NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC
OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

WATTS NEWS

VOL. 29 NO. 11 PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NOVEMBER 2026

CEO Report

Good afternoon,
North Itasca Electric Cooperative,

This has been a very busy month, and we have some topics to cover. I had a proud Dad moment last weekend. My oldest daughter harvested her deer during the youth hunt. Beyond the successful hunt, we had time together with friends up north. We got to visit, play some cards, enjoy the beautiful weather, do a little shooting and relax. This was one of the best hunting weekends I have had the opportunity to enjoy; thank you Carlee.

We finally got the big oil tanks through our system last week. Roseau Electric Cooperative had insight into these huge tanks. The tanks were built in Alberta and were being trucked from Canada to Duluth. The tanks were built for Shell Oil and are headed to Argentina via large ship.

Loaded onto the trucks the tanks were roughly 27' tall. Our crews had to cut down the power lines over State Hwy 46 from Northome to S Lake to allow for safe passage.

Thank you to Bruce, John, Cody, Cole, Josh, Jake, Eli, Trevor, Daryl, Drew, and Dick. We worked together as a



Brad Dolinski, CEO

well-oiled machine to provide safe passage. The crews and I met up in Northome at 10:45 p.m. We worked through the rainy night to drop the lines, allow the loads through, then put everything back together. It always makes me smile the way our crews work together to tackle tasks like these. Thank

CEO to p.2>

Member Services Update

by Drew Francisco

Hello again everyone!

It seems that the fall season is here in full swing. Best time of year in my opinion.

I've been very busy over the last month since my last update. Great River Energy meetings, the Eaton Load Control change out, some internal process changes and I can't believe it, but it's budget season already. Seems like there is never a dull moment around the co-op lately, and I am here for it!

This week we had a large, oversized load come through the northern half of our territory. I had the opportunity to assist the line crew in the preparation and reconnection process after the load made it past us. I have to say it was very impressive to see the operation take place and kudos go out to all of them for getting it done in a safe and timely matter.

After my meetings with Great River Energy, I have been doing some homework on the new rate design and load control programs. With the changes coming in 2028, I feel it's important to get our system dialed in and prepared for said change. Luckily, we are already on that path.

Updating our control equipment to a more efficient platform is going to be key in helping us navigate these new rate changes. I won't get into the nerdy details, but I am happy to hear from load control strategists, who have a lot more brain capacity than I do, that the

Member to p.2>

Data center panel draws large crowd



About 170 gathered at the Marcell Family Center on Oct 14 to hear from industry experts on data centers - what they are, and how they could impact the community. See p. 4 for a summary.

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 22 grants were made totaling over $8,500, listed on p. 5.

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 for a member is $11.88. Although each contribution is a small amount, 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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CEO Report, continued

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you again for the hard work, gentlemen.

We held our data center meeting in Marcell last week. Thank you, Tiffany and Kirk, for taking time out of your busy lives to come educate us about data centers. Wednesday morning the confusion began on Facebook. There was a post about a data center being built in Bigfork. This was not and is not true. Our meeting was meant for education about data centers, what they are, how they're used, community impacts and facts about today's data centers. The meeting changed a little because of the passion against a data center being built in Bigfork.

We ended up with about 170 people in attendance at the Marcell data center meeting. We covered many topics related to data centers and what could possibly work in our area. There were a lot of concerns raised about data centers in general. Many of these concerns were discussed, but without a project, specifics could not be addressed. I do not know what the next steps in the conversation will be at this point. I will continue to learn and share data centers in the future. Thank you to all the Member-Owners that showed up to learn together.

Lastly, our board will get the first look at the 2027 budget this month. I know the cost of purchased power from Great River Energy is going up at least 4% in 2027. We will sort through the information and share what rates could be next month. I expect a rate increase somewhere in the 4-6% range for 2027. We will continue to look for ways to curb the rising costs.

By your side! Miigwech
Brad



Member Services

>from p.1

plan we have created is not only an obtainable one, but also beneficial in multiple aspects: demand savings, load curve, rebound control, future program sustainability and localized control efforts, to name a few.

To pair with the load control project, we have been working on the metering of these programs. Trying to be as efficient as possible is the goal. Whether that means replacing dated and failing equipment or removing non-active services. Reassuring the reliability is there and keeping operating costs down are only going to help us achieve maximum results.

Making these things happen has taken the majority of my time over the summer -- but I didn't get to this point on my own. It has been a combined effort of almost every position in our building. It has been a great experience working with the team here at North Itasca Electric and navigating through the challenges the electrical world has graciously provided us. The running joke is I ask too many questions, but like I said earlier in this article I'm here for it!


Drew Francisco

I hope all of you are having a great fall, and as always reach out to me with any questions or projects you have going on!

Until next time,
Drew

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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
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Telephone: (218) 743-3131

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

Website: www.NorthItascaElectric.com

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

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



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Highlights
from the Board Room

NORTH ITASCA ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office and electronically through Zoom on September 24, 2026.

Directors Present: J. Kilian, L. Salmela, W. Waller, L. Kongsjord, R. Bain, T. Kallio and T. Christensen.

Directors Present via Zoom: J. White. M. Rahier and Attorney Chad Felstul.

Also Present: CEO Brad Dolinski, Dan Heinecke, Drew Francisco, Daryl Pederson and Gina Vickerman.

