



NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

WATTS NEWS

VOL. 28 NO. 1

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

JANUARY 2025

CEO Report

Good morning NIECI!

How on earth is Christmas next week? I'm excited to gather with friends and family over the holidays, but... Wow it seems like 2024 went quick. I plan to throw the fishing gear in the back of the truck and head to Baudette. I'm crossing my fingers I can get the girls out on the ice when fishing is good. They seem to enjoy it more when we're actually catching fish, weird huh? I just want to snag enough to have a little fish fry in the garage with friends and family. A day of shenanigans with my kids in the icehouse would be fantastic too.

Our Board of Directors will meet this Thursday to go over the month's business. This is the meeting they will decide if they will move on the budget.

This year I have recommended a rate increase of 6% for the budget. Off-peak rates went up at Great River Energy, these increases were recommended to be passed to the rates as well. Overall, this was my recommendation to our Board of Directors. This could be changed at the meeting.

Once again, I would like to explain where the increases are coming from. We purchase our power from Great River Energy (GRE). GRE recently



Brad Dolinski, CEO

went through an extensive rate study. During these studies it
CEO to p.2 >

Proposed Rates	2023	2024	2025
Service Availability	\$49.00	\$50.00	\$53.00
kWh	0.1288	0.1300	0.1378
Dual Fuel	0.0673	0.0673	0.07335
ETS (Storage)	0.0581	0.0581	0.06258

Member Services Update

Hello again Everyone!

Winter is here and reminding me very quickly how spoiled we were last year at this time. But we are adjusting and preparing for a more "normal to us" winter season.

It has been a busy few weeks on the load control side of things. With Dual Fuel programs now starting to see an increase in control from Great River Energy, I'll be busy auditing our equipment to verify signals are being sent and loads are being controlled correctly. If there is an issue with the

by Drew Francisco

equipment, I'll always reach out to the membership before coming to test.

The Bigfork Revitalization Grant will be open for applications January 2. I encourage all business owners in Bigfork and surrounding communities in northern Itasca County to apply.

If you are a business owner and would like some input on what projects qualify for this grant, please reach out to me! I will gladly make an appearance to talk things

over. A notice with more information is on page 16 in this issue of the WATTS, my contact information is on there. You never know unless you try!

Over the next month I will be attending meetings at Great River Energy to meet with other Member Services Managers

Member to p.2 >

A BIG commotion in Northome

by Rena F. Troy explained that an oversized load was coming through that required power lines to be taken down. On Monday, Nov. 18, the Northome area found out what they were as two

humongous natural gas separator tanks sat in the middle of town.

These tanks, which were built in Belgium, were shipped to Duluth and are enroute to Equipment to p.7 >



Photo by Amanda Baird.

MISO predicts adequate resources to meet winter demand

The regional grid operator is gearing up for the upcoming winter season with its annual winter outlook. According to MISO (Midwest Independent System Operator), resources are expected to be sufficient to meet expected demand with strong supply margins, but the organization recognizes the potential risks posed by extreme weather events.

"Situational awareness is critical for managing the impact of extreme

weather events," said JT Smith, executive director of market operations at MISO. "Our seasonal readiness workshops involve coordination with our member utilities, key stakeholders and other industry partners to prepare for uncertainty during the winter months."

The winter weather forecast varies across MISO's footprint. The North Region, which includes Minnesota and the Dakotas, is expected to see normal temperatures, while the Central and South

Regions are projected to experience above-normal temperatures. January is forecasted to be the warmest winter month for MISO, with higher chances for cold weather events in December and February.

Winter demand could peak at over 107 gigawatts (GW), with 122 GW of supply anticipated to be available under normal grid and generation outage conditions. The all-time winter demand record remains at 109 GW, set on Jan. 6, 2017.

MISO to p.3 >

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Bigfork area grants

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January Washer/Dryer Sale

pages 8, 9

Coloring Contest

page 6

Office Hours

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

CEO Report (continued)

>from p.1
 was discovered that the Dual Fuel and ETS rates we enjoy were being subsidized at a higher discount than they should have been. Through many discussions it was determined these rates needed to be raised. The increases noted above are a straight pass-through from the increases we incurred from GRE on our special rates.

Next, we were informed through GRE's budget process that our General Service Rates were going up roughly seven percent. GRE makes up roughly fifty percent of the bill you pay. This means I had to recommend a 3.5 percent rate increase to pass these expenses along. I am not trying to pass everything off to blame only GRE. I also had to recommend an increase to our Board. The cost of operating North Itasca Electric continues to grow. Interest rates increased, construction and maintenance costs increased, equipment and labor costs are expected to increase from 2024 to 2025. I requested an additional 2.5 percent to help with the rising costs. I agree, this is not good news, I do not

enjoy rate increases either. We will continue to look for opportunities to reduce costs at North Itasca Electric. I'm afraid this will only help to reduce the increases we continue to see. The biggest help to the bottom line is an increase in sales at North Itasca Electric. In a perfect world, if we could attract a larger load to our system, that would help much more than cost cutting efforts. Spreading expenses over more sales helps all of us.

We have been very involved with economic development efforts in our area; we will continue these efforts. I want to thank you for a wonderful year and wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. It appears we are back to a "normal" winter, that means ice fishing and snowmobiling is back! I know our businesses are excited to see the customers back this winter. Our area depends on four seasons, I just need to remind myself to ignore the cold and go have some fun.

By your side! Miigwech
 Brad

Member Services

>from p.1
 and various contacts within GRE. The goal is to see what's ahead for 2025. There will be presentations on new programs to implement, rate structures and discussions on new technologies we could potentially utilize.

I'll also take time to see what other cooperatives are doing to help their membership. What services are they

offering or researching to help with energy reduction? How are they handling the energy transition process? These are questions I'm excited to ask and hopefully will bring back some potential opportunities for North Itasca Electric.

As always, I'm available for home evaluations and load control discussion at any time. North Itasca Electric also has a wider



Drew Francisco
 variety of parts and equipment available to order. Our hope is to see an increase in stocked inventory over the next few months. We will be sure to share that with you all as it develops further. Feel free to reach out to Roxanne or myself if you are in need of something for those projects you're working on this winter!
 Stay warm, and until next time,

Drew

Introducing Christina Helterbrand, MD
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Dr. Helterbrand graduated from St. Louis University School of Medicine and is a proud U.S. Air Force veteran.

