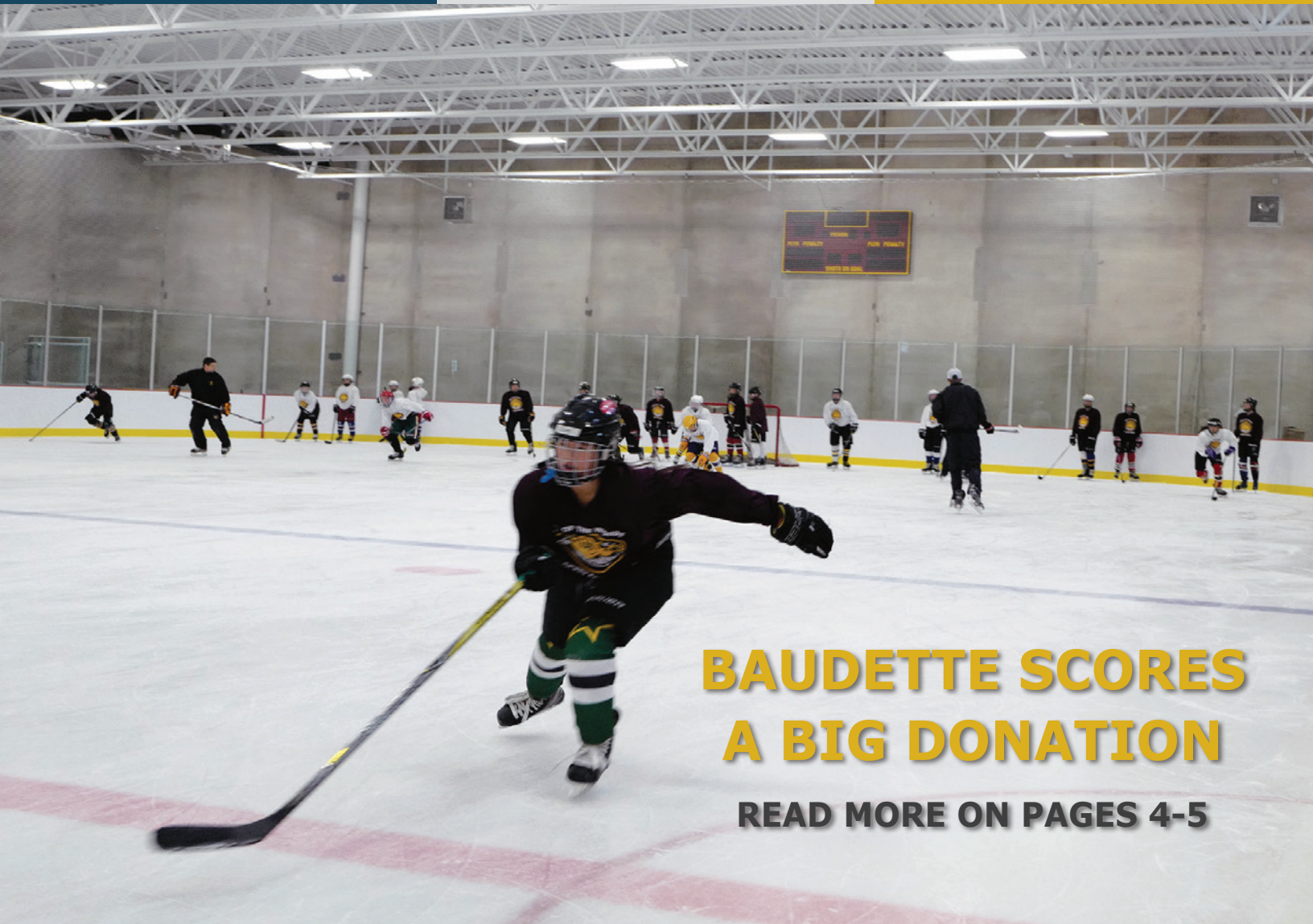


**RELIABLE BACKUP HEATING  
SYSTEM IS A MUST**  
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**PUMPKIN UPSIDE  
DOWN CAKE**  
PAGE 7



## **BAUDETTE SCORES A BIG DONATION**

**READ MORE ON PAGES 4-5**

### **NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. MISSION STATEMENT**

To improve the lives of our member-owners and community by responsibly providing clean, affordable, electric energy and other beneficial services while maintaining the very highest standards of performance and member satisfaction.



