



**NORTH ITASCA
ELECTRIC**

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

**WATTS
NEWS**

VOL 27 NO. 12

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

DECEMBER 2024



*Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year
from your electric cooperative!*

Enjoy our Christmas Contests!

Kids Coloring Contest * Annual Christmas Cookie and Candy Recipe Contest



CEO Report

Good afternoon NIECI!

I hope the hunters were successful this year. I sure wasn't trophy hunting this go round. I ended up with a little spike that will turn into some outstanding brats. I was fortunate to have an opportunity the opening weekend of season and everything came together almost as planned. My oldest daughter and I got into the brat making club a couple of years ago. It's great to have help with that mess, and I sure enjoy making them with her.

Our nuclear energy meeting went very well last month in Marcell, Minn. There was a great crowd there to learn and to share information with the attendees. Itasca County Economic Development Corporation, County

Commissioners from Itasca and Beltrami, friends and neighbors from many electrical cooperatives, Senator Brad Dolinski, CEO Hauschild, and Representative Igo were there with us. I want to thank everyone that came out on that rainy day. I especially need to thank my panel of experts, Minnesota Rural Electric Association CEO Dar- rick Moe, nuclear energy expert Mike Brasel, Minnesota Power's Eric Palmer & Gary Wheelock, and Great River Energy's Kyle Leier. This event was a success because of all of you, thank you kindly.



CEO to p.2>

Member Services Update

by Drew Francisco

Hello again everyone! Hope all of you are doing great and are enjoying the remainder of the fall season.

I was able to spend some time in the deer stand these last few weeks harvesting a nice buck; been 7 years since

I was able to get one so I'm thankful! My focus can now switch from the woods to the frozen lakes and snowmobile trails!

Over the last month I've been busy with all aspects of the load management program here at North Itasca Electric: new service start-ups,

home evaluations, load control device audits and everything in between. I've found in my travels, that some members who have purchased new homes with load management programs already in place, don't necessarily understand how they work. So, if

Member to p.2>



Spotlight on Business: Itasca Automotive

by Sally Sedgwick

As a teenager, Gene Baker was into all things cars – owning and repairing as many as seven at one time. His future was set.

Then one day that changed.

An accident damaged his foot so that he could not stand for extended times. Undaunted, he went to Arizona State University and earned a degree in marketing and finance. That would lead him into the banking industry, which in turn led him to northern Minnesota and Grand Rapids. There he and his wife Jemma raised three boys, now ages 18 to 28.

In 2017 Baker retired after

a career with Wells Fargo and Northview Bank where he served as president at four locations. The family moved to Itasca to p.3>



Jemma and Gene Baker

GRE receives \$15.4M for grid initiatives

Great River Energy is one of 12 cooperative electric utilities across the country selected to negotiate contracts for over \$97 million in federal infrastructure funding.

The funding will be provided through the Department of Energy's \$10.5 billion Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program, which was created through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021 to enhance

grid flexibility while ensuring access to affordable, reliable power.

GRE and its member-owner cooperatives have worked together to modernize Minnesota's grid for years, implementing leading-edge technology and processes over decades. This funding will allow GRE to expedite resilience-enhancing projects using innovative technologies that have long been on the

GRE to p.4>

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

New retail inventory

page 6

Christmas Appliance Sale

pages 7-10

Christmas Contests

page 14, 16

Office Hours

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

CEO Report (continued)

>from p.1

I am currently sitting in the boardroom working on the budget with Tina and Daryl. We are trying to get the information accurately together for our Board of Directors.

Yes, I do believe there will be a rate increase this year. I currently do not know what that will be. I was at a Great River Energy meeting at Maple Grove this week. When we were

asked for a show of who will be raising rates this year, almost every hand went up. The pressures of the changing grid are too much without a rate increase. Equipment has not dropped significantly since it climbed sharply during COVID. We must maintain the system to ensure it is reliable and robust enough for your needs. Interest rates are coming down, but they

are still much higher than previous years; we borrow money for construction work plans yearly. All these pressures mount together when we plan for future years.

Another pressure on rates this year will be related to our Off-Peak system. Currently the lion's share of our Off-Peak system is operating through a radio signal from GRE. This system is aged and new parts for it are unavailable to buy. The members of GRE voted to shut down this system in 2015; they gave us about ten years to plan to replace the equipment.

It sounds like I was procrastinating doing something about this. Yes, maybe a little bit. New systems are very expensive, I needed to ensure the system I picked would last and not break the bank. I believe we have finally found a system that will meet our needs. This will be a cellular based system, and we will not need to rewire

what you already have. This system will be what is called a door swap. We will need to visit homes with Off-Peak next spring and summer, we will remove the outside cover or door of your control device and replace it with a new one. This will be significant savings for NIECI and the members on the Off-Peak system.

We will continue to work diligently on the budget. I dislike it when we must raise rates. Our rates from GRE increased by roughly seven percent this coming year. This means we will have a minimum of 3.5 percent rate increase before I look at our expenses. I do not expect big swings past what we need to cover this increase. I am very hesitant to throw numbers around, but I want to keep the total rate increase below 5%.

I wish you all a happy Thanksgiving!

*By your side! Miigwech
Brad*

Member Services

>from p1

you have a program in place and feel like a little education on the equipment you have would help you, please let me know! More than happy to stop out and do my best to help members understand how the systems you may have operate and provide you with the most efficient energy usage.

I've recently been introduced to the Northland Progressive group in Northome and surrounding area. Meeting the individuals who are looking to improve and create longevity in this community is important to my role here at North Itasca Electric. Sitting at the table, hearing what some potential needs and projects are, helps me find avenues to offer ways to obtain some of these goals. I'm excited to learn more and get to work on possible solutions!

The Bigfork and Surrounding Area Business Revitalization Grant is close to opening. In a prior article, I briefly explained what this could look like, but I'd like to elaborate. The idea of this grant is to assist businesses in northern Itasca County get their building's interior or exterior revitalized. New signage, building improvements or even more energy efficient



Drew Francisco

equipment are covered.

The grant will go in two stages, spring and fall; similar to the Operation Round Up grant process. I'm hoping to have all the material available by December on our website. So, if you are looking to learn more, please reach out to me and I'll get you the information! I also plan to stop at businesses in my travels to share more on this opportunity.