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 (800) 762-4048

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

Road conditions:
 Call 511 or visit 511mn.org

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

North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Directors

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 Treasurer: Roy Bain, District 9
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Highlights from the Board Room

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

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

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

Also Present: CEO Brad Dolinski, Tina Danielson, Daryl Pederson, Drew Francisco and Gina Vickerman.

- Pledge of allegiance was recited.
- Motion to adopt the agenda was made. Seconded, motion carried. A motion was made to consent agenda. Seconded, motion carried.
- A safety discussion was held by Brad to take your time and be cautious traveling on the winter roads. Also do not exert yourself when out shoveling and watch for signs of a heart attack. D. Pederson stated to be careful when out on the fresh snow because the ground is still soft underneath and can cause you to slip easily.
- Brad presented the 2025 Preliminary Budget to the Board for review. He also held a discussion on the Demand Response System providing three options to the Board.
- A motion for Brad to move ahead with negotiating costs was made. Seconded, motion passed.
- Motion to accept the Operating Reports as presented by Tina. Seconded, motion passed.
- Daryl presented the Line Department report. Safety Training will be held on December 2nd. Had two reactors hauled through our system traveling from Duluth to Canada. Each measured 22' 6" H x 200' L x 16' 9" W. ROW clearing is currently in the Squaw Lake/Dunbar Lake area. CR 35 underground is completed and will do the retirement in December. That area should see less outages. There are 4 rejected poles needing to be replaced after the 2024 pole inspection was completed.
- Drew gave his Members Service report and added ticks are still out and to watch for deer ticks. Brad introduced him to the Northland Progressive Group, and he also met with the Bigfork Area Revitalization Group to finalize the grant and application process. The process will be overseen the same as the Operation Roundup.
- Tina presented the Office Report. The General Retirement batch has been posted. The checks will be run next week and should be sent out mid-December. Work order #24715 is closed. Moved to accept the WO Close. Seconded, motion passed.
- Brad presented the CEO report.
- Wes Waller gave the MREA report.
- Lloyd gave the GRE report.
- Round Table discussion was held.
- A motion to adjourn. Seconded, motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

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Winter demand outlook from MISO

>from p.1
“After 2024’s mild winter and summer, it’s important to not become complacent,” said Great River Energy Vice President and Chief Power Supply Officer Jon Brekke. “Our portfolio of power supply resources includes significant amounts of wind power engineered for cold weather operations. And we back that up with dispatchable natural gas peaking plants that provide reliability needed for the energy demands of our membership.”

Peaking plants are designed to quickly ramp up electricity production when needed, ensuring a stable supply of power. Flexibility will be important on the coldest winter days, which is why most of Great River Energy’s peaking plants have the ability to switch from natural gas to fuel oil. If natural gas supplies become constrained, on-site fuel oil serves

as a reliable backup to generate electricity and keep businesses operating and homes safe and warm. “Whether it’s a hot summer or a frigid winter, all of us at Great River Energy are prepared and ready to ensure our member-owners have the energy they need to serve their communities,” Brekke said.

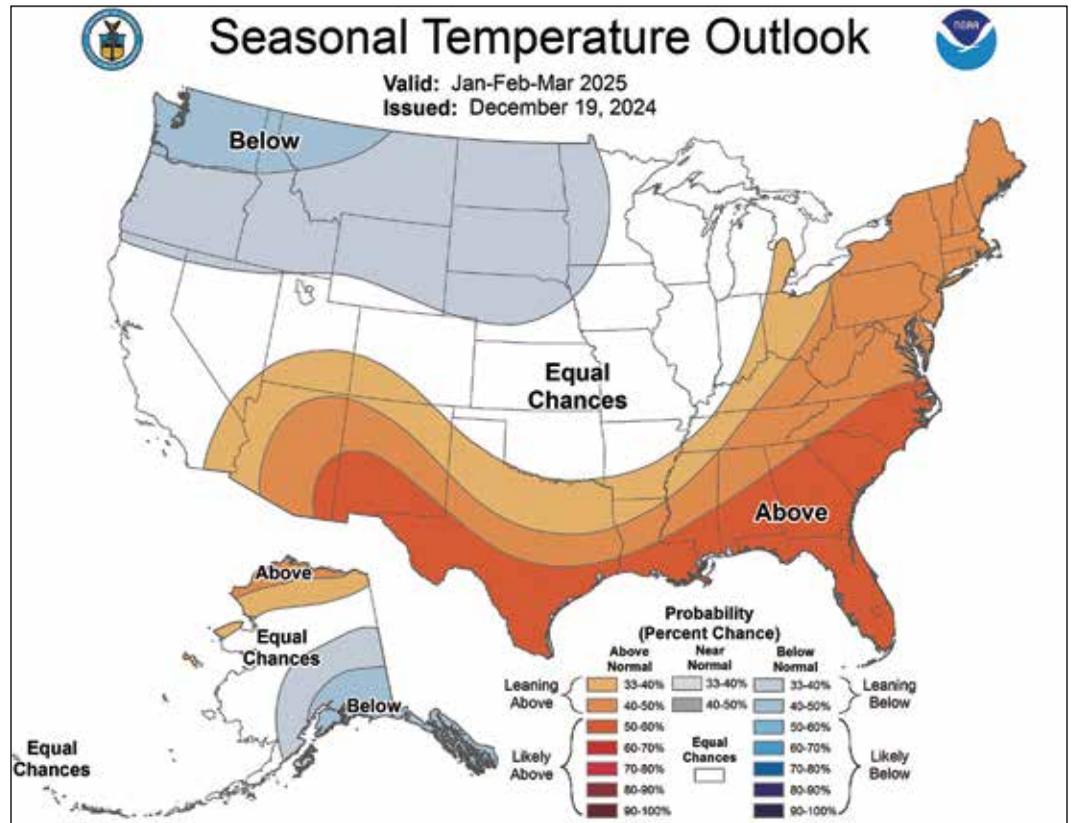
Electrical Inspections

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

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.