- Pledge of allegiance was recited.
- Motion to adopt the agenda. Second; motion carried. A motion was made to consent agenda. Second; motion carried.
- Daryl presented the Safety Discussion and spoke about the tanks moving through our system. We have 58 crossings in total and will need to shut off 46 of them.
- Dan presented the Operating Report. A motion to approve Dan's report was made. Second; motion carried.
- Legal Update: Data Centers and Capital Credits; If or when a center comes in it will need to be discussed further.
- Reviewed Policy 200.10, 200.20 and 200.30 – Record Retention. Chad made suggestions for Policy 200.10 – Motioned the changes of recognizing the bylaws and members. Second; motion carried. Policy 200.20 – Chad suggests rethinking the last four words and clean up the 1st paragraph. Moves to accept Chad's modification. Second; motion carried.
- Daryl presented the Line Department report. MREA was on site for Environmental Hazards & Drop Zone Safety. Crews have completed 3 new services along with several OH to UG conversions. EXO is currently in the Funkley and Northome areas performing Pole Testing.
- Drew presented the Member Services report. He attended GRE and had great discussions with load control strategists on NIECI's future. GRE is starting to make the switch to winter control. Testing & control windows for electric heat load will begin in October. Eaton devices continue to be installed.
- Dan presented the Office Report. The RUS audit is now completed. A huge shoutout to Krista for her work on this audit, she did a wonderful job pulling a ton of information, explaining the processes and answering follow-up questions. Moves to show the RUS audit was reviewed. Second L.; motion carried. 990s are also now complete and drafted for board approval. Made a motion to approve the draft. Second; motion carried. For the 2026 General Retirement, we plan to pay out 2004 in the amount of $209,824.56. With the positive feedback we received last year on applying checks of $100 or less to energy, we will increase the amount to $200 or less. Motion to approve. Second; motion carried.
- Brad presented the CEO report. The Data Center Informational Meeting is scheduled for October 14th from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the Marcell Family Center. The 2027 DSM Rates are: Dual Fuel is up 5.3%, Peak Shave WH is up 4.1%, ETS Summer is up 7.7% and ETS Winter is up 0.9%.
- Wes gave the MREA report.
- Lloyd presented the GRE report.
- Round Table discussion was held. W. Waller. A motion to adjourn was made. Second; motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

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.

Data Centers: What are they?

by Sally Sedgwick

You might think of it as cloud storage – up in the air. But in reality it is very down to earth, storing everything digital, from cryptocurrency payments or health medical records to your children's photos and Facebook posts inside what are called data centers.

Data centers can be different sizes and serve different uses: they can be dedicated to one company only, limiting access to others, or they can service a number of companies colocated in shared space.

And they can be different physical sizes, from a small center using less than one megawatt to an AI (artificial intelligence) hyperscale center that may use over 1,000 MW. Currently there are none of these large centers in Minnesota, although several are proposed, said Tiffany Kovaleski, founder of GOR (Grit Over Resume), a data center workforce development company.

She was speaking to a large crowd of about 170 at the Marcell Family Center in a discussion hosted by North Itasca Electric Co-op to answer questions that CEO Brad Dolinski had heard from community members. Kirk Stevens from Steadfast Operations, a contractor that sets up data center facility design and operations procedures and policies, joined her to answer technical questions.

There have not been any inquiries about placing a data center on the co-op system to date, Dolinski said, but it is an actively growing industry, and he believes that co-op members should have access to accurate information about the facilities.

There are reasons that a small electric cooperative would be a natural venue for such a meeting. Dolinski spoke of the financial issues that come with upward pressure on rates following policy decisions that encourage building transmission lines across Minnesota. Those costs fall to Great River Energy and subsequently to its owner cooperatives. About half of the consumer bill for North Itasca Electric members is wholesale electricity costs from GRE. If those rates increase, there are just two places the co-op can turn to: the members or growing the load base.

Data centers use electricity, lots of electricity. Currently the North Itasca Electric system peaks at about 15 MW. If the load increased by one MW, it would produce about $657,000 additional net income for the co-op, Dolinski estimated. That money would ease the pressure on rates: rates that are needed to

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We may have a capital credit 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 your 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.

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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.

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Electricity makes Minnesota winters a little warmer, brighter



The winter season is one Minnesotans learn to embrace. As temperatures drop, daylight hours dwindle and snow piles up, we still find ways to make the most of these cold months.

Quietly powering the winter moments we value most is electricity, working behind the scenes to make the season warmer, brighter and more enjoyable — both inside and outdoors.

At home, electricity helps create the cozy spaces we find ourselves turning to as it gets colder. Families who have an air-source heat pump can count on warmth welcoming them back in from the frigid outdoors, while electric blankets can add an extra layer of comfort. Humidifiers bring moisture back into dry winter air as slow cookers, ovens and coffee makers keep warm drinks and food coming.

Electricity also provides light during Minnesota's darkest months, brightening our kitchens in the early mornings and living rooms during long evenings. Outside, holiday lights add color and cheer to neighborhoods throughout the season's festivities.

On the days when the windchill proves to be too much, electricity offers plenty of opportunities to stay entertained indoors, whether it's holding a movie marathon, cheering on your favorite sports team or playing video games.

But most Minnesotans know that enough days inside can lead to cabin fever. Luckily, electricity can light a backyard skating rink so the kids can enjoy a few more laps after sunset. Out on the lake, it can charge batteries and power lights, tools and other accessories that make a day in an ice fishing house more comfortable. From cozy nights on the couch to laps around the rink, your local electric cooperative works to serve you with reliable, affordable electricity that makes Minnesota's winters feel a little warmer and brighter.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

Adjust your water heater settings to save energy. As cooler weather arrives, your water heater may be working harder to keep up with longer, hotter showers. Check its temperature setting and consider lowering it to 120°F, which the U.S. Department of Energy recommends for most households. Lowering the temperature can reduce energy use while also helping prevent scalding. Always check the owner's manual before making adjustments.

