 743-3711

Lepinski Painting interior/exterior

Call for free estimate

20 yrs experience

218-248-0717

-WANTED-

Wanted to buy: Pontoon boat for use on Jessie Lake. Call (763) 473-3680 12/24

-FOR SALE-

For sale: Ice auger. 10" Eskimo. Runs good. \$100. Call (218) 832-3324 12/24

For sale: 24 ft skid-utility trailer, 12,000 lb tilt bed, 2 ft. beavertail. Tool box on front, slots for fork attach, 3 spares. Call Greg at (612) 300-7705. \$2,500 12/24

For sale: Electric range, glass flat top, 3 years old. Refrigerator, smaller but both freezer and refrigerator. Apartment size gas stove, good condition. Alwood area. Call (218) 639-2558 12/24

For sale: Side by Side French Door GE Refrigerator Freezer - 20 Cu. Feet, Good Condition. \$200 Call Glenn at (763) 226-6404 11/24

For sale: Leupold Spotting Scope 12x40-6MM - In excellent condition. \$700 Call (320) 493-2699 12/4

For sale: Seasoned aspen firewood. \$160 per cord. (218) 832-3208 11/24

For sale: Jazzy Select motorized wheelchair. New batteries! \$1,500 obo. Call 9218) 259-4456 11/24

For sale: Aquarium cabinet. Real wood. 26" W x 13.5"D x 27.25"H. 4 compartments. \$30 Call (218) 835-3599 11/24

-FOR SALE-

For sale: Kenmore Elite slide-in range, flat top 30" black. \$150. Microwave over-the-stove (must build in), black. \$50. Both exc. condition Call (219) 659-2778 11/24

For sale: Portable Homelite generator, 4300 W, 7.5 hp. On wheels. Good for a deer camp. \$250 obo. Call (218) 244-0832 or (218) 832-3076. 11/24

For sale: Office chair, low back. \$30. Call (218) 832-3599 11/24

For sale: Desk 40.5"W x 1.75"D x 31"H. Wood, 4 drawers. \$45. Call (218) 832-3599 11/24

For sale Dresser, real wood. 42.25"W x 14.75" D x 32.5"H. 10 drawers. \$60. Call (218) 832-3599 11/24

For sale: Early 1900s library table. 58" long x 41.5"D x 31.5"H. \$75. Call (218) 832-3599 11/24

For sale: Good used gray barnwood for crafters: \$1.50/ sq. ft. and approx. 5,800 sq. ft. available. Varying lengths between 35" - 120" long, all 5.5" wide. Prebundled in quantities of 10 boards each. Buy by the bundle or make an offer on all of it. Call Doug at (218) 659-4222. 11/24

For sale: Vintage magazines; Outdoor Life, Musky Hunter, Fishing Facts, and In-Fisherman - (1940s to 1990s). Call for prices (952) 486-0268 11/24



is looking for a full-time

Community and Business Development Specialist

This position will be responsible for the execution of work necessary to serve CEDA's Community Support Program contracts in Northome and Western Itasca County communities

\$45-\$55k annually DOQ

Hours 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. Occasional early morning and/or evening meetings may be required. For more information or to apply, email/submit your resume and cover letter by November 6, 2024 to info@cedausa.com

See the full position listing on our website
www.cedausa.com/careers/

-FOR SALE-

For sale: Storm windows:

one with screen in box frame 33.5"W x 40.5"H; eight 24"W x 52"H; two 24"W x 53"H; two 24"W x 46.5"H; one 28.5"W x 48"H; one 39.5"W x 44.5"H; one 22" W x 43.5" H; one 31"W x 29"H; one 22"W x 28"H. One storm window/door inset 29"W x 44"H. Great for crafters or cabin remodel. \$20 each or make an offer on all of them. Call Doug at (218) 659-4222. 11/24

-VEHICLES-tires-

For sale: 2004 Toyota Camry LE, 237,000 miles, \$2,800. Call (218) 259-5217 11/24

For sale: Three spare tires on 5 hole rims, P235/75R15, P195/75R15, P225/75R15. Make an offer on any/all of them. Call Doug at (218) 659-4222 11/24

-FISHING-docks, boats-

For sale: Floe dock sections. 4'x16' cedar decking. Adjustable wheel sections. 5 pieces available. Good condition. \$1,000 per section. Call (218) 256-0381 11/24

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

-FISHING-boats-

For sale: 14 ft. and 16 ft. Alumacraft fishing boats. \$300 each or best offer. At Georgene's Haven on Bowstring Lake (218) 832-3076 or cell (218) 244-0832 11/24

-FARM-

For sale: Allis Chalmers WD \$3,500/best offer. Starts and runs excellent. 12 volt system, loader w/ snow bucket, 3 pt hitch tires - good, hydraulic rams newly sealed, plugs/points new, oil change new weight system for 3 pt, tin good. Stored covered no longer have use other than the occasional tree removal. Currently stored at Marcell, MN. Call Dave (651) 368-3013 11/24

For sale: 1966 Drott/Massey crawler/loader. Everything works, 3 cyl 44 hp Perkins diesel, new gauges, rewired. \$5,000 Call (612) 839-1695 12/24

-REAL ESTATE-



For sale: Cabin to be moved. Elevated foundation on 6x6 post. 26x40 all metal exterior. Near Effie, Minn. \$25,000. Call (218) 371-9254 11/24

ADDRESS CHANGE

Name _____

Box/Street _____

City/State _____

Zip + 4 _____ County _____

Send to: North Itasca Electric Co-op P.O. Box 227 Bigfork, MN 56628

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.