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecast shows above-normal temperatures across the MISO’s Central and South regions with near-normal temperatures in the North region. *NOTE:* This map has been updated to the Jan-Mar projection. *Credit:* NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction.

Jesse Lake Lutheran Free Community Meal
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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 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.

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
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Bigfork, Minnesota 56628

is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utility Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504, of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission to, access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

That person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Brad Dolinski, chief executive officer. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utility Service, Washington, DC. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

MEMBER NOTIFICATION TO SMALL POWER PRODUCERS, COGENERATORS

In compliance with Minnesota Adopted Rules relating to Cogeneration and Small Power Production Chapter 7835, North Itasca Electric Co-op, Inc. is required to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers which satisfy the conditions of a Qualifying Facility.

North Itasca Electric Co-op, Inc. will provide free information to all interested members regarding rates and interconnection requirements. An application for interconnection is required for a Qualifying Facility to interconnect and operate in parallel with the cooperative's distribution system and is subject to approval by the Cooperative.

Any disputes over interconnection, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. Members interested in further information should contact North Itasca Electric Co-op, Inc.



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.

MISO approves historic portfolio of transmission lines

MISO approved a new set of high-voltage transmission projects on Dec. 12 that will help energy companies in the Upper Midwest continue to deliver reliable energy and expand a robust electrical grid.

The newly approved second set of projects in MISO's Long-Range Transmission Plan, known as Tranche 2.1, will deliver energy resources to customers where and when they need it. These projects will provide significant benefits, including reliable electricity in the face of a changing energy

system and increased access to new generation. They will also help meet long-term electric growth expected throughout the

northern Minnesota and a new 765-kV transmission backbone that will start in South Dakota, traverse across

in the best interest of its members.

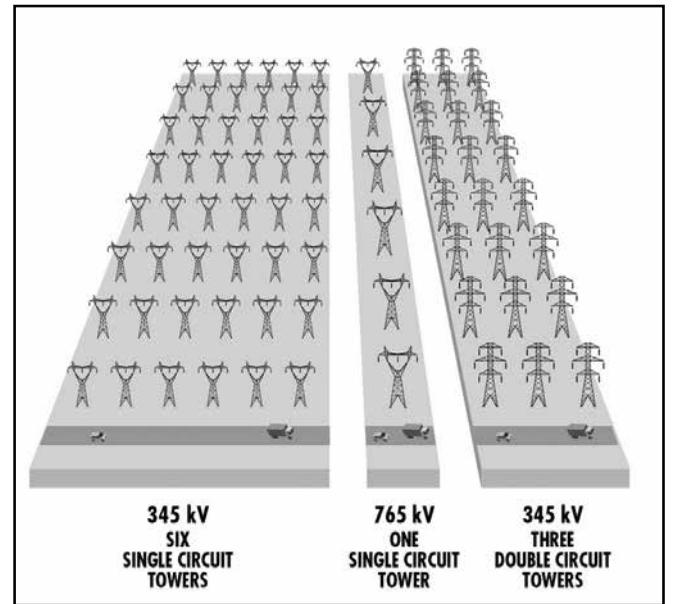
This new set of high-voltage transmission projects will support the region's growing economy and serve customers throughout the Midwest with reliable electricity in a changing energy environment.

The \$21.8 billion portfolio includes projects throughout the Midwest with several 345-kV lines and a 765-kilovolt (kV) transmission backbone in Minnesota. While 765-kV transmission has been used in other parts of the U.S. for decades, the line will be a first for

Midwest in the coming decades.

Great River Energy will be involved in three of the 24 projects in the Tranche 2.1 portfolio, including two 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines in southern Minnesota and into Wisconsin and Iowa. All projects will be developed jointly with other utility partners. GRE worked closely with MISO over the last several years to advocate for the projects that are

"This portfolio of projects is monumental for Minnesota and our members. Introducing a 765-kV electric transmission superhighway is an important step for Minnesota's energy landscape that sets us up for the future."
 — Great River Energy Vice President and Chief Transmission Officer Priti Patel



A single 765-kilovolt (kV) transmission line can carry the same amount of electricity as six 345-kV transmission lines.

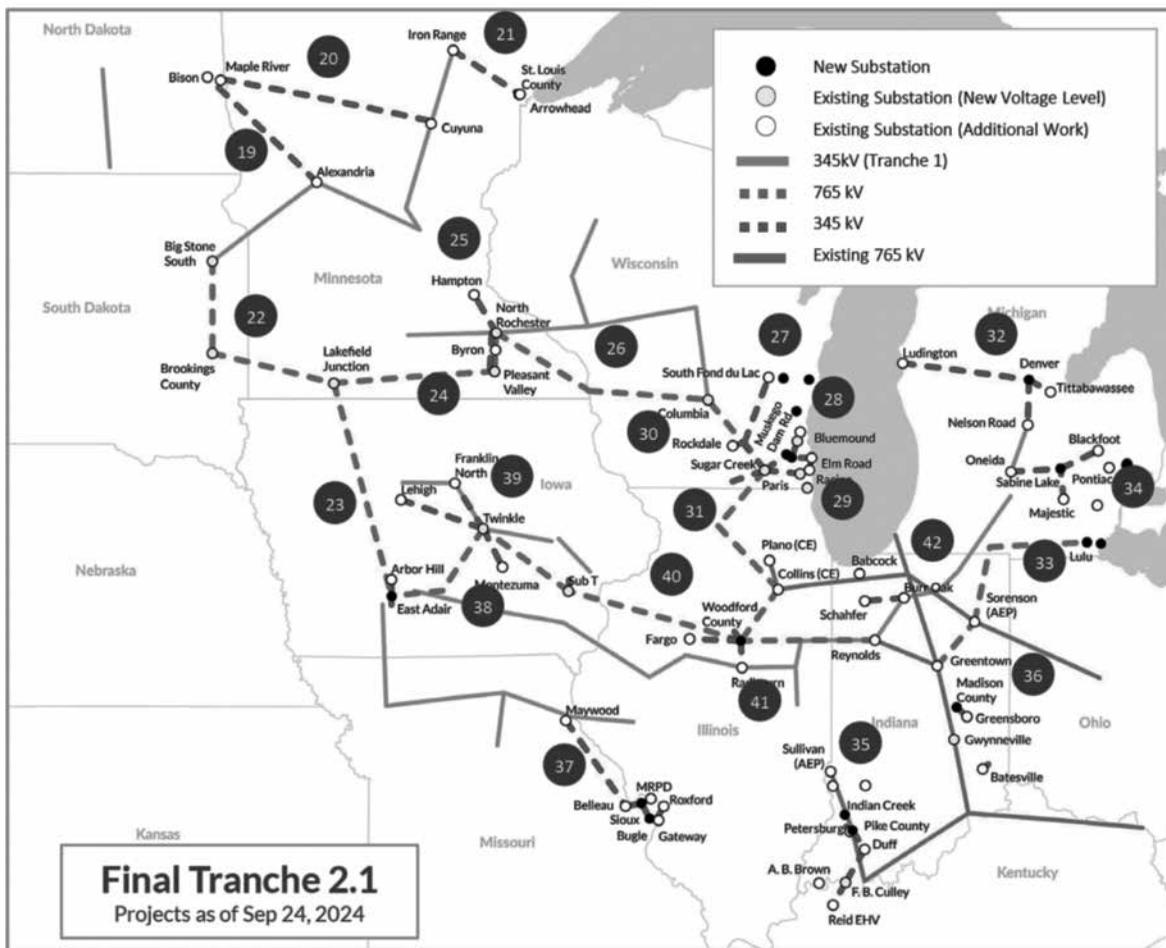
the Upper Midwest. A single 765-kV transmission line can carry the same amount of electricity as six 345-kV transmission lines, maximizing the efficient use of land and reducing the overall impact on landowners.

