



NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

WATTS NEWS

VOL. 28 NO. 11

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NOVEMBER 2025

CEO Report

Good morning NIECI!

This is a special time of the year without a doubt. My daughters and I are up north for the MEA youth deer hunt this weekend.

The weather doesn't sound very good. I believe we are going to see rain most of the day. I asked the girls what they wanted to do this morning, the deer stand wasn't on the list. We have plenty of time to go sit when the rain isn't falling, today will be a day to visit friends and family. Once again, this weekend isn't about hunting for me, rather a time to slow down and enjoy.

Our board approved the capital credit spend for 2025 at the September meeting. We

will be paying roughly \$250,000 to members that had service in 2003 and a portion of 2004.

There was a good debate that I need your help with. Over the years we have had many checks sent out to members that were far below \$5.00. I have even heard from many of these members! Why would you go through the expense of sending me such a small check? I want to put the capital credits on your bill if you have an active account this year. We can set a threshold, if the credit is above \$100, we will send a physical check. This would speed up the process and save the Member-Owners significant money. Not



Brad Dolinski, CEO

mailing over 4,000 physical checks, in turn not having to process the checks later is a huge savings. What are your thoughts? Please let me know if you strongly oppose getting your capital credits on a bill credit in December.

Our Operation Round-Up board recently met to review applications and pass funding along. Thank you to all our Member-Owners who

CEO to p.2>

Member Services Update

by Drew Francisco

Hello again everyone!

Another month has passed; it has definitely felt like fall the last few mornings. I'm excited to go out and enjoy the northwoods as this is my favorite time of year.

Been a busy month with winter preparations and new services going in. I have mentioned in past articles about the new load control system we are pursuing. Switching from a Great River Energy controlled radio frequency

device to a cellular controlled Eaton model.

With this change, we will not only have a more up-to-date and reliable system, but

it will also give us more access to system-specific control. The Eaton control modules will free us up to control local loads on our substations.

GRE's peak hours, temperature and economic events may

differ from ours from time to time, meaning their control cycles may not always align with what's happening up here in the great northwoods. If we can capitalize on local demand savings across our entire system,

Member to p.2>

Norhland Reliability Project breaks ground



Running from the Iron Range Substation north of Warba to Sherbourne County, the 345 kV transmission line is the first in a planned building program to strengthen the MISO transmission system. MISO is the grid operator roughly across the center of the country, north to south from Minnesota to Louisiana. Caption at end of story.

Energy leaders and state partners gathered today at a groundbreaking and resilience in northern and central Minnesota as the clean-energy transition Project, a transformative transmission continues.

Project to p.5>



Operation Round Up grants awarded

Operation Round Up Community Trust Board held its fall meeting in October to award grants to community organizations. This fall 29 grants were made totaling about \$12,000, listed on p. 7.

Operation Round Up® is a charitable program designed to provide financial assistance to local nonprofit organizations and community projects. North Itasca Electric's members who generously participate "round up" their electric bills to the nearest dollar each month. The extra change is pooled into a separate account, which is used

toward charitable giving purposes.

The maximum annual contribution is \$11.88 per year. Although the change comes in small amounts, when combined with other participating co-op members, the amount is enough to make a substantial difference for our community organizations. Grants are awarded by a nine member volunteer Trust Board.

Bi-yearly application deadlines are in the spring and fall. Applications and more information about Operation Round Up are available at www.northitascaelectric.com.

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Hunter's Suppers

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**November Refrigerator &
Freezer Sale**

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Christmas Contests

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Office Hours

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

CEO Report (continued)

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contribute to Operation Round-Up. The ORU board passed roughly \$12,000 out to non-profits from across the service territory. This is another great example of how we continue to serve the communities that built us many years ago.

We are still working hard on the 2026 budget. Once again, GRE has a rate increase of roughly 3%. Because GRE is about half our expenses I expect to recommend passing this increase onto

the Member-Owners' bills, this will be a 1.5% increase to your bill. We are looking at the expenses on our end to see what we can do to keep costs at bay. I do not expect large rate increases for 2026.

I want to give a huge thank you to our linemen. We experienced a wind event a couple of weeks ago that had them running all day Sunday and into Monday. We have a crew of eight linemen. At one point during the storm, we had 2500 accounts out of power. The crew safely

got the power restored to everyone by Monday morning.

We need to be patient during these events. These linemen literally have their lives on the line for all of us. I need them to be careful; we limit the hours they can work during these events to 18 hours straight. We will call for mutual aid when necessary, most often our talented crew can handle these situations without assistance.

Thank you for your patience and thank you to our crew for all the hard work.

*By your side! Miigwech
Brad*

Member Services

>from p.1

we (in theory) will be able to pay less for the demand charges on our monthly bill.

This is all preliminary, but what is exciting about it is the potential. We are taking the correct steps to have a system capable of doing all these things. There will be more to come on this as our staff has a lot more homework and research to follow through on. But it's still exciting – with change comes opportunity. Not sure if I made that up or if someone told me that, but it's true either way!

Another thing I'm

working on is the potential for residential load shedding – relying on whole house backup generators. Again, working on demand savings across our system. So, if you have a backup generator capable of running your home in the event of a demand peak, I'd like to hear from you. We could set up a site visit, or you could stop in and have a chat about what this program could look like. This process is in its beginning stages, but information from all you is key to keep me marching in the right direction.



Drew Francisco

I know this is riveting stuff, but I won't keep you glued to the paper any longer. I hope all of you get out and enjoy the remaining warmer days. As always, I'm here to help with any questions or concerns you may have; Give us a call!

Until next time,
Drew Francisco

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We may have a check for you!

North Itasca Electric has a long list of Members and former Members who have been sent capital credit checks, but whose checks were returned. One of the checks may be for you or someone you know! For instance, have you changed addresses over the last 20 years without updating-

our contact information with the office?

Check the list at NorthItascaElectric.com! If you know anyone on the list, have them contact the office at (218) 743-3131 or 1(800) 762-4048, or email or support @nieci.com to update your contact information and claim the check.

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** – Eric Kluge (612) 772-6659
- **Koochiching County** – Brian Johnson (612) 757-9458
- **Beltrami County** – Wade Koons (218) 580-8589



WATTS NEWS

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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

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James White, District 1

Mary Rahier, District 4

Todd Christensen, District 6 Tom Kallio, District 7

Jeff Kilian, District 8

Highlights from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Sept. 25, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on Sept. 25, 2025.

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

Also present: CEO Brad Dolinski, Dan Heinecke, Andy Shaw, Daryl Pederson and Gina Vickerman.