Source: Dept. of Energy

Fall Round Up Awards

Applicant Organization	Project Title	Amount Awarded
Deer River Lions Club	Youth Swimming Program	$ 437.16
Northome City Library	Programming and book purchases	$ 400.00
Northern Itasca Hospital District	Fitness center hand held weights	$ 284.97
Ardenhurst Township	Office Supplies	$ 150.00
Bigfork Youth Sports Association	Low income family assistance	$ 437.16
Northern Itasca Hospital District	Senior Stability Class Props and Resource Materials	$ 150.92
North Itasca Emergency Food Shelf	Thanksgiving turkey baskets	$ 1,000.00
Springboard for the Arts	Art on the Pathway (Bigfork RiverWalk)	$ 437.16
ISD 317- Parents Teachers for King School	Angel Fund	$ 500.00
ISD 317- Parents Teachers for King School	Books For All	$ 437.16
Mizpah Community Events	Trunk or Treat	$ 437.16
Mizpah Community Events	Mizpah Hometown Christmas	$ 450.00
Eye Link MN	Eye Link MN ongoing purchases for MN assistance	$ 150.00
Deer River Sportsmans Club	Supplies Youth Day projects	$ 437.16
District 317 Deer River High School	District 317 Deer River High School	$ 437.16
Bigfork High School	Bigfork School Food Pantry	$ 500.00
Bigfork 6th Grade Class	Graduation field trip	$ 437.16
Bigfork School 4th grade class	Long Lake Conservation Field Trip	$ 437.16
Bigfork School K-12 PE	Footballs	$ 80.90
Bigfork High School	Mammals in class	$ 50.00
Bigfork High School	Outdoor Snowshoes	$ 437.16
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		$ 8,525.55

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Kirk Stevens of Steadfast Operations (l) was joined by North Itasca Electric CEO Brad Dolinski and Tiffany Kovaleski of Grit Over Resume to discuss and explain the data center industry.

Data center discussion answers questions

>from p.4

maintain the lines, buy the trucks and safety equipment, and bury lines.

How much power could a rural co-op like North Itasca Electric actually access? GRE estimated it could draw an additional 30 MW, and Kovaleski suggested a likely size for a data center might be about 24MW. That size center would also create an estimated 25 to 50 permanent direct jobs, and Stevens estimated it would be about 40,000 square feet or about an acre in size.

Kovaleski was not there to support or criticize data centers, she said, but as a volunteer both from the industry and as a parent and community member to explain what data centers are, how they impact communities and questions that should be considered.

There are currently 43 data centers in the state that range from 3 to 20 MW, she said. Large corporations account for 23 of those, where a typical one could be the size of the Marcell Family Center. There are also 20 colocated "NFL city" facilities – "NFL" referring to the urban locations where they can be found - which range from 3 to over 10 MW.

All are connected with fiber, and connectivity is one of the words of industry jargon she had to know as she entered the industry, along with such terms as "modular," "latency," "block chain" and "computer nodes." Connectivity is also one of the requisites looked for by data center companies wanting to find a site, whether they are considering retrofitting an existing building – "brownfield" or new construction -"greenfield." Other requisites are available land, a supportive community, water, construction services and workforce.

Some of these become more important when communities are knowledgeable about data centers and negotiate with the incoming business, Kovaleski said. For instance, a small community welcoming a large data center can negotiate for support of local infrastructure, funding for local foundations, structural requirements to protect the environment, or even use of local tradesmen.

There were a number of questions about water use and possible contamination of the water table. Water is important for cooling, and can be used in closed or open loop systems. Open loop systems are a pass-through where warm water is discharged through a cooling tower or as warm effluent into ponds or rivers. Closed loop systems use a 25 to 40% glycol mixture and are cleaned and refilled on a 10 to 25 year cycle, according to Stevens, with the old liquid pumped into trucks for disposal in a designated place.

An audience member was concerned about water use and the current drought, saying that three years of above average rainfall was said to be needed to restore the water table. Itasca County Commissioner Casey Venema pointed out that there were locations on the east Range where there was excess rising water in the pits and consequent flood danger to adjacent cities. Here a water user might be welcome, coupled with power provided by large transmission lines coming from Canada.

A built in failure containment system could be a negotiating point, said Kovaleski. Data centers also have banks of generators and 12-24 hours of fuel in case of outage. Liquids like fuel and cooling water can be located within a containment area to prevent contamination in case of leaks.

Another question that communities should ask is what happens if a data center were to be abandoned, said Kovaleski. Generally a greenfield site should be restored to its original condition with the building removed.

Transparency was also an issue for the audience. When would the public know about a possible data center and what chance for input would they have? Stevens said that in his experience across the country, all locations were different. It just depended on how the local town wanted to handle it.



Attendees included legislators (shown above Reps. Skraba (l) and Igo, county commissioners and other township and public officials. Rep Igo spoke on legislation passed in last year's special session to address community protection for large size data centers.

At the state level, Representatives Spencer Igo and Roger Skraba noted that data centers were on the agenda for the legislature, with a "roadmap" for larger data centers (an investment of $250 million or more) being passed in a special session last summer. Igo also cautioned that people be careful to source information found on the internet to be sure it is legitimate and not from foreign sources seeking to influence people.

Several members of the audience expressed their appreciation for the presenters and the meeting. "We need to keep the conversation going," said Dolinski.

For community members, Kovaleski suggested resources found on the website of AFCOM, afcom.com, an association of data center professionals where she chairs the Greater Minnesota chapter. Research, news articles and white papers can be accessed for more information

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Roxanne's Repair Tips

by Roxanne Prather

Have you ever gone to wash your face and noticed a bad smell, something like rotten eggs? What is that smell and how can I get rid of it?

The incidence of rotten egg odor or black water in hot water lines is due to the reaction of sulfates and micro-organisms in the water that create hydrogen sulfide (H_2S). This is from the water not the water heater. It is caused by a sulfate-reducing bacteria known as *desulfovibrio*. These bacteria cannot grow in the presence of atmospheric oxygen, which is why they are not noticed in cold water, but when the water is heated it becomes noticeable.

What is hydrogen sulfide, and how does it form?

Sulfur-reducing bacteria that are naturally present in ground water use sulfur as an energy source to chemically change sulfites to produce H_2S. The bacteria use sulfur from decaying plants, rocks, or soil. They exist in environments that are oxygen-deficient, like deep wells and plumbing systems. However, H_2S can exist naturally in ground water as well. It can enter surface water through springs and quickly escape into the atmosphere. Some of these waters have excessive sulfate content along with various strains of sulfate-reducing bacteria. These bacteria, which are harmless to health, will react in stagnant water that has been depleted from oxygen and will produce hydrogen sulfide gas, utilizing the hydrogen ion from the anode (the rod in the water heater) cathode reaction. This is more common in softened water containing sodium in place of calcium and magnesium. The anode may have some effect because of the greater activity of the anode, the greater amount of the hydrogen ion and hydrogen sulfide gas. These bacteria can be killed with adequate additions of chlorine such as chlorine feeder. This will usually eliminate the problem.