The remainder of the month is jam-packed with site visits for membership, education on new equipment and programs coming in 2025. If you have any questions or would like to schedule some time to meet to chat about your home or business's efficiency, please let me know! Always happy to help the great members of North Itasca Electric.

*Until next time,
Drew Francisco*

**Call before you dig
800-252-1166 or
811**

Jesse Lake Lutheran Free Community Meal
Tacos!
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WATTS NEWS

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Highlights from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
October 24, 2024

Start time: 10:00 a.m.

End time: 1:55 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on October 24, 2024.

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

Also Present: CEO Brad Dolinski, Daryl Pederson, Tina Danielson, Drew Francisco, and Kim Giesen.

Absent: Tom Kallio and Andy Shaw

Start Regular Board Meeting: 11:10 a.m.

- o Pledge of allegiance was recited.
- o A motion was made to adopt the agenda. Seconded; motion carried. A motion was made to consent agenda. Seconded; motion carried.
- o Tina gave the Operating Reports. A motion was made to accept the operating reports as they were presented. Seconded; the motion carried.
- o Daryl gave the Line Department report. GRE performed switch training. Pole inspections were completed, only 4 poles were rejected.
- o Drew gave the Members Services Report. Home evaluations and load control device audits are a focus getting closer to cold months. Testing load control solution using new cellular meters with Daryl.
- o Tina gave the Office Report. Office is working on the capital general retirement to be paid out in December.
- o Brad gave the CEO report. November 6th GRE reps will be touring Northome. The Nuclear Energy Education Meeting was a success.
- o Wes Waller gave the MREA report.
- o Lloyd Kongsjord gave the GRE report. A motion was made to accept Form of Resolution to approve two Wind Energy Purchases. Seconded; motion carried.
- o A motion was made to adjourn. Seconded; motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Regular board meetings are generally held the fourth Thursday of every month. If you wish to speak with the board or have an item that you would like to have placed on the agenda, please contact CEO Brad Dolinski at least two weeks in advance to be included on the agenda.

Itasca Automotive

>from p.1
their cabin in the Togo area where he had a sawmill and shop.

One day a good friend, John Ostendorf, asked Baker to give him some advice as a banker on selling 6 & 14 Repair, a repair shop that serviced everything from tractors to logging equipment. It was housed in a spacious 5,000 sq. ft. building built by John and his wife Meryl west of Bigfork, and had some unique energy-saving features, like in-floor heating, efficient air conditioning and blown-in insulation.

Gene liked what he saw. By the end of the day the shop had new prospective owners – the Bakers.

His vision for the shop was to not only provide services to area loggers farmers and truckers – for instance, the shop



The shop has just been named a NAPA Auto Care center.

can make any size hydraulic hose on site and carries most needed fluids – but transform its main mission into becoming a hub for automotive repairs for almost any brand of car and truck – domestic, European or Asian. That includes brands like Volkswagen, Audi, BMW, Honda, Toyota, Kia, Hyundai and Nissan as well as Ford, Dodge or Chevrolet. It also includes electric hybrids and even fully electric cars like Tesla.

To do this the shop has some advanced scanning equipment, since newer cars have extensive built-in computer systems. Even replacing a battery might require entering information into a car's computer to make the battery operation safe. Baker is developing videos for a YouTube channel on some of these tricky repairs (www.youtube.com/@ItascaAutomotive).

In addition to scanning equipment, the shop has also invested in wheel alignment equipment, which Baker believes is unique to the area. Baker credits their



Gene Baker by one of the lifts at the Itasca Automotive shop.

four technicians, however, you're willing to drive a little, you can save a lot!"

valuable assets. Itasca Automotive is located at 43576 Co. Rd. 14, Bigfork, MN 56628, at the intersection of Co. Rd. 14 and Highway 6. Contact the shop at (218) 743-4000.

To reflect the new services, the shop has a new name, Itasca Automotive. Recently it was named a NAPA Auto Care center. "Our hope is to become a center of repair for our community residents as the need grows for families to maintain their transportation in northern Minnesota harsh climate," Baker says. "As rural residents we all travel greater distances than our urban counterparts. A rural location has one important advantage to a location in a large market. Lower overhead! If available."



Bulk oil and fluids are available.

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GRE awarded grant for grid improvements

>from p.1

cooperative's radar but not yet attainable without additional financial support.

"This federal funding will help us meet evolving energy demands by integrating tailored transmission solutions within GRE's diverse service territory — all while keeping costs down for our member owners" said Owen Henriksen, transmission strategy specialist at GRE

As part of the funding, GRE will receive \$15.4 million for two advanced transmission initiatives. The first project involves rebuilding a section of 115-kilovolt line with advanced overhead conductors, offering cost-effective capacity expansion, enhanced resilience and congestion relief. The second project incorporates battery storage as a non-wires solution to improve transmission reliability in a rural, environmentally sensitive area of GRE's system.

"This funding award reflects years of Great River Energy's forward-thinking and innovative, collaborative approach, serving as a testament to the inventive spirit that Great River Energy has embraced to find efficient solutions for complex problems," said GRE Vice President and Chief Transmission Officer Priti Patel.

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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

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

Energy Assistance Program

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below 60 percent of the state median income (\$67,764 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 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 planning to purchase electronic gifts this holiday season, look for the ENERGY STAR® label, which indicates higher energy efficiency performance. Electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating are up to 25% more efficient than standard products. This holiday season, give the gift of energy savings with ENERGY STAR®-rated electronics and equipment.

Source: energystar.gov



GRE Board approves budget and rates for 2025

Great River Energy is budgeting for revenue and expenses of approximately \$1.1 billion in 2025, as it allocates funds to operate the business in addition to making necessary investments in the electric system.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, Great River Energy collects enough revenue to cover its costs as well as a margin to operate the business. At the same time, it makes investments in the best interests of its member-owners over the long term.

Upcoming plans for 2025 include a buildout of high-voltage transmission lines that will reduce congestion on the grid and open pathways for more renewable sources of energy.

“We are entering a period of capital investment, but the end result will be a stronger grid and more reliable electric service,” said Great River Energy Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Michelle Strobel. “These investments are strategic and will result in lower costs over the long term.”