Absent: T. Christensen, J. White and Drew Francisco

- Pledge of allegiance was recited.
- Made a motion to adopt the agenda. Second, motion carried. A motion was made to consent agenda. Second, motion carried.
- A safety discussion was held by Brad. He talked about the importance of keeping your windshield clean and showed the Board the window cleaning device he purchased from Walmart. ERP was discussed in the Executive Session.
- Dan presented the Operating Report. Motion to approve was made. Second, motion carried.
- Board Policy: Andy presented Policy 300.50 – Disaster Recovery, 400.80 – Whistleblower and 400.90 – Information Technology and Social Media for discussion. Motion of Policy 300.50 being read and reviewed on 9/2/25 made. Support; motion carried. Motion of Policy 400.80 being read and reviewed on 9/25/25 was made. Second, motion carried. Motion of Policy 400.90 of being read and reviewed was made. Second, motion carried.
- Daryl presented the Line Department report. MREA was on site for Digger Training. Crews completed 10 new services along with replacing several broken poles. EXO inspection found 35 rejected poles that will be replaced this winter. Daley Larson Rd is near completion then the crew will continue with the last portion along Janes School Rd.
- Brad presented the Members Service report in Drew's absence. He attended the GRE Member Services meetings September 24th – 26th. He plans to meet with 3 more businesses in October wanting to get involved in the E3 Loan Program.
- Dan presented the Office Report. Cold Weather Rule starts on October 1st. The Office staff attended a capital credit class at Lake County Power. We also had our rediscovery training with PCS for the Insight side of the program. We are also working on the 2026 budget.
- Brad presented the CEO report. MREA held the fall CEO Conference in September.
- Wes Waller gave the MREA report.
- Lloyd gave the GRE report.
- Round Table discussion was held. Motion to adjourn. Second, motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

To be placed on the board meeting agenda:

Please contact CEO Brad Dolinski at least two weeks in advance to be included on the agenda.

Co-ops launch award program to honor local heroes

Minnesota's electric co-ops in partnership with cooperatives are seeking Minnesota's Touchstone Energy cooperatives. The award provides an opportunity for anyone served by an electric cooperative to nominate an individual who has made a meaningful, positive impact in their community.

The Cooperative Heroes Award celebrates Minnesota's cooperative values: integrity, innovation, reliability, accountability and commitment to community. Judges will evaluate nominees for these qualities as they select three winners.

Each winner will receive funding to support a local nonprofit or cause of their choice with first place receiving \$1,000 while second and third place winners will receive \$500 each. Nominations are open now through Nov. 15.

"Together, let's shine

a light on the community heroes whose dedication has touched lives and inspired change," said Joe Miller, director of communications at the Minnesota Rural Electric Association.

Visit mrea.org/programs/touchstone-energy to view and submit an application.



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.

You can send in a change of address using the form on page 4.

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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 (\$71,999 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2026. 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. -Itasca
822 NE 5th Ave.
Grand Rapids MN 55744
218-999-0800; 877-687-1163
- KOOTASCA ENERGY ASS'T. - Koochiching
900 5th St. Suite 304
International Falls, MN 56649
218-283-9491
- BI-COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL
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- ITASCA COUNTY SOCIAL SERV.
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- KOOCHICHING COUNTY FAMILY SERVICES
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MISO insights

Interested in how much wind power is coming into the grid?
Visit www.misoenergy.org. MISO is the Midwest Independent System Operator which acts like a giant market for buying and selling power and capacity. On this page you can find almost real time electricity mix for wind, solar, coal, nuclear, natural gas and imported energy, updated every 5 minutes. The graphics may surprise you!
There is also a category for "Other," which includes biomass and hydro among other sources. That category at time of writing only contributed about 1.3% of the total.
Grid health is also shown with advisories for need to reduce demand or power interruptions.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

With the holiday season approaching and more time spent in the kitchen, consider ways to save energy in the heart of your home. When possible, cook meals with smaller, energy efficient appliances, such as toaster ovens, slow cookers and air fryers. When using the range, match the size of the pan to the heating element. Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean so they reflect heat more efficiently. After your holiday meals are complete, load the dishwasher fully before starting the wash cycle.

Source: energy.gov

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Transmission project groundbreaking

Jointly owned by Minnesota Power and Great River Energy, the Northland Reliability Project is the first major transmission initiative from MISO's Tranche 1 to break ground. Leaders from Minnesota Power, Great River Energy, the Midcontinent Independent Operator (MISO), the Minnesota Department of Commerce and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission were among those who attended the event at the Sherburne History Center in Becker, Minnesota.

"The Northland Reliability Project is about building a stronger, resilient grid for our communities," said Priti Patel, Great River Energy vice president and chief transmission officer.

The 180-mile, double-circuit capable 345-kV transmission line will extend from near Grand Rapids in Itasca County to near St. Cloud in Benton County and into Sherburne County and largely follows existing transmission line corridors. The Northland Reliability Project will help maintain a reliable and resilient local and regional power grid as more renewable energy is brought online; existing power plants are retired; more homes and businesses shift to electricity to power appliances, equipment and heating and cooling systems; and more frequent extreme weather events occur.

"As the grid becomes increasingly renewable, transmission lines like this will continue to be the workhorses that move electricity from where it's generated to where it's needed. Reliability is a win for everyone, customers small and large alike," said Josh Skelton, Minnesota Power chief operating officer.

The joint project is one of 18 transmission projects approved in July 2022 by the region's grid operator, MISO, in the first phase of its Long Range Transmission Plan to integrate new generation resources and strengthen the grid.

"Today's groundbreaking showed

what true collaboration can achieve, with utilities, regulators and communities working together to strengthen reliability for Minnesota and the region," said Brian Tulloh, executive director for external affairs at MISO.

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy held nearly 30 public open houses and stakeholder meetings to engage with landowners, local governments, agencies, Tribal Nations and tribal organizations. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approved the Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the high-voltage transmission line in January.

"The Commission is pleased to see the Northland Reliability Project moving forward, ensuring Minnesota's energy system remains strong, reliable, and ready for the future," said Katie Sieben, chair of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Pete Wyckoff, deputy commissioner of energy resources at the Minnesota Department of Commerce, said, "The Northland Reliability Project fulfills a variety of needs. It allows us to deliver more clean, affordable homegrown electricity from where it is produced to where it is needed while enhancing the capacity, reliability, and resiliency of Minnesota's electric system."

Construction began this fall in Benton and Sherburne counties and will begin on the northern segment in 2026 with the route running through Itasca, Aitkin, Crow Wing and Morrison counties. The transmission line is expected to be in service by 2030 and is estimated to cost more than \$1 billion. Final project costs will be determined by final routing and design considerations.

For more information and a map of the Northland Reliability Project's route corridor, visit northlandreliabilityproject.com.

Caption from page 1: (l to r): Brian Tulloh, executive director, external affairs, MISO; Pat Michels, CEO and president, Michels Corporation; Steve Lawler, regional transmission project manager, Great River Energy; Greg Schutte, director, portfolio delivery, Great River Energy; Katie Sieben, chair, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission; Priti Patel, vice president and chief transmission officer, Great River Energy; Josh Skelton, chief operating officer, Minnesota Power; Audrey Partridge, commissioner, Public Utilities Commission; Bethany Owen, president, chief executive officer and chair, ALLETE, Inc.; Dan Gunderson, vice president, transmission and distribution, Minnesota Power; Dan Aagenes, director of enterprise projects, Minnesota Power; Kent Ogston, director of engineering services, Minnesota Power; Pete Wyckoff, deputy commissioner of energy resources, Minnesota Department of Commerce.

Energy storage project to bolster Midwest's renewable energy landscape

Great River Energy has executed commercial agreements for a new, large-scale energy storage project tied to the Emmons-Logan Wind project in North Dakota.

The project is set to integrate a lithium-ion energy storage system, leveraging the existing interconnection to maximize efficiency, economic value and renewable energy utilization.

With a project size of 140 megawatts, this energy storage solution offers Great River Energy autonomy over dispatching,

optimization and market interaction.

The project is expected to generate annual revenues through MISO ancillary services, wholesale cost arbitrage and capacity value. Despite potential challenges linked to capacity accreditation shifts, the economic analysis underscores the venture's viability.