When Boswell closes, what then?

by Sally Sedgwick

By the end of 2029, the state of Minnesota has mandated that the 400 MW unit at Minnesota Power's Boswell plant in Cohasset must stop using coal as a fuel. Five years later, the remaining 500 MW unit must also stop using coal.

What does this mean?

Itasca County Commissioner Terry Snyder brought that news into perspective at a recent Energy Transition Town Hall in Bigfork hosted by the Itasca Economic Development Corporation (IEDC). The Boswell plant provides 18% of the total county budget (less the nursing home and IMCare). It provides a full 60% of the budget for Cohasset. If that tax base goes away, what will replace it?

But the implications are even larger. Snyder pointed out that if there is a 5% increase in costs, the county probably would have to shut the doors of its nursing home. In fact, explained Kristi Kane, director of the Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging, an increase in fixed costs is the reason for the majority of business closures. This is a concern for small business, but also big industry like mining or paper mills that the area can't afford to lose, said Snyder.

Beyond the balance sheets, the loss of jobs - and thus skilled workers and their families - affects the number of vol-

unteers who staff emergency services. Even the ability to attract professionals is affected as communities downsize, Kane pointed out. Currently, Minnesota Power employs about 165 at its Boswell plant.

"Now the cart is ahead of the horse," said Brad Dolinski, CEO of North Itasca Electric. "We're here because things happen at the capital." Mandates have shifted the sources of pollution elsewhere, but air contaminants spread globally, and effort made here has a minimal impact on that pollution compared to its local impact.

Silver lining

But not all is dark. We are in a moment of time, explained Tamara Lowney, CEO of IEDC, that offers opportunity. By discussing this shared situation, ideas on how to adapt to a new environment, rebuild the tax base and develop relationships can grow.

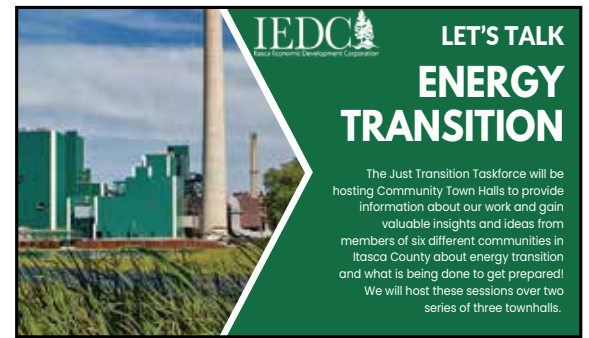
Also because we are in this situation, Lowney said, there is the possibility that grant money will be made available. Companies need to be aware of any opportunities because they may have short application deadlines.

About a year ago, the IEDC brought together a taskforce of stakeholders to discuss the closures on the horizon. This year they have held town hall discussions in six communities.

Those ideas have been assembled into broad topics (shown with a few of the bullet points):

- Developing entrepreneur and business opportunities: Create infrastructure and resources for startups. Use resources such as water and wood. Add new value-added products.
- Mobilizing community engagement: Develop a wide awareness of issue. Create survey and website.
- Leverage partnerships and advocacy: Work toward permitting reform. Coordinate with other coal communities and Leech Lake Band of Chippewa. Engage with legislators.
- Promote economic and community development: Coordinate groups to develop large funding opportunities. Create sustainable funding.
- Advancing sustainability initiatives: Assemble information on financial impact. Support Minnesota Power at Public Utilities Commission.

Minnesota Power also is developing some alternatives under the state mandate. "We don't want to leave," said TJ Otto, strategic accounts manager for the company. The state relaxed the original mandate from shutting down the plant to ceasing the use of coal as a fuel. Right now the site is scheduled to bring an 85



MW solar farm online in 2027, and the company is waiting for a determination whether biomass can be considered a carbon-neutral fuel. Hydrogen is another possible option.

Moving forward

An Integrated Resource Plan will be filed with the PUC next March, which details how the company plans to meet its demand over the next 15 years. There are three necessary requirements: the power must be affordable, reliable and safely delivered. Presently these cannot be met just with renewables, said Otto. At the most, one unit might be able to be converted to biomass.

Grass roots advocacy at the state legislature is very important to make a difference. Northern Minnesota must work to have a voice at the capital, said Lowney. And both what is the message and who is the messenger must be clear.

Anyone interested in becoming more involved with the process can call the IEDC at (218) 326-9411 or (888) 890-5627.

Koochiching County Apartments-Northome
12244 2nd St
Elderly / Disabled Building
1 Bedroom Available Immediately
Heat, Water, Trash included
On site Laundry
Income Restrictions Apply
Rental assistance program
Call 218-999-9326

T&T Dog Lodge
Dog Boarding and Grooming
Located in Talmoon, MN
Call for Information and Appointments
218-256-9575
Professional Animal Care
www.ttdoglodge.com A Home Away From Home For Your Pet!
ttdoglodge@gmail.com
Find us on Facebook

J.V. Tree & Landscaping
Tree care - Landscaping - Bobcat Work
Cell: 612-987-9992
Toll free: 866-232-5183
Free estimates - Fully insured
Tree Trimming & Removal
Stump Grinding
Woods & Lot Clearing

MIKE N' AUSTIN'S LAKE HOME SERVICES
A lifetime of quality painting, repairs & remodeling.
Marcell, MN
847-344-4890

Storlie Construction
Locally serving the Bigfork, Effie and Marcell areas
* New construction
* Remodels
* Roofing
Jesse Storlie
Residential Contractor
218-689-0627
storlieconstruction@outlook.com
License #BC779504

218-256-7316
cozyairhp@gmail.com
Cozy Air
Heating and Plumbing