**Ann Ellis**  
General Manager

## Preparing for 2020

As our budget preparations wrap up, you will be happy to know that, for the third consecutive year,

we will not have a rate increase. Reduced regulatory pressure has allowed wholesale rates from Minnkota to stabilize, and your directors and employees work hard to make sure every dollar you send us is spent wisely. We have several construction projects planned to upgrade lines to ensure the best reliability possible. Right-of-way maintenance took a back seat in 2019 because of weather and ground conditions, but we will be literally doubling down on that in 2020. Our AMI (Automated Metering Infrastructure) project is on schedule and on budget (556-47-013-03, Margie Larson). Keeping your electric distribution system in tip-top shape is something we take very seriously.

## Preparing for a comfortable winter

Have you checked your backup heating

system to make sure it will work well during the critical hours of load control? There was a two-hour test of the off-peak control system on Dec. 4, between 7 and 9 a.m. to help us, and you, know if you are prepared.



Comfort can be described in two ways — the temperature and the cost. By having an adequate backup, you are ensuring both.

## Preparing for fun on the ice

The communities surrounding Baudette are now enjoying the fruits of the labor of many, including an anonymous donor who catapulted the bank account to turn the vision of an international ice arena in Lake of the Woods County into a reality. As you will read in the article on pages 4 and 5, many people participated in numerous ways, and without the volunteering spirit, this could not have been possible. Thank you all.

## Preparing for Christmas

As the reason for the season approaches,

• Your directors and employees work hard to make sure every dollar you send us is spent wisely.

• Comfort can be described in two ways — the temperature and the cost. By having an adequate backup, you are ensuring both.

• Without the volunteering spirit, the vision of an international ice arena in Lake of the Woods County could not have been possible.

all of us at North Star Electric Cooperative wish you a very merry Christmas, and all the best in the New Year. We are here for you.

At your service we remain.... Ann



# A RELIABLE BACKUP HEATING SYSTEM IS A MUST

Electric off-peak heating systems must be capable of 200 hours or more of



interruption each winter season, although this year we are expecting a normal range of around 200-250 hours of control. In order to realize the full benefits of the load management program, it is very important that our members work with a qualified heating contractor to ensure that they have an automatic, adequate and well-maintained backup heating

system in place and ready to use when they need it. The electric off-peak heating program continues to provide great value to members today, just as it did when it was first utilized in the late 1970s. The winter heating season is here, and North Star Electric stands ready to assist our members with their electric heating options to ensure their total comfort this winter.



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM



These are the highlights from the Oct. 2, 2019, board meeting. All board members were in attendance. In addition to routine actions, the board voted to approve updates to policies regarding management, equity, patronage and committees, and to approve a resolution authorizing the execution of the AP8 RUS typical loan documents to fund line construction and improvements. The board also conducted the annual review of Safety Policy 3.10, Secretary-Treasurer Nygaard signed the statement of mailing of the official notice of the annual meeting, Directors Spears and Sampson were presented with the NRECA Certification for Credentialed Cooperative Directors, and Director Hanson was presented with the NRECA Certification for Board Leadership.

Staff reports included the safety report, the financial report, review of several policies, the contracted right-of-way clearing that will likely be postponed and combined with 2020's planned work due to wet conditions this year, the completion

of the financial audit field work, the workers' compensation modification rate for 2020, the new phone system to be installed in Baudette and Littlefork, annual preventative maintenance inspection of all electrical and HVAC systems in Baudette and Littlefork, corrected non-shedding off-peak loads, new off-peak systems, rebates, new services, upgrades, pole changeouts, AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) installations, pole testing on the Warroad substation, breaker testing on the Littlefork substation, outages, the application recently submitted to the REDLG (Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant) committee by Jake's Sawmill, the upcoming annual meeting, a proposed cold-weather testing site and

unclaimed capital credits (130-14-004-06, Kathy Senti).