Great River Energy anticipates positive financial outcomes, such as revenue diversity, reduced congestion impacts at Emmons-Logan Wind, avoided hedge purchase costs, and positive net capacity pricing.

"This project demonstrates our commitment to advancing energy innovation while ensuring economic benefits for our members," said Zac Ruzycski, director of resource planning at Great

River Energy. "We're confident in the project's ability to enhance grid services associated with wind energy and provide additional value to our member-owners."

The investment comes with some risks, including uncertainties in MISO accreditation rules. However, Great River Energy is actively mitigating these risks by exploring contractual safeguards and monitoring ongoing MISO accreditation requirements.

Discussions with MISO and other stakeholders are ongoing to solidify the project's future. The Emmons-Logan project is slated to be operational between late 2026 and early 2027.

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Scammers will try anything to pressure customers into providing their personal information. If you are ever asked to pay your utility bill through a third-party transaction app, such as Cash App or Venmo, it's a scam. Remember, utilities will never request a payment through a third-party app. Always use authorized payment methods when paying your utility bills.

Source: Utilities United Against Scams



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Home Lighting Guide 			
The following information outlines recommendations for home lighting, however, additional options for bulbs, fixtures and spaces in your home may be available. Sources: Home Depot, Alcon Lighting			
Room/Area	Recommended Lumens	Fixture Types	Smart Tips
 Living Room	15-30 per sq. ft. 150 sq. ft. room 2,250 - 4,500 lumens	Ceiling fixtures, can lighting, lamps/ accent lighting	Use smart bulbs to adjust color temp and control remotely.
 Kitchen	30-40 per sq. ft. 100 sq. ft. room 3,000 - 4,000 lumens	Recessed ceiling lights or flush mounts	Smart switches can be used to control zones (dining vs. prep); undercabinet motion lights offer late-night illumination.
 Dining Room	10-20 per sq. ft. 100 sq. ft. room 1,000 - 2,000 lumens	Pendant or chandelier fixture	Smart, dimmable bulbs allow various levels of brightness for ambiance.
 Bedroom	10-20 per sq. ft. 120 sq. ft. room 1,200 - 2,400 lumens	Ceiling fixtures or recessed lighting	Motion sensors are great options for nighttime use.
 Bathroom	50-80 per sq. ft. 60 sq. ft. room 3,000 - 4,000 lumens	Over-vanity fixtures and/or recessed lighting	Cool LED bulbs provide brighter light for shaving, applying makeup, etc.
 Porch/ Home Entry	100-200 per sq. ft. 100 sq. ft. entry 10,000 - 20,000 lumens	Wall lanterns, ceiling mount and/or floodlights	Motion-activated flood lights and/or smart outdoor bulbs are energy efficient and boost home security.

What to do when you lose power

Power outages can strike without warning, whether caused by severe weather, equipment failure or scheduled maintenance. In those first few moments, knowing what to do can help you stay safe and avoid unnecessary stress.

Before calling North Itasca Electric, the very first thing you should do is check your breaker box. A tripped breaker is one of the most common reasons for losing power in just part of your home or apartment.

To check, open the panel and look for any switches that are out of alignment — either fully off or stuck between on and off. Flip the switch completely off, then back on. This simple reset can often restore power immediately.

In single-family homes, breaker boxes are usually in the basement, garage or utility room,

How to

Check and reset electrical breakers

**Locate your breaker panel**
Find the electrical panel in a basement, garage or utility room.

**Identify the tripped breaker**
Look for a switch that is in the middle or "off" position, or shows a red/orange indicator.

**Reset the breaker safely**
Firmly switch the tripped breaker to the "off" position then "on."

**Check for recurring issues**
If it trips again, unplug devices and call a qualified electrician.

or sometimes mounted on an exterior wall. In apartments or condos, they're often tucked inside a hallway closet or laundry area. If you're unsure where yours is, your building manager or maintenance team can help you locate it.

If your breaker box looks fine and power is still out, it's time to check with your neighbors to see if they're affected. If they are, report the outage to North Itasca Electric.

While waiting for updates, unplug sensitive electronics to protect them from power surges when electricity returns.

Use flashlights instead of candles to reduce fire risk. Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed to preserve food.

Being prepared for outages is just as important as knowing what to do when they happen. Keep a flashlight, extra batteries and a portable phone charger in an easy-to-reach spot. A battery-powered radio can help you stay informed during extended outages, and having your electric cooperative's contact information or app handy will make reporting issues faster and easier.



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Roxanne's Sales Talk

by Roxanne Prather, Member Services Representative

How to winterize your cabin

Many of you already do this every year and are familiar with all this, but for those of you who are doing this for the first time this is a helpful check list to follow.

1. Turn off the water supply:

To do this, find the main water valve and shut it off. This will stop any water from flowing into the cabins pipes and water systems, which will reduce the chance of pipes bursting and water damage. You also want to make sure the water supply is drained.

2. Drain water lines, appliances:

Water is turned off; faucets are turned on: the next step is to prevent any remaining water from freezing and causing damage. Drain your water lines, the water pump, water heater and any other appliances that use water.

Disconnect the hose on the back of your washer and drop it down to the floor to remove any water still in the bottom of the machine. (Put something under it to catch the water so you don't have a mess.) Then put hose back up and dump a

cup full of antifreeze in the washer bottom. Set the washer to a spin out cycle and start the machine for a minute so the antifreeze goes in and shut it off. With dishwashers, you can do the same thing, just put about a cup of antifreeze in and start a drain cycle. Let it go for a minute and shut it off. (In the spring when you open things up just run an empty cycle with soap through the washer and dishwasher to rinse all the antifreeze out before using.) Flush toilets to empty the tanks and pour antifreeze into the tank, stools and all tubs and shower drains. Next, any outdoor faucets need to be opened and drained, disconnect garden hoses (drain water out of hoses while rolling them up).

3. Septic tank and water pump:

Every year you need to drain your water pump and pressure tank. To do this you need to remove a drain plug or open a faucet. This allows air to enter the tank so the water can run through and out of the pump. When you think that all the water is out of the pump, use an air compressor to push any

water that might still be stuck in the pump. If your cabin has a septic, it is important to have it pumped every few years and treat it before winter arrives. This prevents any freezing or potential backups during the cold months.

4. Protect your plumbing:

Seal any drafts or holes in exterior walls, especially around pipes or wiring. Use insulation or caulk to seal these gaps. For added protection you might want to consider using heat tape on exposed pipes to prevent freezing. Wrap the electric heat tape around the pipes to provide a constant source of warmth. You can also use the window treatment kits if you have windows that leak air. This will help with your heating bill as well.

5. Your heating system:

Maintain a safe temperature in your cabin by setting your thermostat to a temperature that will prevent freezing. Some people install a smart thermostat so they can control the temperature remotely. Check and clean your

heating system so you can eliminate problems during the winter.

6. Prepare appliances and electrical systems:

Unplug all appliances (Believe it or not the clock on the range does use electricity.) If you have a gas water heater, make sure you extinguish the pilot light. This will help make sure there is no gas consumption and reduce the risk of accidents. Clean any air filters and make sure the heating system is working properly.

7. Seal crawl spaces and insulate

Most cabins have air spaces under the cabin. Make sure you insulate and cover this so no cold air can get in and to keep critters from trying to make a home for winter under your cabin.

Enjoy your winter!