As the region's electric system continues to transition from fossil fuels to renewable resources such as wind and solar, and the way we use energy continues to evolve, more bulk power lines are needed across the region to ensure continued reliability.

All projects will

require approval from state regulatory agencies. Project partners will engage landowners, local governments and other stakeholders as part of the project development process.

"As we move forward, there will be ample opportunity for public input through our engagement efforts and the state of Minnesota's permitting process. Great River Energy is deeply committed to ensuring our cooperative communities have a voice in the process of developing these lines," GRE Vice President Priti Patel said.



Final Tranche 2.1
Projects as of Sep 24, 2024

ADDRESS CHANGE

Name _____

Box/Street _____

City/State _____

Zip + 4 _____ County _____

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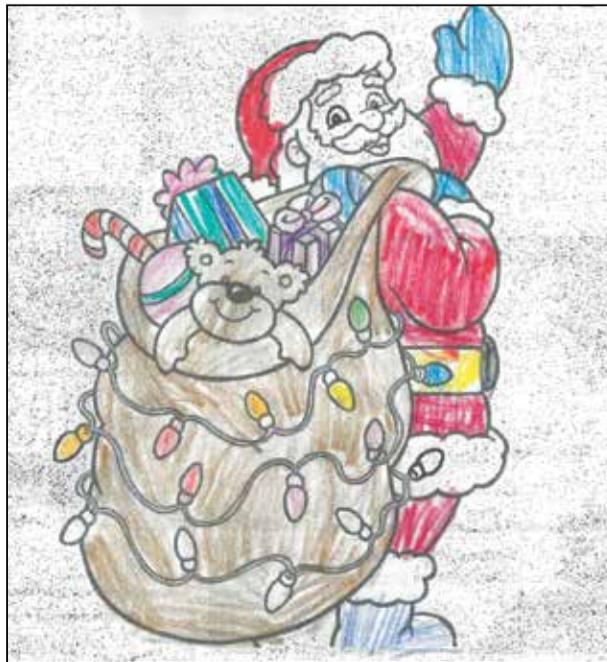
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Christmas Coloring Contest

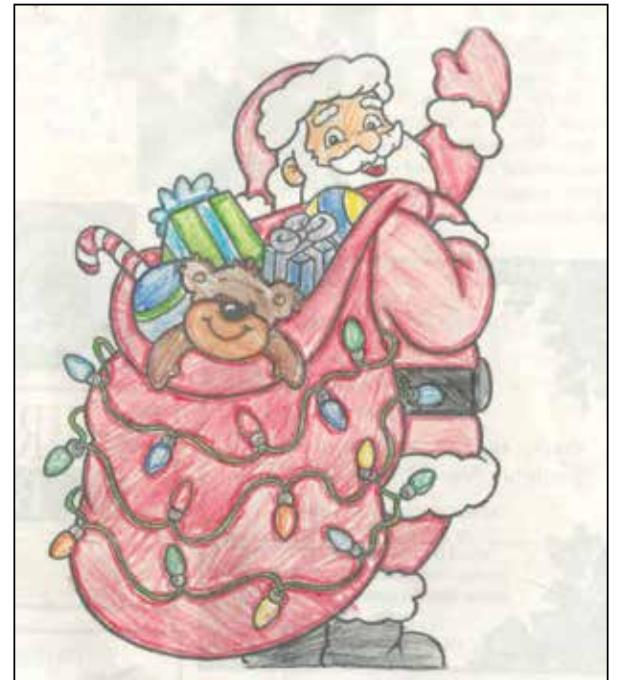
Congratulations to our winners of the Christmas coloring contest, and thank you to every child who sent us a page!



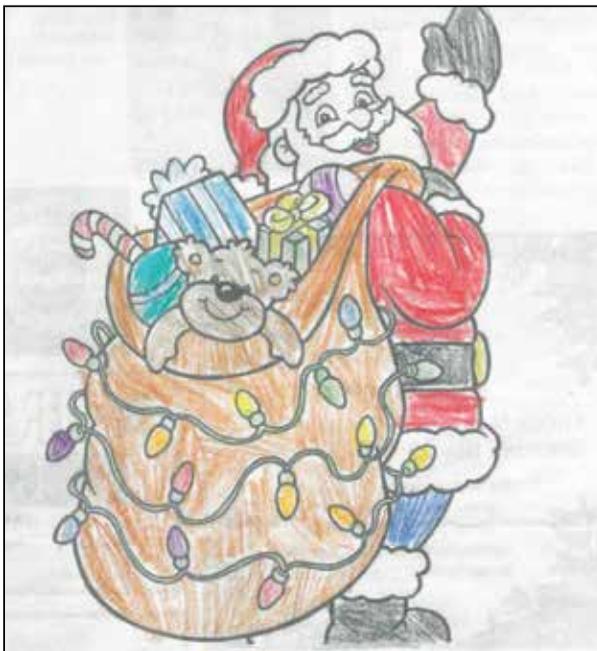
Lillian, grade K: Winner!