Detailed minutes are available at the cooperative for member review. Regular board meetings are generally held the first Wednesday 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 Manager Ann Ellis at least two weeks in advance to be included on the agenda.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Trim your holiday energy costs by choosing energy efficient LED lights! LED holiday lights use less energy and can last up to 40 seasons. They're also easier to install – you can connect up to 25 LED strings without overloading a wall socket!

*Source: energy.gov*

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

**President**  
Steve Arnesen

**Vice President**  
Michael Hanson

**Secretary-Treasurer**  
Lorraine Nygaard

**Directors**  
Shelley Spears  
Randy Bergan  
Tom Smith  
Bruce Sampson

**General Manager**  
Ann Ellis

**Editor**  
Kevin Holen

## DIGGING SOON?

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked and helps protect you from injury and expense. Safe digging is no accident.

**ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG.**  
**VISIT [WWW.CALL811.COM](http://WWW.CALL811.COM) FOR MORE INFORMATION.**



## LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

Past issues of the Enlightener are on our website at

**[www.northstarelectric.coop](http://www.northstarelectric.coop)**





# Baudette scores a big donation

ANONYMOUS DONOR PAVES WAY FOR NEW  
ENERGY-EFFICIENT HOCKEY ARENA

When Baudette built a hockey arena in 1964 and 1965, the entire community chipped in to make it possible.

The arena board's 1966 annual report said more than 400 people combined to volunteer nearly 12,000 hours on the project.

Fast-forward several decades and the city's new arena is in big part the doing of one person – a mystery donor. The man, who declined to be identified, donated \$6 million to build the new \$7 million Lake of the Woods International Arena.

To boot, the donor is donating a sustainability fund for the arena. All Baudette officials will say is that the donor was born and raised in Baudette.

"The main mission behind this – the donor who wishes to remain anonymous said – through this whole thing is to get more kids skating," said Mike Schulz, member of the Lake of the Woods International Arena board of directors.

The arena receives its electricity from North Star Electric Cooperative, one of the 11 member-owners of Minnkota. North Star provided incentives to help the arena board build the 1,000-plus-capacity facility as energy efficient as possible, paying out more than \$12,000 in rebates for materials such as LED lighting and lighting controls.

## Unique features

This is not your typical arena. Windows were placed on the north side of the facility so people interested in skating can see if the lights are on as they approach the building from Minnesota State Highway 11. After 20 to 30 minutes of inactivity, the lights over the rink dim.

"The other thing is, during the day, that light is coming in," Schulz said. "You go to a normal rink during the day and it's like going into a cave."



Kevin Hoken, North Star Electric member service manager, presents a check to Sam Lyon, director of Lake of the Woods International Arena, for the amount of \$12,239 in rebates for energy-efficient lighting and equipment.

The lighting also features a dim option. While the lights might be at 40% capacity during practices, they will be at 100% during games.

Other unique features of the arena include:

- Radiant heating above the bleachers to help remove the chill for fans before games.



- A penalty box located between the players boxes of each team to ensure seamless viewing for fans. Usually it's on the other side of the ice.

## Bought land from school

The arena board purchased the land for the new arena from the Lake of the Woods school district for \$1. The new building rests a few inches from the school's swimming pool, which abuts the school. It's a well-designed concept, with football and track and field facilities across the road from the arena.

Everything sports happens to the west of Baudette on school property. In fact, spring sports can use the arena when needed.

"We went from a synthetic system to a natural system," Schulz said. "It's a much more efficient system. Right now this system is equal or better to any NHL rink out there. It's state of the art. This is something where we thought investing a little more money was a wise idea."