How can H_2S be treated?

There are two ways to eliminate the odor, the first is the easiest:

1. Chlorination - by means of a continuous chlorine feeder; or periodic flushing with common household bleach. This process is 100% effective only if the continuous chlorine feeder is installed.

2. Install a new anode rod after the water has been flushed with household bleach. This process may not be 100% effective because without continuous chlorination, bacteria are still allowed to grow inside the tank. The anode reduces the overall anode activity, therefore reducing the availability of hydrogen ions.

How to chlorinate your water tank.

1. Turn off breaker to water heater or shut off the gas.
2. Close the cold-water inlet valve.
3. Open a nearby hot water faucet and the T & P (temperature and pressure) valve to relieve tank pressure.
4. Drain the water enough to add bleach. Use a hose connected to the drain valve if an open drain is not adjacent to the heater.
5. Remove the relief valve, anode rod or disconnect the hot water outlet pipe from the heater.
6. Pour 1 gallon of bleach for every 30 gallons of water heater tank capacity. Use the relief valve, anode rod or hot water outlet pipe opening. Re-pipe the water heater and close the T & P valve.
7. Open the cold water inlet valve at the heater and fill the tank with water. Observe the water level through the closest hot water faucet. Close inlet valve when the tank is full.
8. Leave the bleach mixture in the heater for one hour.
9. After one hour open all the water faucets and allow the bleach mixtures to clean the water supply pipes. Drain the remaining bleach mixture from the tank through the heater drain valve.
10. Close the heater drain valve, make sure the cold water inlet is open, and completely fill the tank with water. Wait 15 minutes.
11. Purge the hot water supply lines and drain, then drain the water through the heater drain valve. Check the anode rod for serviceability; replace it with a new rod if any signs of deuterations.
12. Make sure you purge all the air out of the hot water lines from the hot water faucets. Then close the faucets.
13. Check for any leaks at all fittings used. Fix any leaks.
14. Make sure tank is full of water so you don't burn out the top element if out of water. Then turn breaker or gas back on.
15. Check for normal water heater operation.

Roxanne's Sales Talk

by Roxanne Prather, Member Services Representative

Good morning, everyone.

I'm just shocked at this gorgeous weather this last week, 82° in October is not very normal, but I sure loved it. Now today it is back to normal 48° for a high. This last weekend was a great opportunity to get everything put away for winter. "I'm ready now, I think."

I just want to let people know that for some reason there is a shortage of 18, 19 and 20 c.f. refrigerators. I'm not sure why but white seems to be hard to get now. So, if you come in and don't see any smaller refrigerators on the floor, this is why. Hopefully this will get better soon. Thank you for your patience.

It's been a busy week for me . I was able to attend a retirement seminar in Maple Grove on Wednesday and Thursday. Yes, I'm getting to the age where I need to start thinking about what I must do to retire! Hard to believe I've been at the Co-op for 26 years already. Time goes by fast. Sheila and I learned so much in those two days that our heads were spinning! So much information; it was a great seminar.

While we were down there, we ran into one of our Board members, Lloyd Kongsjord . He was down there for a Great River Energy meeting. Lloyd arranged it so we could get in and tour the GRE building. Thank you, Lloyd, for setting this up for us. What a great opportunity! What a beautiful building.

I'd like to give a big thank you to Communications and Marketing Manager Dan Becchetti for taking the time to show us around and explain all that they do there. Everyone that we met stopped what they were doing and took the time to explain what their job was. Sheila and I were amazed at how nice everyone was. The technology there is astounding! They truly have eyes on everything.

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Rebate must be redeemed for residential use only.

Haley's Fall Coloring Contest

Thank you for all the great coloring entries in Haley's Fall Coloring Contest! Winners are:

0-Pre K: Vivian White (Pre K)
K-3rd: Ellie Engelsmeier (Grade 3)
4th-6th: Aurelia Craven (Grade 5)


Aurelia C (Gr 5)


Eowyn C (pre) K)


Herman W (K)


Ashton B (K)

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


Chloe F (Gr 1)


Vivian W (pre K)


Christopher W (Gr 2)


Barrett C (Gr 1)


Rissa S (Gr 2))


Everett K (Gr 3)


Hudson S (Gr 2)


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Hanna F (Gr 5)

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Classic Movie Series

by Jack Nachbar

Do you "feel lucky, Punk?" Most likely you will if you come to see *Dirty Harry* (1971) at the Edge Theater in November. *Harry* was a smash hit at the box office and is generally considered one of the best movies of the decade. Critic Pauline Kael had concerns about the content of the movie but, at the same time, praised it as a "stunningly well made genre piece." The huge success of *Dirty Harry* turned title actor Clint Eastwood into a top, soon to be legendary, superstar.

In the film inspector Harry Callahan is assigned to arrest "Scorpio," a psychotic San Francisco serial killer. Harry has contempt for the formalities and rules of his Department and is more than ready to meet violence with his big gun. The film gives us almost continuous action.

Dirty Harry will be shown Thursday, November 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Edge Center Theater in Bigfork. FREE!! The movie is rated R, so leave the little folks at home.

DECEMBER CLASSIC MOVIE: Our hills will be alive with *The Sound of Music* (1964), the biggest hit musical of all time. Thursday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Save the DATE for C.A.T.E.!

Mark your calendars for the return of Christmas at the Edge!

This wildly popular community event will bring holiday cheer to the community with lovely choral selections and entertaining vignettes.

The program will be **Sunday, December 13** at 2 p.m. in The Edge Theatre. Watch for updates on our Facebook page (facebook.com/EdgeCenterArts).

Arts on the Edge



The Edge welcomes Figuring It Out, the Abello family acoustics band, to the stage on **Saturday, Nov. 14**!