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Fall Round Up Awards

Applicant Organization	Project Title	Amount Awarded
Northland Progressive	Gifts for kids	\$452.05
Grace House of Itasca County	Homelessness Prevention Fund	\$452.05
Bear Lake Cabin Owners Association	Procurement of AED	\$452.05
Bigfork Parent Teacher Association	Continued support for K-12 at Bigfork School	\$452.05
New Beginnings Pregnancy + Family Support	Infant and children dental kits	\$452.05
Deer River Sportsmans Club	Youth day materials and building improvements	\$452.05
Northern Itasca Emergency Food Shelf Inc	Thanksgiving Meal Baskets	\$1,000.00
Grades 4th & 5th at Bigfork School	Snow Fun Day	\$452.05
Bigfork Boys Basketball	New basketballs	\$452.05
Northome School	Life Skills Program	\$452.05
Northland Progressive	Northome Main Street Beautification	\$452.05
Northome City Library	Programs and books for children and adults	\$300.00
Sam's Place	Natural Habitat Garden & supportive landscaping	\$452.05
Northome Preschool	Early Explorers: Building STEM foundations	\$300.00
Northome Community Education-Youth Basketball	Youth Basketball	\$400.00
Bigfork Improvement Group	Haunted House	\$350.00
Bigfork Improvement Group	Bigfork Toys	\$452.05
Northome School - National Honor Society	Color Run for cancer research	\$452.05
ISD 363- Northome School	Cork Duck Decoys	\$452.05
Northome School	Chanhassen Dinner Theater field trip	\$452.05
Bigfork Football	Athlete well being	\$452.05
Bigfork Youth Sports Association	Gym and tournament fees	\$452.05
Squaw Lake Fire Department	Firefighter PPE	\$800.00
Deer River High School	Middle School high interest books	\$248.99
Bigfork School - PE Dept	Jerry Chiabotti Gymnasium Marathon	\$250.00
Bigfork School - PBIS Team	Positive Behavior Interventions Incentives	\$400.00
Bigfork Elementary	Reif Center Performance	\$400.00
		\$12,133.84

Awarded

November Refrigerator & Freezer Sale

FFHT1822UW \$640.68 SALE \$576.61

Frigidaire, 17.60 c.f. white top mount refrigerator, Energy Star, glass shelves, recessed handles, auto defrost, reversible door, LED lighting, door alarm, adjustable door bins and racks, dairy compartment, gallon door storage.



FFHT1822UB \$601.03 SALE \$540.93

(SAME AS ABOVE BUT BLACK!)

FFTR1835VW \$619.00 SALE \$557.10

Frigidaire, 18.3 c.f. white top mount refrigerator with glass shelves. Optional icemaker, Even Temp cooling system, recessed handles, flexible interior storage system, humidity controlled crisper drawers with roller support, auto close doors, optional slim ice maker, LED interior lighting, frost free freezer, reversible door.



FFTR2045VW SALE \$764.89 SALE \$688.40

Frigidaire, 20 c.f. white top mount refrigerator with recessed handles. Auto defrost, reversible door, LED lighting, full width door storage with gallon storage. Adjustable racks, glass shelf.



LFDS2250S \$1734.20 SALE \$1560.78

LG 22 c.f. stainless, French door refrigerator with water dispenser and light, thirty inches wide. Energy Star certified, two humidity crispers, Smart cooling system, Outside water dispenser, Multi-Air Flow technology, two tier organization levels in the freezer drawer, inverter linear compressor with 10-year warranty. Smart Diagnosis system, Factory installed icemaker installed in freezer. Four split shelves, spill protection tempered glass, Glide-N-Serve drawer., 2 humidity-controlled crispers, vista freezer handle, seven total door shelves (6 gallon sized and one half), door alarm.



GRFC2353AF \$2021.50 SALE \$1819.35

Frigidaire, smudge proof stainless steel 22.6 c.f. counter depth French door refrigerator with ice and water dispenser, auto defrost, LED lighting, door alarm, Sabbath mode, Adjustable racks. 4-split shelves, two veggie crispers with CrispSeal Plus. Doorstop, basket divider, power failure alarm, single evaporator, 1-meat, and cheese snack door with adjustable temperature.



LF25H6200S \$1708.28 SALE \$1537.45

LG 25 c.f. Stainless, standard depth max French door refrigerator with dual handle, 33" wide recessed freezer handle, automatic ice maker with Ice+, available within the ThinQ app. ThinQ care sends proactive usage, maintenance, and diagnostic alerts to your smartphone to help keep your LG smart appliances running smoothly. Control your refrigerator remotely or use voice commands with Google or Alexa voice assistants.



Icemaker in freezer, 4 temperature settings, electronic/digital door alarm, control lock, Smart Diagnosis™, auto closing door hinge, Wi-Fi enabled, ThinQ®, ThinQ® Care, ThinQ® Upgradable, Sabbath Mode, ADA compliant, 2 full-width shelves, refrigerator door bins, 3 left, 3 right door shape flat handle type, pull out freezer drawer with 2-tier organization drawer, and divider, LED lighting, freezer light lower pocket. Limited warranty parts & labor: 1 year Sealed System (Parts & Labor), 5 years Compressor (Parts & Labor), 5 years Inverter compressor (Parts & Labor) 10 years.

LRDCS2603S \$1794.65 SALE \$1615.18

LG 26 c.f. bottom mount 33" wide print proof stainless steel refrigerator with pull out freezer drawer. Door cooling, Multi-Air Flow freshness system, Energy Star certified, built-in digital sensors, Smart cooling system, humidity crispers, factory installed ice maker stores up to 12 lbs of ice at a time. Premium LED lighting, Smart Diagnosis, 2 Spill Protector™ tempered glass shelves, 2 crisper bins, Glide-N-Serve drawer with divider, bins in the door: 2 gallon sized, 2 half (tilt), 1 small. Freezer drawer with 2 tier organization, drawer divider, Ice bin, LED lighting. Limited warranty parts & labor: 1 year Sealed System (Parts & Labor), 5 years Compressor (Parts & Labor), 5 years Inverter Compressor (Parts Only) 6-10 years.



FRSS2623AS \$1203.33 SALE \$1083.00

Frigidaire 25.6 c.f. stainless steel side x side 36" refrigerator. Frost free, LED lighting, door alarm, door storage & gallon door storage, dairy compartment, temperature alarm, power failure alarm, ice dispenser, Eventemp cooling system, flexible interior organization. In freezer: 4 adjustable door bins, 1 basket, 2 fixed shelves. In refrigerator: 2 liter door bins, 2 adjustable gallon door bins, 3 adjustable shelves, 2 clear crispers. Dispenser: crushed ice, cubed ice and water.



FRSS2623AW 1151.33 SALE \$1036.20

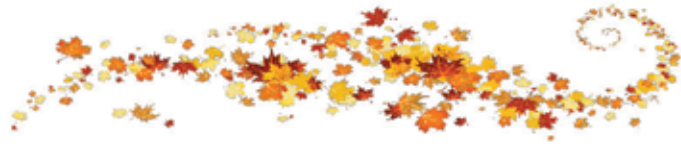
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Call Roxanne with any questions!