Great River Energy’s margin will increase in 2025 to strengthen financial metrics in order to secure favorable funding terms and interest rates. Like all cooperatives, all of Great River Energy’s collected margins are returned to the membership over time as patronage.

Additionally, Great River Energy’s average 2025 wholesale rate is projected to increase by an average of 5.7% from the 2024 budgeted rate.

“Our rates are competitive when compared to our neighboring utilities and remain well below the weighted regional cost of wholesale electricity,” Strobel said.

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

May your holidays be merry and bright

by Abby Berry

As November kicks off, it’s hard to believe we’ll soon be gathering with family and friends to celebrate the holiday season. This festive time of year brings joy and warmth, but as the weather gets cooler and we spend more time indoors, the holidays can also bring increased energy use and a higher risk of electrical and fire hazards.

As your local electric cooperative, our team at North Itasca Electric cares about your wellbeing. This month, I’d like to share a few practical tips to help you stay safe and efficient during the holiday season.

Safety first

My family truly enjoys decorating our home for the holidays. Before we deck the halls, I always check electrical cords and light strands to make sure they aren’t frayed or damaged. This gives us peace of mind, knowing our holiday lights are ready to safely brighten our home. I also double check the lights we use outside to make sure they’re rated for outdoor use.

Like many households, we also enjoy holiday-scented candles. While festive,

candles can create fire hazards and should never be left unattended. One of the best and easiest ways to safeguard your home is to test smoke alarms often. I test mine on the first of each month, so it’s easy to remember. Testing smoke alarms only takes a few seconds and could save lives, so make it a habit.

‘Tis the season for savings.

Spending more time indoors with a few more guests in the home can really impact home energy use. By taking a few small steps to save energy during the holiday season, you can lower your bills.

I like to remind my family members to mind the thermostat. Since heating and cooling make up the majority of home energy consumption, the thermostat is one of the best places for savings. Lower it a few degrees, especially when you have family or friends stopping by. Good company brings additional warmth to your home.

Your family can also save energy by decorating with LED holiday lights. LEDs are the most energy efficient lighting options available, and they last much longer than traditional bulbs.

Roxanne’s Sales Talk

by Roxanne Prather, Member Services Representative

As I’m writing I’m wondering if everyone is enjoying this mild weather. I’m kind of hoping it will cool off more to get rid of all the black flies. It has been a long time since I’ve seen green grass in the middle of November.

I’m getting excited and hope you will be too! Soon our showroom will have a completely different look.

We have always had some electrical stuff here but

Soon our showroom will have a completely different look.

not a lot. We are teaming up with Ferguson and they will be stocking us with what they believe we need in the area. So, make sure to stop in and check us out. We are hoping to be all set up and ready to go by January 1, 2025. By the time you get this we will be stocked. It will be nice to be able to get all the electrical stuff you need locally and at a good price.

We will still also carry our appliances too. Another nice thing about having all the wiring stuff here is that if you need a bunch of stuff, you can spread your payments out with our 90 days same as cash. Or take a contract for up to 3 years as long as your payment is above \$20 a month. The only stipulation for a contract is you must be current for 3 months in a row to get a contract.

New members will qualify only if they do not need a deposit when they sign up for electric service, and they sign up for auto pay.

Remember we offer bundling deals where if you purchase 3 appliances you get 8% off, 4 appliances 10% off and if you buy 5 or more appliances you will get 15% off.

There’s no denying one of the best parts of the holiday season is the food—not just the meals but the time we spend together in the kitchen. There are many ways to save in the heart of your home, but one of the best approaches is to cook with smaller countertop appliances, such as air fryers, slow cookers and toaster ovens. These handy appliances consume a fraction of the energy used to heat the oven,

creating the perfect recipe for mealtime and energy savings.

I hope you will implement some of these energy-saving and safety tips into your holiday plans. From your friends at North Itasca Electric, we hope your holiday season is merry and bright.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

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Refrigerators

FFTR2045VS \$741.00 SALE \$666.90

Frigidaire 20.4 c.f. stainless, top mount refrigerator. Glass shelves, two clear crispers and three fixed gallon door bins, LED lighting.



MRF266N6CWE \$1402.23 SALE \$1262.01

Mora 26.6 c.f. 36" wide, white, French door bottom freezer. Full width white pantry drawer, gallon door storage, internal filtered water dispenser, 2 humidity-controlled drawers. Automatic ice maker in the freezer. Two full extension freezer drawers.



FFHT2022AW \$775.91 SALE \$698.32

Frigidaire 20 c.f. white, top freezer refrigerator, Energy Star, 2 clear deli drawers, gallon door storage in freezer and refrigerator, humidity controlled crisper drawers. Glass shelves, LED lighting.



LRDCS2603S \$1824.49 SALE \$1642.04

LG 26 c.f. print-proof stainless steel, bottom mount, 33" wide, ThinQ, pull drawer bottom freezer, Door Cooling+, Energy Star, multi airflow freshness system, smart cooling system, humidity-controlled crispers, factory installed ice maker stores up to 12 lbs. ice. Freezer drawer with 2-tier organization, LED lighting, SmartDiagnosis.



FRSS2623AS \$1203.33 SALE \$1083.00

Frigidaire 25.6 c.f. 36" wide stainless, side x side refrigerator. LED lighting, door alarm, gallon door storage, dairy compartment, temperature alarm, power failure alarm, ice and water dispenser.



FRSS2623AW \$1151.33

SALE \$1036.20

(Same as above only white.)

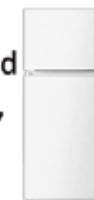
LFCS22520S \$1326.59 SALE \$1193.93

LG 21.80 c.f. stainless steel, French door refrigerator. Multi-air flow cooling, smart cooling, electronic and digital temperature controls, LED lighting, 4 split spill safe tempered glass shelves. Glide and store server drawer, 2-tier organization freezer drawer, door alarm, auto closing door hinge.



MRT18ON6AWD \$589.47 SALE \$530.52

Mora 18 c.f. white, top mount refrigerator with recessed handle. Reversible door, electronic display, LED lighting, quiet operation 43 decibels, adjustable glass shelves, 2 humidity-controlled drawers, adjustable temperature.