Based in the Bemidji area, they are a tight-knit, large family band delighting audiences with multiple genres from Christian contemporary, folk, and bluegrass to Celtic, swing, and even sprinkling in some yodeling. You won't want to miss this high-energy performance featuring combinations of fiddle, guitar, piano, bass, cello and banjo, accompanied by powerful vocals and plenty of smiles.

Figuring It Out will perform at 7 p.m. in The Edge Theatre. Tickets at the Door: Adults $10, Youth $5. Fun for the whole family!

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY:
Join us for a community music workshop and jam session, led by the Abello family! Open to all ages and experiences, instruments welcome, this FREE workshop will be held on stage at The Edge Theatre at 3 p.m,, Saturday, November 14. Stick around town for the performance at 7 p.m.! Contact The Edge with any questions at (218) 743-6670

The Edge Center is located adjacent to Bigfork School at 101 2nd Ave., Bigfork.

Edge Gallery — 250 YEAR CELEBRATION

The Edge Gallery presents an exhibit on the 250th Anniversary of the Nation, artwork submitted in response to a Call for Art with the theme of honoring the creation of an independent nation based on the principles of liberty, equality, Natural Rights, and government by consent. Along the way, this young nation has experienced transformative events, shifts in cultural perspectives, rapid industrial and technological advancement, periods of peace and war, and great prosperity, all in pursuit of a more perfect union. Exhibit through Nov.28.

Featured artists include Ellen Bomstad, Serenity Crego, Nadya Duitsman, Jessica Jetland, Elisandra Jones, Iryna Khmelovska, Richard Lacher, Elaine Rasmussen, Sally Sedgwick, Rick Souther, Roberta Steinhart, Keith Thompson, Lucy Williams, and Nancy Williams.

Gallery hours: Thurs. - Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m, FREE admission.

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Hunter's Suppers

Friday, Nov. 6

Northwoods Saddle Club
Location: Effie Community Center
Time: 4 to 7 p.m.
Cost: Suggested donation, $10
Menu includes: Turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, corn, cranberries, roll, dessert.

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 & gravy, corn, coleslaw, 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, veggies, coleslaw, buns, pie & whipped cream

Wabana Town Hall
Location: Town Hall
Time: 4 to 7 p.m.
Cost: Freewill donation
Menu: Pork loin, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, veggies, coleslaw, buns, pie & whipped cream

Saturday, Nov. 7

Balsam Volunteer Fire Department
Location: Balsam Community Center 41388 Scenic Hwy 7, Bovey
Time: 5-8 p.m.
Cost: $15 plate and raffle, children 10 and under free
Menu: Roast beef w/mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, coleslaw, roll, dessert

Wabana Town Hall
Location: Wabana Town Hall 41982 Pioneer Rd. NE, Kelliher
Time: 5 to 7:30 p.m.
Cost: $10, age 12 and up; $5 ages 6-11, under 5 free
Menu: Roast pork dinner
Fundraiser for scholarships

BVCF Special 2026 Grant Opportunity

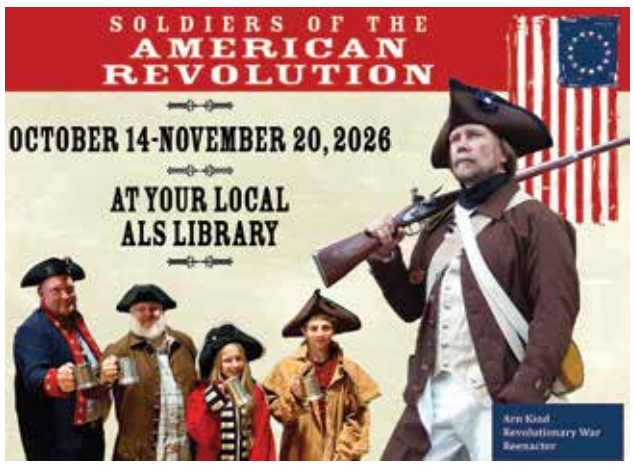
Bigfork Valley Community Foundation is pleased to announce a special grant opportunity for their giving area. Applications will be available on their website www.bigforkvalleyfoundation.org on the Initiatives page.

Applications will be accepted until November 20, 2026. The application packet will provide more detail on giving priorities and the maximum amount. For additional information, contact the Bigfork Valley Community Foundation at (218) 743-4116.

The Bigfork Valley Community Foundation 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.

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The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to present free history events at participating ALS libraries .This interactive event, presented by Arn Kind of Historical Experiences, is titled "Soldiers of the American Revolution."

On this 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence join Arn Kind for an event all about the American Revolution. This in depth presentation puts audience members into the life of a revolutionary soldier with historical artifacts, uniforms, and hands-on experiences. Audiences will enjoy learning about the causes of the revolution and how it led to the birth of the United States of America.

The two hour program is suited for ages 10 and up. This free programs is being offered at the Grand Rapids Area Library on Wednesday, Nov. 18 from 1-3 p.m.

This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF). For more information, please see our calendar at www.alslib.info or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alslibinfo.

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Try the 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. 4: WMAs
(Part 3 of the DNR Wildlife Management Area series) Find out how the DNR manages forests for wildlife habitat on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and Aquatic Management Areas (AMAs) with Heather Baird, forest fisheries landscape coordinator and Mike North, forest wildlife coordinator.

Nov. 18: WMAs
(Part 4 of the DNR Wildlife Management Area series) Learn about the Outdoor Heritage Funded roving habitat enhancement crew program with DNR's Louise Spiczka, southwest habitat enhancement crew supervisor, and Matt Tomoson, west central habitat enhancement crew supervisor.

Volunteers Needed! AARP Tax-Aide

Are you looking for a meaningful way to support your community? Be a Tax-Aide volunteer! This program is a free service offered by the AARP Foundation to help seniors and those of modest income prepare their taxes.

AARP uses an online tax program and provides all the training you need, plus a mentor to support you through the tax season. You can set your own hours and work from home.

To find out more, call Jim at (218) 245-9202 or send an email at taxaidegr@gmail.com. There's no obligation.