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roxanne@nieci.com



**MRF29D3AST \$1560.00 SALE \$1326**

Midea 29 c.f. stainless, French door bottom freezer refrigerator with ice and water dispenser. Optimized internal space, smart control, easy lift door bin, LED lighting, Energy Star, instant water filtering, snack deli drawer, slide out shelf, easy glide door bin, door alarm, electronic temperature control. App & voice control, eight door shelves, can storage, 1 2-tier freezer drawer.
(Has a dent on side)

**ATMWE71TH \$354.43 SALE \$318.99**

Arctic Wind 7.1 c.f. white top mount refrigerator with glass shelves, frost free. Would make a great heated garage refrigerator, or just an overflow!

Good Luck Hunting!**FREEZERS****FFUE2024AW \$975.79 SALE \$878.21**

Frigidaire 20 c. f. upright freezer four glass shelves, one basket. Five in-the-door full width shelves. Door ajar & high temperature alarm. Auto close door.

MRU21F5BWW \$896.35 SALE \$806.71

Midea 21.0 c.f. upright freezer, convertible, Energy Star, digital display. Four full length glass shelves, four full length door shelves. Garage Ready, Exterior control panel, 2-year warranty.

FFCL1542AW \$657.37 SALE \$591.63

Frigidaire 15 c.f. chest freezer with two baskets, manual defrost.

FFFU13F2VW \$698.49 SALE \$628.64

Frigidaire 13 c.f. upright freezer with four full width wire shelves, one full width basket. There are four shelves on the door and one pizza shelf. Frost free, power indicator light, garage ready.

MRC05M4CWW \$209.20 SALE \$188.28

Midea 5 c.f. chest freezer, one basket, light.



Public input on walleye slot limits on Sand Lake sought

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is reviewing the current protected slot limit for walleye on Sand Lake, near Squaw Lake. This regulation may be extended, dropped or modified. Public input will be important to informing this decision.

The DNR has hosted a public meeting to discuss the slot limit in Squaw Lake. Comments may also be submitted by sending an email to grandrapids.fisheries@state.mn.us, calling (218)328-8836 or mailing NE Regional Headquarters, Area Fisheries, 1201 East Highway 2, Grand Rapids, MN 55744.

Sand Lake has a long history of boom-and-bust angling cycles. The protected slot limit was implemented in 2016 with the goal of creating a more stable fish population and enhancing the angling experience. Since the protected slot limit's implementation, surveys have been conducted in 2017, 2021 and 2023. Results show that the regulation is working as intended, with the walleye population stabilizing and including higher quantities of larger fish.

The current rules are:

All walleye between 17 and 26 inches must be released. Anglers can keep one walleye over 26 inches.

The bag limit is the same as the statewide limit of six fish with one allowed over 26 inches. There will be no changes to the bag limit.

The protected slot limit is set to expire at the end of this fishing season. The DNR is seeking public input on whether to keep the current regulation, modify the limit to a 20- to 24-inch protected slot, or revert to the statewide walleye regulation.

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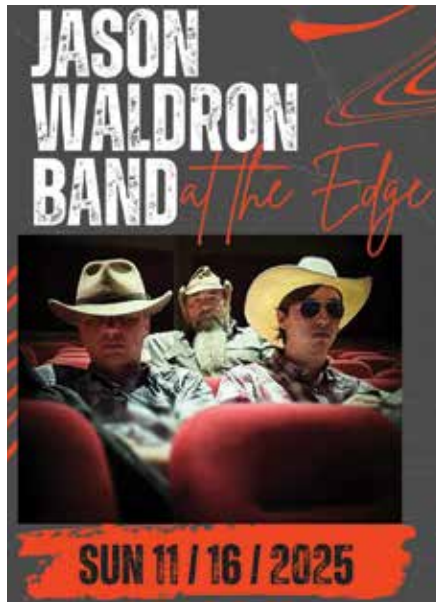
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The Edge presents the Jason Waldron Band on Sunday, Nov. 16 at 2 p.m.

Father and son duo Jason and Blake Waldron from Effie, Minnesota have been busy performing their classic country sets locally in the Edge of the Wilderness Community and throughout Minnesota's Northland, pleasing audiences with their blended sound of guitar and vocals. With dad Jason on vocals and Fender guitar, and son Blake on his Gibson, their familial gift of musicality and love of performing shine through. Jason and Blake are joined by drummer Tom Breiwick; their newest member, veteran bass player and vocalist Dale Demaris (Grand Rapids); and special guest Estelle Waldron.

The Jason Waldron Band enjoys playing cover songs by Tyler Childers, Hank Williams x3, Buck Owens, Johnny Cash and Johnny Rivers. Jason's low range has a pitch perfect comparison to Cash, "the man in black."



Join us for a special afternoon featuring a little bit of country, a little bit of rock 'n roll and a whole lot of fun, Sunday, November 16 at the Edge Center for the Arts in little old Bigfork. \$10 for adults, free for children. Tickets available at the door.

For more information call (218) 743-6670 or visit www.edgecenterarts.org.

Classic Movie Series: Rio Bravo

by Jack Nachbar

In 1959, there was a virtual stampede of popular Westerns. Five of the top six TV shows were Westerns. And at the movies 21 percent of the movies released were Westerns. The top Western of this fabulous year for the genre is the Classic Film Series' annual visit to the old corral, *Rio Bravo*.

Rio Bravo is about a small group of good guys facing a hoard of bad guys all for a love of law and order. There's plenty of gunplay. There's plenty of other good stuff too as we sit around the good old Western movie campfire. There's three songs; there's a love story; there's funny scenes.

Hot movie stars also ride tall in the movie saddle. John Wayne was the third most popular star in all the movies. Riding side-saddle to the Duke, is Dean Martin in a breakaway dramatic role. And, surprise, there's

Ricky Nelson, fresh from his long haul as a kid TV star. There's bronc bustin' supporting players too. Angie Dickinson is Wayne's love-hate interest. And crotchety old Walter Brennan drives everyone nuts.

All the fun and excitement in *Rio Bravo* was directed by Howard Hawks, one of the greatest directors of the 20th century. His earlier Western, *Red River* (1948) is still on some lists as the best oater of all time.

Rio Bravo will be shown at 6:30 p.m. at the Edge Center Theater in Bigfork on November 13. FREE to all cowpunchers and those who dream to be.

DECEMBER CLASSIC MOVIE. Spencer Tracy, Katherine Hepburn, and Sidney Poitier co-star in *Guess Who's Coming To Dinner* (1967). Thursday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Edge.

Christmas at the Edge

On December 14, the Edge Center in Bigfork will host the 2025 "Christmas at the Edge," a free community event. We are looking for all kinds of volunteers, like singers, instrumentalists, and stagehands.

This year we are doing vignettes again – little skits between musical sets. These are directed by Stephanie Kessler, and auditions will be held at the Edge on Thursday, Nov. 11 from 5-7 p.m. She is looking for a handful of "young" women (ages 10-30) for a reading, a father/son combination for a reading, a small group of boys and girls to memorize lines and act in a short skit, and a few more people.

If you want to read or act in a small, fun role, come to auditions or email her at stephakneeatoe@yahoo.com if you can't make the audition time or if you have questions.

The roles for this event

require a very short time commitment (about 5-7 times including the event and zoom). Plus this is a great introduction to acting because no experience is needed for these roles.

Save the date! You won't want to miss this holiday experience at the Edge Center whether you are on the stage or in the seats!

Calling all Singers

Seeking singers of all ages for the "Christmas at the Edge" community and children's choirs. Rehearsals are held at the Edge Center Theater, on Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:30-11 a.m. until the week of the performance. The Christmas at the Edge celebration is December 14 at 2 p.m. If you have questions about the choirs or are interested in getting involved with backstage activities, contact Elaine at (218) 259-8439

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Hunter's Suppers

Friday, Nov. 7

Northwoods Saddle Club

Location: Effie Community Center

Time: 4 to 7 p.m.