FFTR2045VW \$740.27 SALE \$666.24

Frigidaire 20.4 c.f. white, top mount refrigerator. LED lighting. 3 full width door bins, gallon storage, 3 glass full width shelves in refrigerator and 1 in the freezer, 2 clear crisper drawers and a reversible door. Recessed handles.



FRN2813AF \$1659.39 SALE \$1493.45

Frigidaire 28 c.f. 36" wide smudge proof stainless steel French door bottom freezer refrigerator with internal ice and water dispenser. Digital temperature control, door alarm, hidden hinge, interior light, LED light type, Sabbath Mode, self-closing door, smudge-proof, adjustable door storage, adjustable shelves/racks, crisper drawer, deli drawer, gallon door storage.



RF27CG54OOSRAA \$1662.70 SALE \$1496.43

Samsung 27 c.f. fingerprint resistant stainless look, French door refrigerator with dual auto ice maker. Internal ice and water. Pocket handles, door alarm, LED lighting, one freezer basket/bin, 4 refrigerator shelves, works with Homey, Samsung SmartThings.



XRS22KGABWW \$1076.80 SALE \$969.12

Crosley 21.93 c.f. white, top freezer refrigerator. Sliding utility drawer, upfront temperature controls, 3 adjustable edge to edge glass shelves, equipped with optional icemaker, 2 crispers with glass top covers, LED lighting, large deluxe door storage.



Freezers

FFCL1542AW \$685.67 SALE \$617.10

Frigidaire 14.8 c.f. white, chest freezer, 2 baskets, manual defrost, door lock, indicator light.



EFRF9003 \$372.91 SALE \$335.62

9 c.f. white, chest freezer, recessed handle, 1 wire basket.

WHS-772FEW1 \$911.44 SALE \$820.30

Midea 21 c.f. white, upright freezer, convertible. 4-wire shelves, wire basket on the bottom. Four full length door bins. Frost free, LED lighting, Energy Star.



WHS-772FWESS1 \$922.88 SALE \$830.59

(Same as above but stainless steel.)



Ranges

GEC-NN-JB256DMWW

\$741.00 SALE \$666.90

GE 30" freestanding white electric range, coil burners, 5 c.f. oven, Sensi-Temp technology, dual element bake, Sabbath Mode and self-clean. Delay bake, timer, delay clean option, storage drawer.



FGEW3066UFC \$653.43 SALE \$588.09

Frigidaire Gallery 30" single electric wall oven with true convection. Self-cleaning, fingerprint resistant stainless steel, keep warm setting, light self-clean option, touch pad controls, Air Fry, 3 bake elements, 1 broil element, oven meat prob, proofing, Sabbath Mode.



JB655DKBB \$1054.95 SALE \$949.45

GE 30" black range with 5 burners, 5.3 c.f. oven, storage drawer, auto self-clean, convection, dual element, power boil, broil element. Auto oven shut-off with override, time bake, delay bake, delay clean, electronic clock and kitchen timer.



GCRG3060BF \$985.40 SALE \$886.86

Frigidaire 30" smudge proof, freestanding gas range with Air Fry and 5 sealed gas burners. Total convection, no preheat, integrated griddle, slow cook option, steam bake, steam roast, temperature probe, quick clean option or 2, 3 or 4-hour clean.



Get precise temperature control with Air Sous Vibe.

LREL6323S \$999.23 SALE \$899.31

LG 30" 6.3 c.f. Smart Wi-Fi enabled fan convection range with Air Fry, easy clean stainless steel, smart home enabled, works with Alexa, Google, Homey, SmartThinQ. Glass top with two 6" elements one 9" element and one 12" element and one 7" element. Kitchen clock & timer, delay bake, delay start, fingerprint resistant, oven light, Sabbath Mode, safety lock, Wi-Fi enabled.



Note on deliveries: North Itasca Electric has made a change to its delivery process. Deliveries are now handled by Mark Wass and his crew. His going rate for delivery is \$75 to deliver and

\$50 per hour if extra measures need to be taken. Mark's crew is very detail orientated and reliable. If you'd like to contact him for delivery services or other general handyman needs he can be reached at:

Phone: 218-341-8434
Email: markwass4@gmail.com



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WASHERS & DRYERS

DVE55CG7100WAW \$777.86 SALE \$700.07

Samsung 7.4 c.f. white, smart electric dryer with Steam Sanitizer+. Wi-Fi connectivity with the smart things app allows you to remotely start, schedule and receive end of cycle alerts to your smart phone. It has extra-large capacity and sensor dry.



DLE7400VE \$ 926.47 SALE \$833.82

LG 7.3 c.f. white, ultra large capacity smart Wi-Fi enabled electric dryer with easy load door. 8 dryer programs: air dry (manual dry), bedding, delicates, downloaded, heavy duty, normal. Dryer options: control lock, damp dry, signal, less time, drum light, custom PGM, more time remote start, Wi-Fi, energy saver, reduce static, signal, wrinkle care. Temperature settings, high, medium high, medium, low, ultra-low. Timed dry 20 to 60 minutes.



WA54CG7105AW \$ 778.86 SALE \$700.97

Samsung 5.4 c.f. white, extra-large capacity smart top load washer with ActiveWave agitator and super speed wash. 2 rinse cycles, 5 rinse temperatures, 12 wash cycles, 5 wash speeds, 5 wash temperatures.



Wash cycles: Active Wear, bedding, colors, delicates, heavy duty, normal, rinse & spin, whites. Washer features: control lock, control sounds on/off, cycle status indicator, delay start, end-of-cycle signal, high-efficiency detergent required, rear control, remote diagnostics, soft close lid, spin speed option, Wi-Fi enabled. Pet care solution.

DLE7400WE \$804.10 SALE \$723.69

LG 7.3 c.f. ultra large white electric dryer with easy load door. 7.3 cu. ft. ultra large capacity, easy load door, Smart Pairing and ThinQ Technology with proactive customer care, sensor dry FlowSense duct clogging and lint filter indicators, Energy Star certified.



DVE41A3000W \$603.92 SALE \$543.53

Samsung 7.2 c.f. white, electric dryer with sensor dry. 8 drying cycles, 4 drying temperatures, auto dry, damp dry, quick dry. Dryer features: damp alert, lint filter, Sensor Dry.