This service is made available through a grant from the state of Minnesota.

Defensive Driving

Retired Minnesota State Patrol Trooper Mike Flatley offers a defensive driving class by Zoom for ages 55 and older. Two Zoom classes are scheduled in November for Monday, Nov. 9 a.m.-1 p.m.. and Wednesday, Nov. 18 from 5 to 9 p.m. Cost is $17. Preregister at (218) 750-3189 or by email at mnflats@hotmail.com. Early registration is suggested. See mndefensivedriving.blogspot.com for more.

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Effie sets preliminary levy request at $45,000

by Sally Sedgwick

At its Sept. 14 and Oct. 12 meetings, the Effie City Council set a preliminary levy request at $45,000, a 4.6% increase over the payable 2026 levy.

The city is renovating the skating rink for use this winter, following a resident request. Councilor Stu Ostendorf said that the old boards have been removed and will be replaced by planks, and sand will be moved from the old volleyball court. The warming house will possibly be replaced next year.

Councilors set the 2026 election canvassing meeting for 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 9 before the regular council meeting. The next regular meetings are scheduled for Mondays, November 9 and December 14 at 6 p.m. in the Community Center.

Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum

Bigfork approves union contract

by Sally Sedgwick

At its October 13 meeting the Bigfork City Council approved a 2027-2029 agreement with IUOE Local 49.

The council also approved a letter of support for the Bigfork School PTA initiative to explore development of a community center with swimming pool in Bigfork. The PTA is working with CEDA on gathering information and community interest. The letter expressed appreciation for "the Bigfork PTA's continued dedication to improving opportunities for our community."

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

Excerpted from an article in the Scenic Range NewsForum

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.- 6:00 p.m. (or until gone), a nutritious three-course meal is served. Location: King Elementary School door #9. For more information, visit communitycafemn.org.

Northome Food Shelf
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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.-non.
Thurs:12-5 p.m.
Fri: 12-5 p.m.
Sat.: 9 a.m.-noon

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3rd Thursday
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(218) 256-4170

Northome Library
(218) 897-5952

Mon-Sat
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Resource Centers:

Blackduck:
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Northome:
(218) 897-5952

Kickoff for Regional 10-Year Economic Development Strategy

In mid-October, leaders in Itasca County and the surrounding region gathered in Grand Rapids to launch a first-of-its-kind effort to review and revitalize the area's approach to economic development. This feedback and strategic planning session was the first step in a year-long process to build a plan for economic development and resilience in the region.

"Today was about getting a range of voices into one room to chart a course forward, but it's only the beginning," said Itasca County Commissioner John Johnson. "The ideas and energy in the room today give us a strong foundation for the work ahead."

Itasca County is spearheading the effort, in partnership with Aitkin County, St. Louis County, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and Minnesota Power. The launch event brought together stakeholders representing local government, industry, economic and community development organizations, tribal leaders and others. Attendees from more than 20 organizations participated.

"While the efforts are centered in Itasca County, this project is regional by design," Johnson said.

Participants engaged in a hands-on process led by Dr. Dave Webb, facilitator and founder of Homerun Leadership. They were asked to reflect on the current state of regional economic development efforts, identify challenges, set goals, and develop action strategies.

Over the coming year, project leaders will continue to solicit input from stakeholders, conduct research into factors impacting the area economy, and identify strategies to move the region forward.

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.

area bookmobile stops

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

Mondays: Nov. 9, 30; Dec. 21
2:45 - 3:30 p.m. Northome; Apartments
4:15 - 5:15 p.m. Squaw Lake Community Ctr

Tuesdays: Nov. 10; Dec. 1, 22
10:00 -11:00 a.m. Deer River: Comstock Ct.
11:30-12:30 p.m. Bowstring Store
1:45 - 2:45 p.m. Effie: Country Store
3:15 - 4:15 p.m. Bigfork: City Hall

Thursdays: Nov. 12, Dec. 3
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

On November 20 and 21, 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 distinctive purses and jewelry, pottery, soaps, rosemaled items, hand-painted cards and coasters, etched glass and much more. Plus a bake sale! Sale will be open 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday.

Effie

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 102 in Effie is plnning its annual Bake and Craft Sale for Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Effie Community Center. Proceeds go to support the auxiliary's programs, which have recently included donations to the Bemidji State Veterans Home, handmade quilts for Veterans, and providing homemade meals for the annual Memorial Day meal, Veterans Day Dinner and POW/MIA Golf Tournament.

Marcell

Marcell Community Church will hold its annual free community Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 14, 5-7 p.m. Turkey and all the fixin's will be served.

Visit your co-op at www.NorthItascaElectric.com

Marcell Family Center

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MFC hours:

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Thurs., Fri: 5-7 p.m.
Sat: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Fitness Center: fob access 6 a.m.-10 p.m., 7 days a week

Area Church Directory

Alvwood Community Church Sun 10:00a
58712 Co. Rd. 131
Blackduck 56630 218-659-4681

Balsam Bible Chapel Sun 10:30a
41516 Scenic Hwy 7
Bovey 55709 218-245-1960

Bear River Lutheran Church Sun 10:00a
11141 Hwy 22
Cook 55723 218-376-1012

Bethany Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a
35297 State Highway 6
Deer River, MN 56636 218-246-8398

Bethesda Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a
Mizpah 56660 218-897-5654

Bowstring Chapel Sun 10:15a
45114 Co Rd 133
Deer River 56636 218-832-3171

Centennial Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a
Hwy 46
Squaw Lake 56681 218-259-0115

Clara Lutheran Church Sun 9:00a
41447 Little Clara Drive
Deer River 56636 218-360-1503

Deer River Bible Church Sun 10:00a
33276 State Highway 6
Deer River 56636 218-246-9570

Dora Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a
59329 Co Rd 145
Northome 56661 218-659-4551

Effie Fredheim Lutheran Church (ELCA) Sun 8:30a
Hwy 1
Effie 56639 218-743-3368

First Presbyterian Church, BF Sun 10:15a
109 Ash St.
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3783