Cost: Suggested donation, \$8

Menu includes: Turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, sauce, dessert.

Also: Baked goods available for sale, take out available

B.I.G. Community Center

Location: Main Street, Bigfork

Time: 4-7 p.m.

Cost: Suggested donation, \$8

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

Also: Electric chainsaw raffle

Northome School Prom Committee

Location: Kootasca Senior Center,

12081 Lake Street, Northome

Time: 4-7 p.m.

Cost: Free Will donation

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

Saum Community Club

Location: Historic Saum School

41982 Pioneer Rd. NE, Kelliher

Time: 4 to 7 p.m.

Cost: Freewill donation

Menu: Pork loin, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, vegetables, coleslaw, buns, pie with whipped cream

Saturday, Nov. 8

Balsam Volunteer Fire Department

Location: Balsam Community Center

41388 Scenic Hwy 7, Bovey

Time: 5-8 p.m.

Cost: \$15, children 10 and under free

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

Also: Raffle, tickets \$2

Practical Water Wisdom series

Join Itasca Waters features four presenters online at noon on the first Thursday of the month for free informative programs by experts. Register and find out more information at itascawaters.org.

November 6 - Mystery Snail Impacts on Lake Ecosystems

with Sarah Kingsbury, senior aquatic invasive species biologist for Fisheries and Oceans Canada. She will discuss three invasive mystery snails: Chinese mystery snails, Japanese mystery snails, and banded mystery snails.

December 4 - Water Wishes for the Holidays

features four presenters on childrens' books as meaningful holiday gifts for young readers. Dr. John Downing, director of the Sea Grant College Program and Hilarie Sorenson, water resources extension educator with Sea Grant will discuss fiction and non-fiction titles in nature and water for kids through teen years. Sawyer Lorenz, environmental scientist has authored a water-themed coloring book. Retired librarian and storyteller Holly Ristau will discuss how to read to children effectively.

Outdoor skills & stewardship

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

Nov. 5 – Native sculpin in Minnesota

Two species of sculpin are native to our southeast Minnesota streams. Join Doug Dieterman, fisheries research scientist, to learn more about these little species with big ecological benefits.

Nov. 19 – Fall trout lake stocking in Minnesota

Join Mario Travaline, fisheries specialist, to learn more about lake trout stocking for winter ice angling in Minnesota.



(l to r) Ellen Bomstad, BVCF Board Member; Amanda Niemala, Bigfork Valley, director of revenue cycle; Kristen Huot, BVCF chief operating officer; Sandra LeBlanc-Boland, Bigfork Valley executive administrative coordinator/grant writer; Nanci Zeine, BVCF board member; Courtney Olson, DPT, Bigfork Valley doctor of physical therapy/clinical informaticist

Road conditions:

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

BVCF donates to hospital

The Bigfork Valley Community Foundation recently contributed \$250,000 to Bigfork Valley to assist with a needed upgrade to their Electronic Medical Records (EMR) system. The funding was made available through a grant from the Blandin Foundation to the Bigfork Valley Community Foundation.

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Arrowhead Library System programs

They Brought Their Songs: International Folk Music in Minnesota with musical trio Caleigh.

Musical trio Caleighis cooming to area libraries in October and November. This program is one hour long and is suited for adults and children ages 10 and up.

Wednesday, Nov. 5, 3:30 p.m.
Grand Rapids Area Library

"They Brought Their Songs" weaves together stories and history of Minnesota with musical genres that highlight the diverse ethnic make-up of the state. Connect with musical selections including Scandinavian, German, Italian, Finnish, Native American, French-Canadian, Irish and more.

Songs of Mesabi Concert with Greg Tiburzi

Songs of Mesabi is a musical journey through Minnesota's Iron Range with Greg Tiburzi. This program is one hour long and is suited for audiences of all ages.

Monday, Nov. 17, 4:00 p.m.
Grand Rapids Area Library

Inspired by pop radio, the American songbook, rock, and folk and world music, Greg Tiburzi blends guitar and harmonica to back his compositions. Songs of Mesabi is a concert featuring a pastiche of musical styles from the 19th through the 21st-century. Come along on this colorful journey with original tunes paying homage to Greg Tiburzi's homeland – Minnesota's Iron Range.

These programs, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, were funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, please see the ALS calendar at www.alslib.info or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alslibinfo.

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.

- 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.

Bigfork and Effie city councils

At its October meeting, the Bigfork City Council supported a pull tab gambling request from the Bigfork Fire Relief Association and also supported the PTA and newly restarted Bigfork Youth Sports with donations to their programs.

Wilderness Days will be looking for new leadership and has scheduled a second meeting for Nov. 13 at 6 p.m. at the B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork. Anyone who would like to help out this year is invited to come. The 501(c)3 status is being reestablished. November's meeting is rescheduled to Nov. 18 due to the Veterans Day holiday, 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

At the October Effie city council meeting, the community center will thhost the American Legion Veterans Day dinner on Nov. 11. The center has installed new flooring.

The old school demolition is complere, however the concrete blocks with the words "EFFIE" are missing from the demolition site. They are needed for a monument and return is requested. The carved black bear in front of the Effie Café is also missing. Return is requested. The next meeting will be Nov. 10, 6 p.m. at the center.

Community Cafe in Deer River

The Community Cafe is available to anyone who is in need of a meal. Each Monday - Thursday, 4:00 p.m.- 5:30 p.m. (or until gone), a nutritious three-course meal is served. Location: King Elementary School door #9. For more information, visit communitycafemn.org.

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

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

Resource Centers:

Blackduck:
(218) 835-5768

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

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

Community Education

Try out a Community Education class during November. To find programs in Itasca County, see getlearning.org. For Blackduck and Northome classes, see the school websites or Facebook pages..

Here are some of the offerings this month:

Introduction to Needle Felting: Wednesday, Nov. 19, 6-9 p.m. at Northome School FACS room, \$25, Sign up by Nov. 7. Register through link on Facebook feed on www.northome.k12.mn.us

Exploring Your Family Tree Workshop: Nov. 8 and 15, 10 a.m.-noon at Marcell Family Center. Ages 14-adult. \$40. Sign up at getlearning.org .

Explore the exciting information hidden in marriage records, newspapers, criminal records, medical records, and more. In the second class workshop session, we will tackle your family tree hands-on. Be sure to bring your computer!

Write and illustrate your own hardback book, Nov. 13 and 20, 4:30 - 7 p.m.in Bigfork School's Art Room. Ages 9 to adult. \$45.

Plan ideas for the theme, characters, setting, and subject and content of their own stories. Learn how to create storyboards. Then make and illustrate your finished book! Includes 40 page blank book.

Cookie Cutter Felting. Nov. 22, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Marcell Family Center. Ages: adult. \$30.

Make ornaments, bookmarks, coasters and more using cookie cutters as your template. Bring along your felting kit from prior class or you can purchase one for \$15 (optional). Bring a lunch and \$10 material fee due to the instructor at the start of class.

B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork

Coffee Club/Cribbage, Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m.

Bingo every Thursday, 1-3 p.m.

B.I.G. meetings 1st Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.