WT6105CW \$ 577.08 SALE \$519.37

LG 4.1c.f. ultra large capacity white top load washer with 4-way agitator. Slam proof glass lid, deep fill option, intelligent electronic controls with dual LED display, dial-a-cycle control, never rust stainless steel drum, true balance anti-vibration system, smart diagnosis, direct drive motor with 10-Year limited warranty. Quiet operation, slam proof lid, auto suds removal, end of cycle signal, auto load sensing, true balance, vibration control, never rust, control lock, smart diagnosis. LED lighting. 8 wash cycles.



HTX26EASWWW \$546.65 SALE \$491.94

Hotpoint 6.2 c.f. white, electric dryer with up to 120 ft. venting and shallow depth. Auto dry, large diffuser for even drying, reversible door, upfront lint filter.



DLE6100W \$577.08 SALE \$519.37

LG 7.3 c.f. white, ultra large high efficiency electric dryer, Energy Star certified, intelligent electronic controls, dial-a cycle control knob, reversible door, flow sense duct clogging indicator, LoDecibel quiet operation, smart diagnosis, sensor dry, moisture sensor, reversible door, control lockout, energy saver, 5 programs.



MLTE45N4BWW \$602.55 SALE \$542.29

Midea 7 c.f. white electric dryer. 10 cycles, sensor dry: normal, bedding, heavy duty, sanitize. 6 options: Eco dry, wrinkle care, time adjust, smart control, my cycle, damp dry signal. 4 dryness levels: very dry, more



WT7155CW \$831.88 SALE \$748.69

LG 4.8 c.f. white ultra large top load washer with agitator. 4-way agitator, TurboDrum™ technology / 6 Motion™ Technology, SmartDiagnosis™ deep fill option. 3 spin cycles, ColdWash™ Technology, 3 cycles. Program type wash cycles: normal, heavy duty, waterproof, bedding, delicates, speed wash, and tub clean cycle. Features: control lockout, auto load sensing, turbo wash, slam proof lid, TrueBalance, smart diagnosis, end of cycle signal, auto suds removal, add a garment, 3 temperature settings, 3 wash temperatures.



DLE7000W \$720.08 SALE \$648.07

LG 7.3 c.f. white, ultra large high efficiency electric dryer. Sensor dry, FlowSense duct clogging and lint filter indicator, Energy Star certified, aluminized steel drum, LoDecibel quiet operation, 4-way ventilation, child lock, damp alert, timer, lint filter. 3 temperature settings, 8 programs.



WT7000CW \$720.08 SALE \$648.07

LG 4.3 c.f. white, ultra large capacity washer. 4.5-c.f. ultra large capacity, TurboDrum technology, 6Motion technology, SmartDiagnosis™, water plus, ColdWash technology, direct drive motor 10-Year limited warranty SlamProof™ glass lid, TrueBalance™ Anti-Vibration system & LoDecibel™ quiet operation SpeedWash™ cycle. 3-tray dispenser, LoadSense, Status Indicator(s), end of cycle signal, control lock, auto suds removal, forced drain system, add garment indicator. Options: ColdWash™, signal, delay wash, rinse+spin, water plus, soak, extra rinse, control lock, spin only. Number of wash/rinse temps 3, hot, warm, cold. Number of spin speeds 3-high, medium, low.



WT7150CM \$848.78 SALE \$763.90

LG 5 c.f. middle black, ultra large capacity top load washer, SpeedWash cycle, SlamProof glass lid, water plus & cold wash options, Intelligent electronic controls with dual LED display, dial-a-cycle control knob, never rust stainless steel drum, TrueBalance anti-vibration system, Energy Star certified, direct drive motor 10-year limited warranty.



MLTW44A4BWW \$561.48 SALE \$505.33

Midea 4.4 c.f. white, top load washer with agitator and stainless tub. Power wave agitator, smart control, easy reach, two stage dispenser, soft close glass lid. 4 soil levels, 4 temperature selections—hot, warm, cold tap, cold. Delay start up to 24 hours, high water, extra rinse, soak, time remaining display, end of cycle signal,



DLE7150W \$808.48 SALE \$727.63

LG 7.3-cu. ft. ultra large capacity, sensor dry detects moisture and auto adjusts drying time, FlowSense duct clogging and lint filter indicator, aluminized alloy steel drum, LoDecibel quiet operation, Energy Star certified, reversible door, sensor dry, damp alert, smart diagnosis, 3 temperature settings, 8 drying cycles, 8 programs.



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roxannep@nieci.com**

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Classic Movie Series

by Jack Nachbar

Three bank robbers ride into the desert to escape the town posse. They are running out of water.

Then they discover a covered wagon which they intend to loot. But there is a lone woman on board, and she is about to give birth.

3 Godfathers (1948), the December Classic Movie in Bigfork, features perhaps the best movie combo in history, director John Ford and star John Wayne. It was one of Ford's earliest color films, beautifully filmed in Death Valley. The movie also

features Harry Carey Jr, the son of Harry Carey who was the star of an earlier, silent version of *3 Godfathers* made by Ford, *Marked Men* in 1919.

Modern critics have pointed out that *3 Godfathers* has a number of parallels with the Christmas season story of the three wise men. Buckaroos coming to the movie can enjoy it both as a Holiday parable and as a rootin', tootin' Western.

3 Godfathers will be shown on Thursday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Edge Center Theater in Bigfork. FREE! A good movie for the whole family.

JANUARY CLASSIC MOVIE: A brave doctor, Sidney Poitier, tries to help a vicious bigot, Richard Widmark, in the hard hitting *No Way Out* (1950). Thursday, January 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the Edge.

Arts on the Edge

Community Fun at the Edge!

by Val Conner

Get ready for singing and a play! In December we will sing carols together, and in April we will enjoy the play *Anne of Green Gables*. So, if have you ever wondered why people get involved in community theatre or perform in concerts, the answer is because it's fun! You get to join other enthusiasts as you work together on a project with a specific goal. Theatre and music aren't just for the pleasure of the audience; the performers and the supporting crew often get even more pleasure from the experience.

Whether you're an experienced hand or new to the performing arts, the Edge Center for the Arts in Bigfork has an opportunity or two for you. As you know, the Edge offers gallery exhibits, touring performers, and home-grown community theatre. This winter we are presenting two of the latter.