Gemmel Community Church Sun 10:00a
10609 Town Rd 34
Gemmel 56660 218-897-5966

Good Hope Church - Bigfork Sun 10:00a
101 Golf Course Ln.
Bigfork, MN 56628 218-556-9856

Grace Community Church (ELCA) Sun 10:15a
401 State Hwy 38 N
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3368

Hope Lutheran Church Sun 10:30 a.m.
12234 Third St.
Northome 56661 218-897-5654

Jehovah's Witnesses Tu 7:00p., Sun 10:00a
Hwy 38
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3275

Jesse Lake Lutheran Church Sun 8:30a
45834 Co. Rd. 4
Talmoon 56637 218-832-3883

Marcell Community Church Sun 10:30a
49103 State Hwy 38
Marcell 56657 218-832-3200

Northome Community Church Sun 10:00a
12071 Bartlett St.
Northome 56661 218-556-8640

Northwoods Chapel Sun 9:00a
50539 Mushgee Rd. (corner of Co. Rd. 622)
Deer River 56636 218-659-2784

Old Scenic Community Church Sun 9:30a
25747 Co. Rd. 340
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3953

Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church Sun 9:00a
Mass also Tu, W, 9:00a.
320 Golf Course Ln
Bigfork 56628 218-743-3255

Sand Lake Alliance Sun 10:00a
55581 Co. Rd 4
Spring Lake 56680 218-659-2872
Church website: www.sandlakealliancechurch.org

St. Catherine's Catholic Church Sat 4:00p
52265 State Hwy 46
Squaw Lake 56681 218-743-3255

St. Michael Catholic Church Sat 7:00p
12026 Lake St
Northome 56661 218-743-3255

Suomi Evangelical Lutheran Church Sun 10:30a
42935 Co. Rd. 48
Deer River 56636 218-832-3883

True Life Church Sun 10:00a
45976 Terry
Talmoon 56637 218-244-7089

Church directory sponsored by North Itasca Electric Cooperative, send changes to editor,
sedgwick@paulbunyan.net

~ November Calendar ~

1 Daylight Savings Time ends, set clocks back one hour.
3 Election Day.
4 "The Club I Never Wanted to Join" breast cancer support group meets 3:30 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in the chapel, south entrance, Grand Rapids. More info with Lynn (218) 832-3612, lynn_ettl@msn.com.
4 Grief Support Group meets each Wednesday morning, 9 a.m. at Jesse Lake Lutheran Church, 45834 Co. Rd. 4, Talmoon. Call Marion Leimbach, (320) 293-5741 or email pineloft@bigfork.net for more information.
5 "Practical Water Wisdom" online programs over the lunch hour with Itasca Waters. Topic: "Organizing to Sustain Lake Quality." Register at itascawaters.org.
6 No School, Bigfork, Blackduck, Deer River schools. Teacher workshops.
6-7 Hunter's Suppers, see p. 11.
9 ISD 318 School Board meeting, Administrative Board Room, 650 SW 7th St, Grand Rapids 6:30 p.m., open forum 6 p.m. Livestream at watchictv.org.
9 Women of the Woods meet at 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson at (218) 659-2157.
9 ISD 317 School Board meets at Deer River HS, 6 p.m. Public forum 5:45 p.m.
9 Effie City Council meets at Effie Community Center, 6 p.m. .
9 Blackduck ISD 32 School Board meets, 5 p.m. in the Media Center.
10 Stop & Stitch meets at the Marcell Family Center the 2nd Tuesday of every month, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. More info, call Debbie at (218) 360-1503.
10 Bigfork City Council meets at City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
11 Veterans Day. **North Itasca Electric offices CLOSED.**
12 Veteran's Day program at Northome School, 10-11 a.m. All are welcome.
12 Classic Movies kicks off the 2026-2027 season with *Dirty Harry* (1971) starring. Clint Eastwood. "Generally considered one of the best movies of the decade." Rated R. Showing at 6:30 p.m. at the Edge Center. Free.
14 Holiday Craft and Vendor Show, 9 a.m-3 p.m. at Blackduck School. Gyms & hallways, concessions, raffles, door prizes, child care available. Vendor booths $25..
14 Community Thanksgiving dinner at Marcell Community Church, 5-7 p.m. Turkey & fixings, pie. Free.
14 The Edge Center, Bigfork, presents "Figuring It Out" in concert, 7 p.m. Figuring it out is an 11-member family band playing a variety of instruments. Adults $10, children $5. In a special opportunity, come for a free workshop at 3 p.m. with the Abello family. Instruments, and all ages and talents welcome.
17 Bigfork Valley Hospital board meets in public meeting, 9 a.m. Note change of date.
17 Jessie Lake & Suomi Lutheran free community meal, 45834 Co. Rd. 4 in Talmoon, 4-6 p.m. Lasagna and sides. Takeout available.
18 ISD 363 South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board meeting, 7 p.m., Northome School
19 Edge of the Wilderness Book Club meets 3rd Thursday of every month (except Dec) at the Marcell Family Center at 10 a.m. New members welcome.
19 Community Music Jam at Marcell Family Center, 5-8 p.m. 4th Thurs. Everyone welcome.
20 No school, Bigfork School. Conferences.
20, 21 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.
23 ISD 318 School Board meeting, Administrative Board Room, 650 SW 7th St, Grand Rapids 6:30 p.m., open forum 6 p.m.
23 Women of the Woods meet 10 a.m. at Sand Lake Community Center. Call Pat Sievertson (218) 659-2157.
26 Thanksgiving, No school, all schools. **North Itasca Electric offices CLOSED.**
27 Thanksgiving Break. No school, all schools.

DEC

5 American Legion Auxiliary Bake and Craft Sale, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Effie Communnity Center.
11 Craft Fair at Bigfork Valley Hospital, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Call (218) 743-3175 for table space or email janderson1@bigforkvalley.org
13 Christmas at the Edge community celebration, 2 p.m. Free. Text Elaine at (218) 259-8439 to join.