Crafting Group 3rd Wednesday, 5-7 p.m.

area bookmobile stops

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

Mondays: Nov. 17; Dec. 8, 29

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

Tuesdays: Nov. 18; Dec. 9, 30

10:00 -10:30 p.m. Deer River: Comstock Ct.

10:45 -11:30 Deer River: City Hall

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

Thursdays: Nov. 20; Dec. 10, 31

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 News

Bigfork

Join us November 17th at 6 p.m. for a third live reading of Plum Thicket at the Edge Center in Bigfork! Plum Thicket, a play by Jerald Barber, is set in an imaginary town similar to our northwoods home. We will read parts of the script aloud together - this is not a performance, there will be no audience. Join us as an active or passive participant!

On November 21 and 22, the Bigfork City Hall will be festive with the annual Edge of the Wilderness Art League Christmas sale. Come explore the wonderful projects for this year, including wood burning, hand painted decor, pottery, jewelry, prses and more! Open 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Saturday.

The Edge Center Gallery in Bigfork will be open with an exhibit TBD Nov. 6-Dec. 6, Thursday-Saturday, 1-4 p.m.

Marcell

Marcell Community Church will hold its annual free community Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 15, 5-7 p.m. Turkey and all the fixin's. Take out available, but limited to two.

Marcell, Talmoon, Bowstring, Wirt: ISD 317 referendum on Nov. 4

Election Day is Tuesday. Nov. 4 on a referendum for ISD317 (Deer River School District). There will be two questions: authorizations for a 10-year capital project levy and a 10-year revenue levy for \$300 per pupil. Visit the page <https://standupforourwarriors.com/> for a Q/A, referendum wording, tax calculator and more information. Call the school district if you are unsure where to vote.



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.

~ November Calendar ~

- Bigfork PTA hosts a Craft Fair, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Bigfork School.
- Daylight Savings ends, set clocks back one hour.
- No school, Deer River, Bigfork schools. School in session, Blackduck.
- Election Day for ISD317 referendum. There will be two questions: authorizations for a 10-year capital project levy and a 10-year revenue levy for \$300 per pupil.
- “The Club I Never Wanted to Join” breast cancer support group meets 3:30 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in the chapel, south entrance, Grand Rapids. More info with Lynn (218) (651) 303-8248, lynn_ettl@msn.com.
- Christmas at the Edge 2 adult and children's choir rehearsals are every Wednesday 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 9:30-11 a.m. through November. Just come to join!
- Jesse Lake Lutheran hosts a Grief Support Group at 10 a.m. on Thursday mornings. For more information, call Marion at (320) 293-5741.
- “Practical Water Wisdom” online programs over the lunch hour with Itasca Waters. Topic: "Mystery Snail Impacts on Lake Ecosystems" with Sarah Kingsbury, senior biologist for Fisheries and Oceans Canada.Register at itascawaters.org.
- No school, Blackduck School.
- Veteran’s Day program at Northome School, 10-11 a.m. All are welcome.
- 7, 8 Hunter's Suppers
- Holiday Craft and Vendor Show, 9 a.m-3 p.m. at Blackduck School. Gyms & hallways, concessions, raffles.
- Christmas at the Edge 2 adult and children's choir rehearsals are every Wednesday 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 9:30-11 a.m. through November. Just come to join!
- Women of the Woods, 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Comm. Center. More info, (218) 659-4796.
- Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m.
- Blackduck ISD 32 School Board meets, 6 p.m. in the Media Center.
- ISD 318 School Board regular meeting at Educational Services Center Board Room, 650 SW 7th St, Grand Rapids 6:30 p.m. Livestream at watchictv.org. Information: jasmussen@isd318.org or call (218) 327-5704.
- Perry Heide VFW Post 9703 meets the second Monday of the month, 7 p.m. at the Marcell Family Center. Everyone is welcome.
- ISD317 School Board meets, 6 p.m. at Deer River HS, 6 p.m. Public forum 5:45 p.m.
- Auditions for Christmas at the Edge 2 for actors, readers for vignettes, 5-7 p.m. Edge Center, Bigfork.
- Veterans Day. North Itasca Electric offices closed.
- 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.
- Craft Fair at Bigfork Valley, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. For vendor spots, call Bobbi Kelley, (218) 743-4144 or call bkelly@bigforkvalley.org.
- Classic Movies hosts Rio Bravo (1959) with John Wayne, Dean Martin, Ricky Nelson, Angie Dickinson and Walter Brennan. Showing at 6:30 p.m. at the Edge Center. Free.
- No school, Bigfork School.
- Community Thanksgiving dinner at the Marcell Community Church, 5-7 p.m. Free.
- Edge Center in Bigfork hosts the Jason Waldron Band, 2 p.m. \$10 adults, children free.

- Bigfork City Council meets at City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- Free Community Meal at Jesse Lake Lutheran Church, 45834 Co. Rd. 4 in Talmoon 4-6 p.m. Baked ham and sides. Takeout available.
- Stitch-n-Bitch meets at the B.I.G. Community Center in Bigfork the 3rd Weds of every month, 5-7 p.m. More info, call Krista at (218) 410-2258.
- ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m. at Northome School
- "Plum Thicket" play reading #3, 6 p.m. at Edge Center Theater. Everyone welcome to participate or listen. Free.
- 21, 22 Annual Art and Craft Sale by Edge of the Wilderness Art League: 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Saturday at the Bigfork City Hall.
- Women of the Woods, 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Comm. Center. Call Lori Dehn, (218) 659-4796.
- Bigfork Valley Hospital board meets, 9 a.m.
- No school, Deer River. Conference day.
- Thanksgiving
- 27-28 North Itasca Electric offices closed. No school, all schools.
- Bigfork Valley Hospital board meets, 9 a.m.

Area Church Directory

Alvwood Community Church Sun 10:00a 58712 Co. Rd. 131 Blackduck 56630 218-659-4681	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
Balsam Bible Chapel Sun 10:00a 41516 Scenic Hwy 7 Bovey 55709 218-245-1960	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
Bear River Lutheran Church Sun 10:00a 11141 Hwy 22 Cook 55723 218-376-1012	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
Bethesda Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a Mizpah 56660 218-897-5654	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
Bowstring Chapel Sun 10:15a 45114 Co Rd 133 Deer River 56636 218-832-3171	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
Calvary Covenant Sun 10:30a 54764 Co. Rd. 31 Northome 56661 218-897-5684	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
Centennial Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a Hwy 46 Squaw Lake 56681 218-259-0115	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
Clara Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a 41447 Little Clara Drive Deer River 56636 218-360-1503	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	

Legislators visit Bigfork Valley



(1 to r) Nathan Hough, CEO Bigfork Valley; Bigfork Valley board members Larry Salmela, Casey Sursely, Kurt Fredrickson; State Representative Roger Skraba, State Senator Grant Hauschild; Itasca County commissioners Casey Venema and Cory Smith; Bigfork Valley board members Greg Anselmo, Sally Sedgwick and Heidi Watson.

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Legislators visited Bigfork Valley on Oct. 13 to discuss the upcoming legislative session; what was expected and priorities that the hospital board legislative education committee had identified.

Topics included the need for support for rural hospitals, especially in distribution of new federal rural healthcare funding; reimbursement challenges; developing a larger qualified workforce in support services and ideas on how to do this; barriers such as housing and childcare shortages, and ambulance services.

The state legislature reconvenes on Feb. 17 and runs until May 18, 2026.