On Sunday, December 15 at 2 p.m., **Christmas at the Edge** will highlight a community choir as well as other musical performances and community caroling by the audience. Come to enjoy this season inspired free concert.

The first weekend in April the EdgeWild Players will present the non-musical play, *Anne of Green Gables*, directed by Stephanie Kessler. There are large and small roles for students and adults both. **Auditions for the play will be held Monday, Dec. 2, 5:30-8:30 p.m., and Tuesday, Dec. 3, 3:30-6:30 p.m., at the Edge Center.** The cast has up to 16 people, with 9 females, 7 males, and 9 adults and 7 youth. Consider auditioning or reach out for more information.

Avoid the winter doldrums, and be a part of the fun of community theatre!

Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids



Thank you to all who donated warm jackets for students in Bigfork! Thank you especially to the Knights of Columbus who together with many generous donors in the community, provided 864 new coats and 360 snow pants along with hats and gloves to local elementary schools and organizations.

(back row, 1 to r) Buddy MacRostie, Kim Powell. (front row 1 to r) Kaijah Richter, Levi Ritter, Siri Prato, Mark Greninger (Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids)

Dinner for GRACE House

GRACE House of Itasca County 18th Annual "Home Is Where the Heart Is" Dinner Fundraiser will be held at TimberLake Lodge Thursday, Dec.5 from 5 to 10 p.m. The event is a festive way to help raise funds to support programs and services provided by Itasca County's only homeless shelter. GRACE House provides safe shelter and connections to individualized services to more than 200 adults and children each year.

Tickets are on sale at local Super One Stores, Timberlake Lodge, online at www.gracehousemn.org or by calling GRACE House, (218) 326-2790. The shelter is currently closed for an expansion and remodel project; guests are being served in an alternate location. This fun evening includes a prime rib buffet and musical entertainment by Moonlight Serenade a trio including Effie resident Jerry Hagen.



Veterans Day

American Legion Waldron-Flaat Post 182 hosted its annual Veterans Day observance on Nov 11 in Effie. About 50 enjoyed a turkey dinner provided by the American Legion Auxiliary.

(l) Honor Guard Remembrance Ceremony (below) Beth Sampson describes the items on the traditional table setting honoring prisoners of war while Post Commander Dan Brinker and speaker Ethan Mount look on. The Post sponsored Bigfork High School student Ethan Mount at Boys State, and he spoke on his experience there.



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in Bigfork

Friday, December 20

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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

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New DNR EagleCam for winter viewing

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources EagleCam, with viewers in all 50 states and more than 150 countries, will feature a new location and pair of bald eagles when it goes live Thursday. The original EagleCam will also remain on during the coming season.

The new camera will focus on the nesting behavior of a breeding pair of bald eagles that have successfully and consistently nested in the area for at least four years, rearing several broods of eaglets. The original camera will continue to show the territory that includes the previous eagle pair whose nest fell April 2, 2023.

Both cameras can be viewed starting in November on the DNR website. The webpage also includes a new video highlighting the installation of the new camera, the work of the DNR Nongame Wildlife Program and how anyone can donate to support the program. Since 2013, the Nongame Wildlife Program has provided the DNR EagleCam as another way to connect people with wildlife.

“While the DNR EagleCam brings Minnesota wildlife into homes and schools in an exciting and educational way, the Nongame Wildlife Program has helped restore and support populations of eagles, loons and many other species,” DNR Ecological and Water Resources Division Director Katie Smith said. “This vital work is supported by donations on our webpage, on state tax forms, and through bequests and other gifts.”


The new camera was installed at this new location because it was not possible to run electricity to the original EagleCam pair’s new nest. As with the original camera, Xcel Energy provided their services without charge, making this second camera possible.

EagleCam viewers are swept into the intimate lives of breeding birds, providing a virtual experience in nature. Research has shown that wildlife cameras provide the same mental health benefits as experiencing nature in-person.


The DNR EagleCam goes live each November to show the eagle pair courting each other and upgrading their nest. They bring in new nesting material and large sticks each year as a bonding activity. The pair typically increase their activity at the nest as winter progresses and normally by mid-February will have two or three eggs, which the adults incubate for about 35 days. Both adults participate in incubating the eggs and caring for the chicks. Once the chicks hatch, the camera zooms in closely to follow the process of raising bald eagle chicks.

Questions? Call (651) 296-6157 or (888) 646-6367.

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Grants available to help kids get outside

Apply until 2 p.m. Dec. 17 for funding aimed at increasing outdoor experiences, education and stewardship

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is pleased to announce another phase of the No Child Left Inside grants. These grants help more children cast a line, study animal tracks, hike or bike, or engage in other activities to learn more about nature.

“This has been a successful outreach grant program that helps schools and organizations get children outdoors,” said Jeff Ledermann, DNR education and skills team supervisor. “These grants boost outdoor programs and initiatives across Minnesota, especially in communities with limited opportunities to connect with nature.”

Public entities and nonprofit organizations serving youth younger than 18, including Tribal Nations, schools or governments, can apply for No Child Left Inside grants. This grant program contributes to realizing the vision of the Minnesota Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights opens in a new browser tab for each and every Minnesota child to experience outdoor recreational activities and discover the natural environment regardless of where they live, learn, or play

The Minnesota DNR is accepting applications for both mini grants (\$5,000 or less) and larger grants (\$5,001 to \$25,000). The request for proposals is available on the Minnesota DNR website. Applications will be accepted until 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17.

Mini grant awards will be determined by lottery from among qualifying applications. Larger grants will be awarded using a competitive review process. Funding can be used for outdoor recreation equipment, transportation and related natural resource education expenses. Past mini grant awardees are ineligible for another mini grant and are encouraged to apply for a larger grant during this phase. Organizations that previously received a larger grant may apply for another grant this round, but they must demonstrate

B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork

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

Note: No Bingo in December

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.

new programming or an expansion in scope or audience.

For more information about the grant program, instructions for how to apply, and a link to the application, visit the No Child Left Inside grants webpage of the Minnesota DNR website. Questions about these grants or the application process should be emailed to outreachgrants.dnr@state.mn.us opens in a new browser tab with “Grant Questions” in the subject line. People can also call (888) 646-6367.

area bookmobile stops

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

Tuesdays: Dec 17

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: Dec 19

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

Mondays: Dec 16

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*

Northome Food Shelf

12059 Main St

Bring your own bags.