Edge of the Wilderness Art League
Art & Craft Sale
at Bigfork City Hall
Friday, Nov 20 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Saturday, Nov 21 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



Distinctive purses and jewelry, pottery, soaps, rosemaled items, hand-painted cards and coasters, etched glass and much more.
Plus a bake sale!

Area residents asked about interest in a community center/sports building in Bigfork

Bigfork PTA was recently awarded planning assistance through Community Economic Development Associates (CEDA) to explore the possibility of building a community center with a swimming pool in Bigfork. Community input is being gathered to determine interest and help guide the next steps.

The PTA is hoping to reach as many residents as possible. So far they have received over 300 responses. Part of a Health, Mobility & Active Living Program, the effort follows a successful drive to fund a preschool playground where over $94,000 was raised. "We're moving mountains," a Facebook post read. "Trust us when we say, a community building with a swimming pool is within our grasp."

The short survey takes about five minutes and will help to identify "key priorities, challenges, and opportunities." Use your cell phone over the icon (QR Code) to reach the survey, or email bigforkpta@gmail.com.

BIGFORK: A POOL IN OUR FUTURE?
YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

Bigfork PTA received CEDA planning support to explore a community center with a swimming pool.

Should we pursue this idea?

SCAN TO TAKE THE SURVEY

Help shape Bigfork's future!
BIGFORK PTA I CEDA

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

Easy Chili

Thank you to Lori Henrickson *for this November recipe!*

Brown together 5-7 minutes, then drain:
- 1 lb ground beef
- 1 chopped onion:

Add:
- 15 oz can tomato sauce
- 15 oz can kidney beans, drained
- 14.5 oz can stewed tomatoes
- 1-1/2 cup water

Season with:
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- salt & pepper
- pinch garlic powder.

Simmer 15 minutes and serve with sour cream, shredded cheese and corn chips.



Please share your recipe with us! *If your recipe is chosen, you will receive a $15 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.*

Warm-You-Up Hash Bake

This recipe is for those who raise chickens and find some spare vegetables in the refrigerator!

Spread in the bottom of a greased 9x13 baking dish:
- 1 32 oz pkg frozen hash browns
- 1/2 teaspoon dried garlic

Lightly salt and bake 20 mins at 350° (Will still be partially frozen.)

Wash and spread over potatoes:
- Small package of fresh spinach

Saute until just tender and layer on top :
- chopped mixed refrigerator veggies
- (Handful celery, bell pepper chunks, golden beets, etc.)

Brown until done and layer on top:
- 1 lb breakfast sausage

Beat, season with salt, pepper and 1 to 2 teaspoons of paprika:
- Up to a dozen eggs

Pour over above layers and bake until eggs are thoroughly cooked, about an hour. Serve piping hot.

CLASSIFIEDS

AD DEADLINE
for the **December** issue: **Thurs, Nov. 12**

-SERVICES-

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Gus David

-FOR SALE-

For sale: Three-stage snow thrower attachment for Cub Cadet series XT-1, XT-2 (2015 and newer). 42". $700. On Bowstring Lake. Call (218) 245-5772 12/26

For sale: Bixby Pellet Stove NIB New $3,895, Sell $2,000. Call (763) 242-3058, pics available. .12/26

For sale: Maple, ash and birch; cut, split and seasoned (218) 910-6610 11/26

For sale: Steffes Electric room heating unit, Model 2104, 240 Volt AC. New cost is over $2500. Perfect condition. $500. Call (651) 764-1786 11/26

For sale: 7 mm bolt action Winchester rifle with Swarovski scope, sling shells and hard case. $1,600. Call (218) 398-0947 11/26

For sale: Birch firewood, cut, split and piled in March. $240 per cord. $80 per one third cord. Delivery is possible. In Talmoon. (218) 259-1940 11/26

-WATER SPORTS-

BOATS, GEAR

For sale: 20 ft wood ribbed canoe, $700. Call (763) 242-3058, pics available. 12/26

For sale: 12' duck boat $135.00. 218-245-0112 11/26

-POWER SPORTS-

SNOWMOBILES, ATVs

For sale: Can Am XT 1000 R, 2018. $9,750 or BO. Call (763) 242-3058 pics available. 12/26

-VEHICLES-

For sale: 2007 Polaris Ranger 700. 750 hrs., camo color, windshield & extra belt. Starts and runs good. Deer hunter special, $2,500. Call (612) 300-7705. Inger. 12/26

For sale: 1950 model Ford 2 door business coupe. Not rusted out. Motor turns, and comes with extra body parts. $3,500.00 No trades. Call (218) 246-9457 12/26

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If you are an individual member of the cooperative, classified ads are free as a service from your cooperative. If you are advertising for a business or are a non-member, please remit $5 per ad per month.

_____

_____

☐ Run my ad for one month only.

Your ad will run for two months unless you check this box. (Business classifieds are $5 per insertion.)

Please note: We are as careful as possible, but are not responsible for errors.

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

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

Christmas coloring contest for K-3

One winner will be picked from kindergarten, first, second and third grade. Please turn in your entries by Thursday, Dec. 3. 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. 14. Coloring pages will all be published in the January WATTS News unless for some reason you wish them not to be. Winners will be called - please pick up prizes as soon as you can!



Name _____ Grade_____

Phone number _____

Annual Christmas Cookie/Candy Contest:

It's the holiday season; time for baking Christmas treats! Send us your best candy and cookie recipes to share with our members.

I look forward to seeing lots of good recipes! Please have them here by **Thursday, Dec. 3** so we have time to get them together into a booklet. 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 $15 off your monthly bill! You can mail or email the recipes to the Co-op at P.O. Box 228, Bigfork, MN 56628 or roxannep@nieci.com.

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.

Thanksgiving Word Search

N	N	R	O	C	T	N	C	G	A
S	T	U	F	F	I	N	G	R	C
N	I	K	P	M	U	P	D	A	J
S	Q	U	A	S	H	H	J	V	L
H	T	U	R	K	E	Y	Y	Y	D

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pumpkin
squash
stuffing
turkey



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