Freya, grade 1: Winner!



Savanna, grade 2: Winner!



Addie, grade K



Barrett, grade K



Emma, grade 2

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FDIC

When big equipment meets distribution lines...

>from p.1

Canada. One crew member said that it took them a whole day to get up the hill in Duluth.

They broke down in Northome for a time, and the Northome cafés, businesses and area Airbnbs got some welcomed but unexpected business from the crew that accompanied this shipment.

Courtesy of Bear Country Chronicles

People are familiar with 18-wheelers but try a 48-wheeler or more JUST on the trailer part of this huge entourage!



Photos by Carol Skoe (above) and Bobbie Zeman.

Roxanne's Sales Talk

by Roxanne Prather, Member Services Representative

I can't believe it is the end of December already. This year has flown by.

It has been a good year. I want to thank all of you for all your support. We are here to serve you and I try to do my best to do that.

We are always looking for new ideas on what would be beneficial to our members. We live in a rural area and have to drive at least fifty miles when we can't find what we are looking for in town; that's why we have decided to

sell a lot more electrical supplies at the Co-op. If you have things that you want to see here, please let us know. This is your Co-op. and without you there wouldn't be one. We are open to any suggestions. And if it is something that would benefit all our members we will do our best to try to make it happen.

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I'm looking forward to another great year.



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January Washer and Dryer Sale!

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.



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.

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.



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 dry, normal dry, less dry.



DLE3600V \$1023.23 SALE \$920.91

LG 7.4 c.f. dryer

Drying levels: Damp dry, less dry, more dry, normal dry, very dry, Manual dry times: 20 minutes, 40 minutes, 60 minutes and more time/less time. Temperature settings: high, medium high, medium, low, ultra-low. 3-minute installation check, 4 adjustable legs, control lock, drum light. End of cycle signal, wrinkle care option, remaining time display/status indicator (s). FlowSense duct clogging indicator, LoDecibel quiet operation. ThinQ smart technology, cycle monitoring and notifications, Energy monitoring, remote start and cycle monitor. SmartDiagnosis, WiFi.



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. Time dry 20 to 60 minutes. 10 dryer programs: Towels, air dry (manual dry), perm press, speed dry (manual dry), bedding, delicates, downloaded, heavy duty, normal, small load. 9 dryer options: control lock, damp dry signal, less time, more time, remote start, Wi-Fi, energy saver, signal, wrinkle care.

DLE7400WE \$804.10 SALE \$723.69

(Same as above but white)



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Call or email Roxanne with any questions
(218) 743-3132, roxannep@nieci.com





WT6105CW \$ 532.88 SALE \$479.59

LG 4.1 c.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.



WT7150CM \$802.60 SALE \$722.34

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.



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.



WT7000CW \$701.88 SALE \$631.69

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. SmartDiagnosis™, 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. 3 spin speeds: high, medium, low.



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

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Classic Movie Series

by Jack Nachbar

The popular phrase, "Ahead of its time," often does not mean much, but in the case of the January Classic Movie at the Edge Center the phrase fits perfectly. *No Way Out* (1950), stars Sidney Poitier, in his first featured movie role as a young doctor, and Richard Widmark as a vicious, psychopathic bigot. Their clash threatens the entire community.

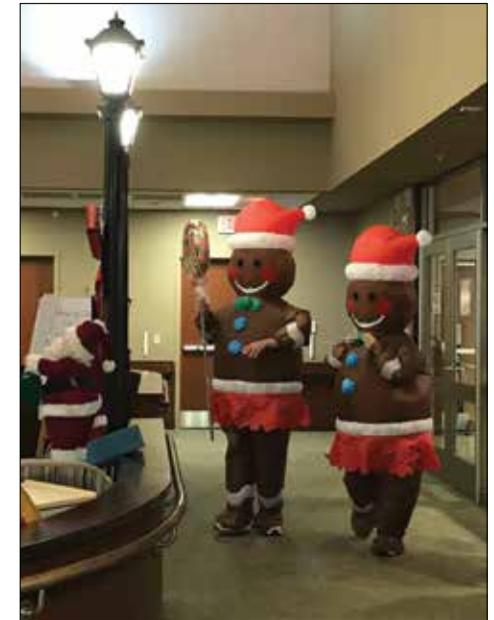
The result is a tense, very exciting movie. But, more importantly, it is one of the best movies ever made about the evils of racism. It still has a powerful impact on viewers. And to think, this movie appeared when Jim Crow laws still controlled American culture. This makes it an extraordinary film. It's still essential viewing even in 2025.

No Way Out will be shown at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 9 at the Edge Center Theater in Bigfork. FREE!

FEBRUARY CLASSIC MOVIE: It's Valentine's Day time and the perfect movie for the occasion is the very funny screwball comedy, *Love Crazy* (1941) starring Myrna Loy and William Powell. Thursday, February 13, at 6:30 p.m. at the Edge.

Christmas Parade at Bigfork Valley

Staff organized a Christmas Parade for Senior Services at Bigfork Valley on Dec 19, delighting residents with homemade floats *two* Santas (was one an imposter?), cookies and even "reindeer" pulling sleighs.



Bigfork Valley adds diabetes specialty

Bigfork Valley is pleased to announce the addition of Christina Helderbrand, MD, to our Specialty Clinic team. Dr. Helderbrand brings extensive expertise in diabetes specialty care, including managing uncontrolled diabetes, insulin pump therapy, diabetes-related complications, gestational diabetes, and blood glucose monitoring systems.