1st Mon.: 9 a.m.-noon
 2nd Mon.: 2-5 p.m.
 3rd Mon.: 9 a.m.-noon
 4th Mon.: 2-5 p.m.

Blackduck

Community Library:

(218) 835-6600

Tues: 1-6 p.m..
 Wed: 9 a.m.-noon.
 Thurs:12-5 p.m.
 Fri: 12-5 p.m.
 Sat.: 9 a.m.-noon

Northern Itasca Emergency Food Shelf

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 12:30-4:30 p.m.
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Northome Library

(218) 897-5952

Mon: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Tues: 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.
 Wed: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Thurs: noon - 6 p.m.
 Fri: 9 a.m.- noon

Resource Centers:

Blackduck:
 (218) 835-5768

Northome:
 (218) 897-5952

Community News

Email editor at sedgwick@paulbunyan.net,

~ December 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.

Toys for Tots donation box in the lobby at Bigfork City Hall open during office hours for unwrapped gifts

Deer River

Deer River is hosting a WinterFest on Dec. 7 at King School with a craft/artisan fair (10 a.m.-3 pm), Festival of Trees silent auction (10 a.m.-2 p.m.), cookie decorating (11 am-1 p.m), toy drive and photos with Santa; at the Vet's Club medallion hunt (4 p.m.) s'mores and activities, 4-6 p.m. and chili cook-off (3-6 p.m.); by the Big Fish, Light the Lights; and downtown Santa's Workshop crafts for kids (4-6 p.m)

Christmas Cookie and Candy Booklet

The Christmas Cookie/Candy recipe contest is underway! The co-op looks forward to this contest each year to see member recipes for the holiday season. After all recipes are in by Friday, Dec. 6, staff will judge and award prizes. The booklet with all the recipes will be available about Dec. 15, and Members can email Roxanne at rprather@nieci.com or call for a pdf file, or stop by the office to pick up a copy.

General Interest

"Lights in the Pines," a drive-through lighting display at the Itasca County Fairgrounds: \$10 per car. Friday and Saturday evenings through Dec. 23, 5-9 p.m. Also Santa Land in the Commercial Building.

Christmas in the Logging Camp at the Forest History Center, Grand Rapids, Saturday Dec. 14 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Regular site admission. The center is located at 2609 Co. Rd. 76. More information at (218) 327-4482 or foresthistor@mnhs.org.



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 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.

- 1 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.
- 2,3 Auditions at the Edge Center Bigfork for "Anne of Green Gables," directed by Stephanie Kessler. Dec 2: 5:30-8:30 p.m.; Dec 3: 3:30-6:30 p.m.
- 5 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 American Legion Auxiliary Bake and Craft Sale at the Effie Community Center 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Bring the family to Visit with Santa!
- 7 WinterFest in Deer River at King School Vet's Club and the Big Fish. Craft Fair at King School 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Vet's Club chili cook-off 3-6 p.m. and crafts for kids 4-6 p.m. Many more activities during the day. See Facebook for more.
- 9 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
- 9 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 9 Blackduck ISD 32 School Board meets, 6 p.m. in the Media Center.
- 9 ISD 317 School Board meets at Deer River HS, 6 p.m. Public forum 5:45 p.m.
- 10 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.
- 10 Bigfork City Council at City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 11 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
- 12 "Meet the Author" Mary Perrine at the Gift Nest at Bigfork Valley 9 am.-3 p.m. Perrine writes "mysteries and dramas with serious twists."
- 12 Craft Fair at Bigfork Valley Hospital, 9 a.m.-3:30 pm.
- 12 Classic Movies presents *3 Godfathers* (1948) starring John Wayne and directed by John Ford. 6:30 p.m. at the Edge Center. Free.
- 15 "Christmas at the Edge" free concert featuring a community choir and other musical performances, 2 p.m. Join in with caroling by the audience.
- 16 ISD 318 School Board meeting at Administrative Board Room, 601 SW 7th St, Grand Rapids or at watchictv.org, 6:30 p.m. No Open Forum at this meeting.
- 17 Jessie Lake Lutheran free community meal 4-6 p.m. December meal is tacos.
- 18 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.
- 19 Bigfork Valley Hospital board meets in public meeting, 9 a.m. Note change of date for December.
- 20 Annual Christmas Open House at First State Bank in Bigfork, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- 23-Jan 1 Winter vacation, all schools
- 24 25 North Itasca Electric offices CLOSED, Christmas holiday

JAN

- 1 North Itasca Electric offices CLOSED

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	St. Michael Catholic Church Sat 7:00p 12026 Lake St Northome 56661 218-743-3255
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	Suomi Evangelical Lutheran Church Sun 10:30a 42935 Co. Rd. 48 Deer River 56636 218-832-3883
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	True Life Church Sun 10:00a 45976 Terry Talmoon 56637 218-244-7089
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	Church directory sponsored by North Itasca Electric Cooperative, send changes to editor, sedgwick@paulbunyan.net
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	

Tips for a Safe and Efficient Holiday Season

This holiday season, keep energy savings and electrical safety in mind.

SAVE ENERGY

- Use smaller appliances like slow cookers instead of the oven.
- Lower the thermostat when hosting friends and family.
- Decorate with energy-saving LED lights.

PRIORITIZE SAFETY

- Never leave unattended candles burning.
- Ensure all smoke alarms are working.
- When decorating, inspect all light strands and cords for damage.

Annual Co-op Christmas Cookie/Candy Contest:

Once again it is that time of year – 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 don't send copyrighted material, make the recipe your own!

Winners will receive \$50 for the 1st prize, \$25 for 2nd place and 3rd place is \$15. Plus, the winning recipes will be in the WATTS News so you will also get another \$10 off your monthly bill! You can mail or email the recipes to the Co-op at P.O. Box 228, Bigfork, MN 56628 or roxanne@nieci.com. Please have them here by Friday, Dec. 6.

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.