WATTS Wonderful!
Boat Scootin' in the Woods

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WATTS Wonderful is a space inspired by Willie Wiredhand where members can post short thank yous, kind things noticed or recognitions received by co-op members.

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

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

Swiss Musli

Thank you to Mary Stuber for this November recipe!

- 1/2 cup oatmeal (per person)
- Cover with milk to soak at least one hour or overnight.
- 1 apple (per person), grated
- 1 Tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla and almond extract (per person)
- 1 Tablespoon sugar (per person, if desired – depends on apple sweetness)
- dash salt
- chopped nuts as liked
- Ready to eat with a slice of cheese on toast.

A family favorite!

Turkey Burgers

Thank you to Janet Kogler for this November recipe!

- 1 pound ground turkey
- 8 minced mushrooms
- 3 scallions chopped small
- 1 Tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon Lawry's seasoned salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cajun spice
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper

Make into four patties. Saute on medium high for 14 minutes total. Serve on a bun or English muffin.



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.

AD DEADLINE

for the DECEMBER issue: Friday, Nov. 14

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-HELP WANTED-

Help wanted: bartenders at Hayslips Corner, Talmoon. Apply in person. Call (612) 396-4768, talk to Sue.

-FOR SALE-

For sale: Older Tempstar LP gas furnace, 100,000 Btu 90% efficient with spare electronic control panel and gas valve, \$375. Near Dora Lake. Call (218) 308-1335 12/25

For sale: Simplicity self propelled walk behind snowblower. 7 hp motor, 4 cycle, electric start, 24 in. Like new cond. \$ 230. Will consider offers. Call (218) 659-2797 12/25

For sale: Two sets of tracks, torsion springs on rods with pulleys and cable for 9x7 garage doors (no doors), \$20. Call or text (218) 308-1335 12/25

-FOR SALE-

For sale: Hunter's View 16' ladder hunting stands (2). \$70 each. Call (218) 256-0909, Suomi. 12/25

For sale: Cut, split, seasoned maple, ash, birch firewood. Call (218) 910-6610 11/25

For sale: Ridgid Mod. 4512 10" table saw. All accessories & crosscut sled, \$300. Call (218) 556-8334. Leave message. 12/25

For sale: 2000 Caterpillar D3C Series III LGP Crawler Dozer. 6 way blade, hydrostatic drive, CAT 3046 diesel 6 cylinder engine, 3300 hours, 200 hours on new undercarriage. Located in Marcell, MN \$34,000 OBO. Call Jerry (cell) (630) 399-0250 or brknlinn@gmail.com with questions 11/25

For sale: Redfield Wide-field 2X7 power rifle scope with rings. A classic scope in perfect condition. \$ 250. Call (218) 659-2797 11/25

For sale: Black & Decker automatic breadmaker, Model B 1800. \$50. Po-peil's automatic pasta maker w/ all accessories, \$50. (218) 910-6610 12/25

For sale: Sixty 3 5/8" x 10 ft. aluminum studs, \$120. Nine piece 50# weight lifting set, \$75. Call (218) 910-6610 12/25

For sale: Rare 1950s 'blonde' cabinet with glass doors and two drawers, very nice. \$100. Call (218) 910-6610 12/25

For sale: Small Toro Pow-erlite electric snowblower. \$75. Call (218) 832-3488 12/25

-FOR SALE-

For sale: Santa Bears. Some are dated. Mostly white in color \$15 each. Angel figurines, \$9. Call (218) 832-3050 12/25

For sale: 18 ft. full size bobsled, \$300. Call (218) 832-3050 12/25

For sale: 13.75" x 12" safe, \$50. Call (218) 832-3488 11/25

For sale: Ranger boots, size mens 13. New. \$40. Call (218) 832-3488 11/25

For sale: Mid-century modern metal 28"x28" wall hanging, \$100. Call (218) 832-3488 11/25

-WATER SPORTS-

-BOATS, DOCKS-
1994 Wenonah Sundowner canoe. 18 ft. Needs a little TLC. 2 bent wood paddles. Yoke for carrying and a third seat. Folding chair with back rest \$1,000. 1968 Alumacraft 14 ft. boat 8 horse Mariner motor, gas tank, older electric trolling motor and anchor. Dora Lake area. \$650. Call Steve (612) 867-9958 12/25

For sale: 4 hp Evinrude outboard. Weedless, external tank. Great for small boat and duck hunting. Asking \$300. Call (218) 256-7106 12/25

For sale: Clam Fish Trap ice fishing hut. 2 person with built in sled. Extra cover. \$300. Call 740-703-5097 11/25

For sale: Browning 16 ft square back alum. canoe. \$300. Pelican International (Canada) yellow paddle-boat 57"x82". \$180. Call (218) 256-0909, Suomi. 12/25

-WATER SPORTS-

-BOATS, DOCKS-
For sale: 14' Crestliner fishing boat with 3 swivel boat seats and carpeted floor and trailer, and 4 hp Johnson outboard motor. \$600 obo. Call (218) 910-9750 or (218) 966-2052 12/25

For sale: The Paddle King peddle boat. Seats 4. Damaged pontoon needs repair. \$50 obo. You will need a snowmobile trailer to haul it. Call (218) 910-9750 or (218) 966-2052 12/25

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

-FARM-

Hay for sale: square bales, mixed grass, baled dry, stored dry. \$5 per bale. Call (218) 244-0957 11/25
For sale: 1000# hay bales, \$30 each. Call (218) 244-0957 12/25

-VEHICLES- ACCESSORIES-TIRES

For sale: 2004 Buick Lesabre, lower mileage, newer rubber, very good condition-and yes, driven by a little old lady. \$4,800. 218-910-6610 12/25

For sale: Original front floor mats from 1950 Mercury auto, brown color, perfect condition, \$40 Call (218) 659 -2797 10/25

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P.O. Box 43
Spring Lake, MN 56680 or
call: (218) 659-2779
or email: sedgwick@paulbunyan.net

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

Coloring Contest:

One winner will be picked from kindergarten, first, second and third grade. Please turn in your entries by **Friday Dec. 5**. They can be dropped off in our entryway drop box or mailed to P.O. Box 227, Bigfork, MN 56628. We will display all the pages that come in and judge them on Dec. 15. Coloring pages will all be published in the January WATTS News unless for some reason you wish them not to be. Winners will be called - please pick up prizes as soon as you can!



<http://www.squidoo.com/lensmasters/squidarmy>

Name _____ Grade _____
Phone number _____



Annual Co-op Christmas Cookie/Candy Contest:

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

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

I look forward to seeing lots of good recipes. Please have them here by Friday, Dec. 5 so we have time to get them together.

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

DNR tree seedling sales open

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' State Forest Nursery has opened seedling sales for spring 2026. Landowners across Minnesota can order native, bareroot tree seedlings for their properties. This year, the DNR is launching a new online ordering system. Customers can view seedling inventory online. Orders can be tracked and paid for with a LoginMN account. The nursery has a strong supply of oak 300 to 700 bareroot seedlings this year and Seedling sales remain open through Friday, April 3, 2026, or until stock is sold out. For more information visit the DNR website.



All are Welcome!
Dine in or take out

Jesse Lake Lutheran
Free Community Meal
Baked Ham & Sides

Tuesday, November 18
4-6 p.m.

Drawing for a \$25 Spring
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Edge of the Wilderness Art League
Art & Craft Sale
at Bigfork City Hall

Friday, Nov. 21 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 22 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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