Dr. Helderbrand earned her medical degree from St. Louis University School of Medicine and proudly served as a member of the U.S. Air Force. Her dedication to patient care and her specialized knowledge in diabetes management will be a valuable asset to our community.

Dr. Helderbrand will begin seeing patients in mid-January 2025. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 218-743-4317. The Specialty Clinic operates Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, please contact Bigfork Valley at 218-743-4317.

Statewide plans for OHV/ATV/ORV/OHM

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is accepting comments through Feb. 21 on strategic master plans for each of the three primary categories of off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation: all-terrain vehicles (ATV), off-road vehicles (ORV), and off-highway motorcycles (OHM).

The plans and overview document are available for review at <https://engage.dnr.state.mn.us>, click on "Off-Highway Vehicles Strategic Master Plans."

The DNR will host an online webinar with live captioning on Jan. 28 at 6 p.m. to provide an overview of the draft plans. Instructions to join are on the project webpage.

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Bigfork Valley Community Foundation makes donations

The Bigfork Valley Community Foundation recently contributed to Bigfork Valley, Bigfork Valley long term care and Bigfork Improvement Group. BVCF is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to address current and future needs of the Northern Itasca Hospital District and its communities through charitable contributions.

The BVCF recently contributed \$5,901.06 to Bigfork Valley for new waiting room furniture. (l to r, back row) from Bigfork Valley: Josh Kinn, plant operations manager; Sam Beckner, supply chain coordinator, Heidi Powell, human resources manager; BCVF board member Bill Swanberg; Bigfork Valley Auxiliary members Candie Stockinger, Max Gretsche. (l to r, front row) Bigfork Valley Auxiliary members Diane Gallagher, Nancy Scrivner, Marcie Lindgren.



The BVCF recently contributed \$400 to the Bigfork Improvement Group for a kitchen upgrade. (l to r) Cindy Benson, Bigfork Improvement Group board member; Bill Swanberg, BVCF board member; Nanci Zeine, BVCF board member.



The BVCF recently contributed \$12,318.39 to Bigfork Valley for Tamarack long-term care facility improvements. (l to r) Josh Kinn, plant operations manager, Bigfork Valley; Deb Morell, DON Long-Term Care, Bigfork Valley; Bill Swanberg, board member, BVCF.

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Enjoy the ice over the holidays, but check it often

With fresh snow in many parts of the state, anglers and others recreating on the ice must keep in mind that snow can hinder ice-making and cover up potentially dangerous areas, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

In addition, it's vital people check the ice thickness frequently, and keep in mind the DNR's ice thickness recommendations, which apply to new, clear ice (double them for white or snow-covered ice):

- More than 4 inches for ice fishing or other activities on foot.
- 5-7 inches for a snowmobile or a small ATV.
- 7-8 inches for a side-by-side ATV.
- 9-12 inches for a car.
- 13-17 inches for a truck.
- More than 20 inches for a large truck with a wheelhouse shelter.

When measuring the thickness of the ice, measure only the clear ice – not any slush or snow that's settled on top of it. It's important to keep in mind, too, that ice thickness and quality can vary even within a small area on the same body of water.

DNR conservation officers report lakes throughout the state are attracting increasing numbers of anglers, and they expect things will be even busier over the holidays. COs continue reminding ice recreationalists of the importance of wearing safety gear such as ice picks and a life jacket or float coat, and to check the ice for themselves – not rely on someone else's tracks, footprints, or social media post.

"We understand and share in people's excitement for getting onto the ice and making the most of a short season," said Col. Rodmen Smith, director of the DNR Enforcement Division. "But there's nothing good to be gained by pushing the envelope. There are plenty of good ice-fishing opportunities out there, but please check the ice yourself and take our thickness guidelines seriously."

Every year, unexpected falls through thin ice result in serious injury or death. Checking the ice thickness with a spud bar, auger, or other device is the best way to prevent falling through. Wearing a life jacket or float coat is the best way to avert tragedy should someone fall through the ice, since the initial shock of falling into cold water can incapacitate even strong swimmers. A good set of ice picks will help the person get out, and a cell phone, whistle or other communications device makes it more likely they would be able to call for help. Make sure to let someone on shore know where you're going and when you plan to return.

B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork

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

Note: No Bingo in December

Visit your co-op at
www.NorthItascaElectric.com
get updates on Facebook!

Outdoor skills & stewardship

Feeling shut-in this winter? Try these Department of Natural Resources "Outdoor skills and Stewardship" webinars.

Each webinar begins at noon on Wednesdays and lasts less than an hour. More information and to register, visit dnr.state.mn.us/fishwildlife/outreach. For questions email benjamin.kohn@state.mn.us or call (651)259-5178. You can also browse and listen to previous webinars.

Jan. 8: Red-headed woodpecker

Dr. Elena West from the Minnesota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Minnesota will share more about the Red-headed Woodpecker Research and Recovery Project. Learn about the collaborative work being done and why Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve is such a suitable habitat for this bird species.

Jan. 15: Ice fishing with tip-ups

Ice fishing with tip ups can be a fun and effective way to catch fish. Join Scott Mackenthun, DNR Area Fisheries Supervisor, to learn what species can be caught, where to set up, what type of bait is used, new regulations to be aware of and tips to improve your catch rate!

Jan. 22: Oak wilt identification and prevention

Oak wilt is the biggest disease threat to oaks in Minnesota. Once it infects an oak, it is very expensive to control. Fortunately, there are a few easy ways we can prevent it. Brian Schwingle, DNR forest health program coordinator, will share what oak wilt actually is, how to identify it, and how to prevent it.

Jan. 29: Fishers in Minnesota

Michael Joyce, wildlife ecologist with the Natural Resources Research Institute, has been studying fishers in Minnesota for the last 6 years. He will share general information on fisher history and status in Minnesota, highlight factors contributing to their recent population decline, and describe ongoing research.

area bookmobile stops

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

Mondays: Jan. 6 & 27, no stop in Feb.