Road conditions:

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

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

Potato Soup

- 5 medium potatoes
- 3 medium carrots
- 2 medium onions
- 2 sprigs parsley
- 3 chicken bouillon cubes
- water
- pepper to taste



Peel and cut up potatoes, carrots and onions. Put in a pot with enough water to just cover. Add bouillon cubes, parsley and pepper. Bring to a boil and then gently simmer until vegetables are tender. Puree. Reheat and serve.

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.

American Legion Auxiliary
Bake Sale
 Also wreaths & crafts!
Visit with Santa!
Saturday, Dec. 7
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Effie Community Center

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Three win seats in Bigfork

by Sally Sedgwick

Council members Annette Buckingham and Samantha Olson and Mayor Amy Pifher won seats on the Bigfork City Council with an 84% voter turnout in the city.

Caleb Standlie from Widseth spoke on the lead service

water line project from the Minnesota Department of Health which seeks to identify and replace lead and galvanized piping in community water systems.

Archie Wass and Rick Shultz of Wilderness Wheelers ATV Club described a temporary route through Bigfork for the proposed Effie Connection Trail and requested a letter of support.

The trail would pass along the alley on the west side of Main St., cross Highway 38 to Ottum and use Co. Rd. 225 and N. Division to the King Rd. There will be signage for a 15 mph speed limit.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum

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-WANTED-

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

-FOR SALE-

For sale: 4x8 trailer with new wood sides, new tires and recently painted. \$600 Call (612) 710-6028 1/25

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

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

CLASSIFIEDS

-FOR SALE-

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: Leupold Spotting Scope 12x40-6MM - In excellent condition. \$700 Call (320) 493-2699 12/24

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

-POWER SPORTS- accessories-

For sale: 2021 CFMOTO 500 ATV. Power steering, Bosch EFI, winch, snow plow, front and rear racks, rear rack storage, new battery. Only 128 miles. Buying a side by side. \$5,800. Call (612) 710-6028 1/25

For sale: Rear window for Polaris Ranger, new in box \$50 obo. Call (218) 835-8720. Leave message, will call back.

-HEAVY EQUIP-

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

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

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

Letter to Santa



North Itasca Electric's Letter to Santa

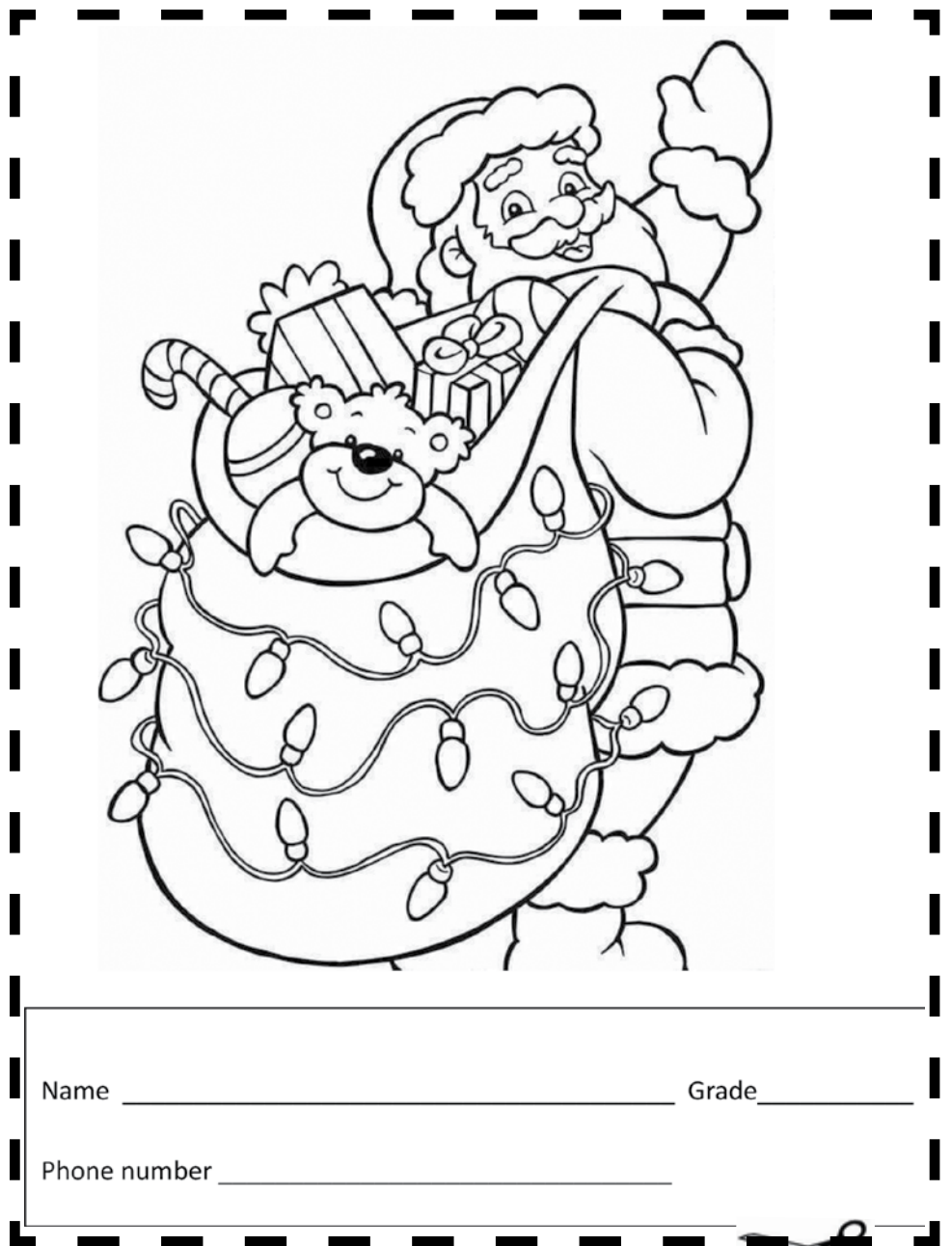
Dear Santa: _____

Signed: _____

Grade: _____

Coloring Contest:

One winner will be picked from We will display all the pages that come 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 judge them on Dec. 9. Coloring pages will all be published in the January WATTS News unless you wish them not to be. Winners will be called - please pick up prizes as soon as you can!



Name _____ Grade _____

Phone number _____




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