Note: *the Gemmel stop has been canceled.*

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

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

4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Squaw Lake; Community Ctr

Note: *the Squaw Lake stop has been shortened.*

Tuesdays: Jan. 7, 28, Feb. 18

12:00 - 1 p.m. Bowstring Store

2:30-3:30 p.m. Effie: Country Store

4:00-5:15 p.m. Bigfork: City Hall

Note: *the Bigfork stop has been shortened*

Thursdays: Jan. 9, 30; Feb. 20

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

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

— Community Education —

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

ADULT OPEN WOODSHOP

Date: Weds.: 10 sessions starting Jan. 15

Time: 4-7 p.m.

Location: High school wood shop/auto shop

Cost: \$60

Not a teaching class, but an opportunity to work on school equipment. Bring your own project and materials.

PICKLEBALL 101: LEARN TO PLAY

Date: Friday 5 sessions starting Jan. 24

Time: 6-7:30 p.m.

Location: ISD317 King School elementary gym

Cost: \$25

Paddles are available to use.

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.

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

Community News

Email editor at sedgwick@paulbunyan.net,

~ January Calendar ~

Squaw Lake

Squaw Lake Fire Department pancake breakfast is Sat., Jan 18, 9-11 a.m. or until it's gone. \$10 per person, kids 10 and under free at the Community Center on Highway 46.

General Interest

At the Forest History Center in Grand Rapids: 2609 County Road 76. More information, call (218) 327-4482.

Winter sleigh rides! Most Fridays and Saturdays in January visitors can take a horse drawn sleigh ride around the campus followed by a cup of cocoa around a fire. Rides are scheduled for one hour usually at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Cost is \$20 adults, \$18 for seniors and children ages 5-17. More information at www.mnhs.org/events.

Free Day with the Bell Museum on Jan. 11, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Snowshoes, check out snowflakes under a microscope, create snowflake art, look for animal tracks. Offered through the State of Minnesota's Legacy Amendment, from the vote of Minnesotans on Nov. 4, 2008.

Lecture series (regular site admission: 1-3 p.m.) : **Jan. 4: Spirits Dancing:** The Night Sky, Indigenous Knowledge, and Living Connections to the Cosmos with nature and wildlife photographer Travis Novitsky. **North of Nowhere:** Storytelling with Terry O'Brien. **Feb. 1:** Birds, Bees and Butterflies with Bonny Siegford.

Christmas Cookie and Candy Booklet

The 2024 Christmas Cookie/Candy recipe book is available! Members can email Roxanne at rprather@nieci.com or call for a pdf file, or stop by the office to pick up a copy in the foyer.



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.

- 1 New Year's Day: **North Itasca Electric offices CLOSED.** No school, all schools.
 - 2 Jesse Lake Lutheran hosts a Grief Support Group at 10 a.m. on Thursday mornings. For more information, call Marion at (320) 293-5741.
 - 6 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
 - 6 ISD 317 School Board meets at Deer River HS, 6 p.m. Organizational Meeting.
 - 8 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
 - 9 Classic Movies presents *No Way Out* (1950), with Sidney Poitier (in his first featured movie role) and Richard Widmark. . 6:30 p.m. at the Edge Center. Free.
 - 13 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m.
 - 13 Blackduck ISD 32 School Board meets, 6 p.m. in the Media Center.
 - 14 Stop & Stitch meets at the Marcell Family Center the 2nd Tuesday of every month, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. More info, call Debbie at (218) 360-1503.
 - 14 Bigfork City Council meets at City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
 - 15 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.
 - 17 No school, Bigfork.
 - 18 Pancake Breakfast benefitting Squaw Lake Volunteer Fire Department 9-11 a.m. at the Community Center. Pancakes & bacon/sausage. \$10, 10 and under free.
 - 20 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
 - 20 Martin Luther King Day. No school, all schools.
 - 21 ISD 318 School Board meeting at **Bigfork School/Edge Center** or at watchictv.org, 6:30 p.m. Work session 5 p.m., no Open Forum.
 - 21 Jessie Lake Lutheran free community meal 4-6 p.m. January meal is chili, cornbread and dessert.
 - 28 Northwoods Quilters meet 4th Tuesday at Marcell Town Hall, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Show 'n Tell and quilting techniques.
 - 30 Bigfork Valley Hospital board meets in public meeting, 9 a.m.
- FEB
- 1 Winter Frolic at the Marcell Family Center. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Family event: crafts, food and fun. Free.

Bigfork City Council

by Sally Sedgwick
At its December 10 meeting, the Bigfork City

Council recognized the valued service of the late Joe Zimmer, who was director of Public Works for many years.

During public forum Sarah Stone updated the council on grooming plans for the hospital loop of RiverWalk. The trail will be groomed to a width that will accommodate three tracks: classic cross country ski, skate ski, and snowshoe/walk/kick sled on a packed snow deck. EOWSKI! is looking for a volunteer groomer. For more information, call Stone at (218) 387-5012.

The council accepted the resignation of Councilor Jerry Denny. A notice of vacancy resolution will be on the January agenda.

Matt Grose, superintendent of ISD318 said

that this year the District has a balanced budget with an upgrade in credit rating to A- with a stable outlook. The district has 3,900 students and 267 teachers at 9 sites in Itasca County. At almost 1,950 square miles, the district is the third largest in the state. The District has formed a Bigfork School Advisory Committee to advocate for the school.

Guest staff are needed for substitutes, and an adult volunteer is needed at the new fitness center for students to be able to use it after school. For more information, call Grose at (218) 327-5731 or email: mgrose@id318.org.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall

excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum

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	

Blandin Foundation announces grants benefitting local rural communities

The Blandin Foundation has announced a new round of Small Community and Rural Placemaking (SC/RPM) grants aimed at empowering Minnesota's smallest communities. The grants are designed to support community-driven solutions and foster resilience in communities where resources are often limited.

In 2022, Blandin opened a round of pandemic-era

grants emphasizing Minnesota's smallest communities, drawing an overwhelming response from applicants and offering a glimpse into the needs and dreams of small-town Minnesota. Informed by this response and armed with new research into dramatic disparities in rural philanthropy, the Foundation created the SC/RPM grants in 2024 to bring about positive, noticeable changes in Minnesota's tiniest communities.

Rural areas in Minnesota receive only eight percent of philanthropic funding, despite hosting 23 percent of the population, leaving fewer local resources for vital rural projects.

"We learned that with a modest amount of money and a little support, small towns do incredible things," said Tuleah Palmer, CEO and President of the Blandin Foundation. "That means respecting the unique development of rural place and identity, and meeting communities where they are at, rather than imposing someone else's ideas and structures on them."

Grants were awarded locally to Bigfork, Blackduck, Deer River and Edge of the Wilderness:

- Bigfork Valley Community Foundation: \$120,000

to improve community aesthetics, enhance community amenities, display cooperation with neighboring communities for mutual benefit and lay the groundwork for current and future development in the Edge of the Wilderness area.

- Blackduck Area Seniors: \$14,000 to replace flooring in the Blackduck Area Senior Center.
- City of Blackduck : \$10,000 to restore the landmark duck.
- City of Deer River: \$50,000 to complete a feasibility study for a community facility to house nonprofit and for-profit businesses in downtown Deer River.
- City of Deer River/Smart North: \$20,000 for an initiative to bridge the digital divide in rural communities by expanding Deer River Tech Hub programming, recruiting additional youth and providing essential support services like meals, clothing and mentorship to improve school outcomes such as grades and attendance. It will also promote tech careers, offering certifications to young women, guiding high school students through career pathways and securing internships or jobs for participants.
- Northern Itasca Joint Powers Board: \$20,000 to update the current comprehensive plan to guide future growth and development for the Edge of the Wilderness area communities.

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• recipes •

1st

One Step Beyond White Chocolate Macadamia Cookies

Thank you to Steven Vigistol for this winning Christmas recipe!

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. No need to grease the cookie sheet.

1 cup butter-flavored Crisco	1 cup macadamia nuts
3/4 cup white sugar	1 pkg white chocolate morsels
1/4 cup brown sugar	1 pkg Heath chips
2 eggs	2 1/4 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking soda in 1 teaspoon hot water	
1 teaspoon vanilla	
1 teaspoon table salt	

Combine all the ingredients in a large bowl except the flour and mix well. Once well mixed, add flour a little at a time and continue mixing until dough is well blended.

Spoon out dough balls onto cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 11 minutes.

Makes approximately 3-1/2 to 4 dozen depending on how big you make them.

2nd

Never Fail Fudge

Thank you to Ann Shears for this winning Christmas recipe!

Line a 8 x 8 pan with foil, making sure the foil comes up on the sides to make it easy to remove from the pan.

- 3 cups of semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1-14 ounce can of sweetened condensed milk
- 1/4 cup of butter
- 1 cup of walnuts (optional)

Heat the chocolate chips, milk and butter in a sauce pan on medium heat until everything is melted, about 7-8 minutes until mixture is smooth. Do not turn the heat up or it might not turn out right.

Add: Walnuts and stir.

Pour in the lined pan and smooth it out. Once it is set up, remove from the pan and place on cutting board, remove the foil from the edges and use a sharp knife to cut into small pieces

Makes 42 pieces.

AD DEADLINE
for the FEBRUARY issue: Friday, Jan. 17

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For sale: 4-100 lb and 1-40 lb gas cylinder. \$275 for all. (218) 760-8105 2/25
For sale: Toro 521 2-stage snowblower (5 hp; 21" cut) Electric start. Looks and runs good \$250. Call (218) 760-8105 1/25
For sale: Santa Bears. Some are dated. Mostly white in color \$15 each. Call (218) 832-3050 2/25

-FOR SALE-

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

-POWER SPORTS- accessories-

For sale: 1999 Polaris 335. 1,300 miles. Snowplow & winch, topper, chains. Moving. 49256 Center Pt. Rd. Bigfork. \$2,600 Call (218) 832-3363 2/25
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-POWER SPORTS- accessories-

For sale: Rear window for Polaris Ranger, new in box \$50 obo. Call (218) 835-8720. Leave message, will call back. 1/25

-WINTER SPORTS- fishing, skiing-

For sale: Cross country skis with poles. Call (218) 832-3050 2/25
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-FARM-

Wanted: 100 hp tractor. Call (406) 581-5635 2/25

Emails will be acknowledged. If no reply, please resend.

'Name a Snowplow' contest

The Minnesota Department of Transportation has collected thousands of entries for the annual Name a Snowplow contest - that name actually goes on a plow in one of the MNDOT districts. Voting on the list of finalists will begin in January; watch for it on MNDOT's Facebook page.

Here are last year's winners:

- Taylor Drift
- Clark W. Blizzwald
- Dolly Plowton
- Waipahinte (Dakota word for "snowplow")
- Beyonsleigh
- You're Killin' Me Squalls
- Fast and Flurrious
- Barbie's Dream Plow

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BIGFORK BUSINESS REVITALIZATION GRANT PROGRAM 2025

REVITALIZE YOUR BUSINESS ENERGIZE YOUR COMMUNITY

The Bigfork Business Revitalization Grant Program to help boost the local economy through the appearance of our small business community.

The aim of this grant fund is to help local businesses by enhancing the external or internal appearance of their business premises within our community. By recognizing our roles as both business owners and community members, it holds significance for us to cultivate and sustain an impression of advancement and prosperity.

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- b. Replacement of weathered awnings or signage.
- c. Exterior business area revitalization to existing structure(s)
- d. Interior improvements to existing structure(s)

APPLICATION PERIODS

- Application Period 1:
 - January 2nd, 2025 - April 30th, 2025
 - Funds awarded & distributed in May of 2025
- Application Period 2:
 - June 1st, 2025 - October 31st, 2025
 - Funds awarded & distributed in November of 2025



LEARN MORE:

QUESTIONS? LEARN MORE BY CONTACTING DREW FRANCISCO:

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“The Road to Bethlehem”:

A Festival of the Nativities

Susan Devries collects Nativity scenes; scenes from all over the world, from many different cultures and made of many different materials.

The Saturday after Thanksgiving, she has been sharing them at the Sand Lake Alliance Church on Co Rd. 4 in Spring Lake. And the exhibit grows each year.

This year there were about 250 Nativity scenes and - new this year - some were displayed in lighted villages made by Devries.



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