Kevin Holen, North Star member services manager, said the amperage draw on the



building is minimal, even with the ice plant running.

"I think the cost savings are going to be beneficial," he said.

Since the donor was most interested in providing a skating experience for youth, the arena will have equipment available for those who want to try the sport or are



back in the Baudette area for the holidays. The fan experience was also important for organizers.

"We tried to make a great view of the ice surface for a game. If you notice out here along the glass, there's the aluminum stanchions. But when you get in front of the bleachers, it's all seamless glass," Schulz said.

Holen said the arena is under demand response control. A used CAT diesel generator on the north side of the arena allows for great savings on the electricity bill. This demand response program is voluntary for customers who allow Minnkota to turn off, by remote control, electric heaters and interruptible loads in exchange for a discounted electric rate.

Though they received a big check, board members didn't spend wildly on the building.

"We had the generous gift up front," Schulz said. "And we have sustainability, too, but we have to be responsible."

Lake of the Woods has been known for having one of the coldest rinks in northwest Minnesota. The new arena will change that a bit, but the rink will remain cool. Fans will see a temperature improvement in the stands, but coaches and players prefer hard, fast-paced ice.

The arena also is handicap accessible. Sam Lyon, the arena director, invited

residents from the local nursing home to the facility to watch some youth hockey this past summer. They took the elevator up a floor and saw a great view of the ice through the glass.



"These are things you don't think about in the beginning," Schulz said. "But they were able to go in that elevator, get upstairs and now these people will be able to come and watch."

Several local businesses, including Border State Bank and AmericInn, are big financial supporters of the project.

The first boys high school varsity game was Nov. 30. Lake of the Woods played host to International Falls in a rivalry game. Sponsoring the event was Border State Bank, which has locations in both Baudette and International Falls.

"And it's going to become an annual thing – the Battle of the Border," Schulz said.

# PROBLEMS PAYING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?

## ENERGY ASSISTANCE MAY BE AVAILABLE!

If you are receiving a low income or are suffering from a temporary financial shortfall, the following agencies may be able to assist you with your electric bill. We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid.

### LAKE OF THE WOODS COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES

206 8th Ave SE, Suite 200  
Baudette, MN 56623-2895  
634-2642

### NORTHWEST COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL

PO Box 67  
Badger, MN 56714-0067  
800-568-5329

### KOOCHICHING COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES

1000 5th St  
International Falls, MN 56649-2243  
283-7000

### KOOTASCA COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.

Grand Rapids, MN 55744-3984  
Toll free 877-687-1163  
Direct 218-999-0800  
Fax 218-999-0220

### ARROWHEAD ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

703 3rd Ave S  
Virginia, MN 55792  
800-662-5711

# COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

*North Star Electric donates unclaimed capital credits to local, charitable organizations.*



Lake of the Woods County Museum executive director and curator Lindsay Marshall accepts an unclaimed capital credits donation from North Star Electric board director Mike Hanson.



Cori Horton from the Koochiching County Historical Society accepts an unclaimed capital credits donation from North Star Electric board director Mike Hanson.

*"Commitment to community is a driving force behind your cooperative as we support programs that improve the lives of those who live in the communities we serve."*



## CURRENT ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

State law requires that every new electrical installation in any construction, remodeling, replacement or repair shall file a certificate for inspection and be inspected by a Minnesota electrical inspector. For more information, go to the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industries website ([dli.mn.gov](http://dli.mn.gov)) and go to the electrical page.

### LAKE OF THE WOODS, ST. LOUIS and KOCHICHING COUNTIES

**Curt Collier**  
cgcollier67@gmail.com  
218.966.5070

Call to set up an appointment  
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.  
Monday - Friday

### ROSEAU COUNTY

**Ronald Ditsch**  
218.779.6758

Call to set up an appointment  
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.  
Monday - Friday

## UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

24-25  
DEC.

North Star Electric Cooperative will be closed Tuesday-Wednesday, Dec. 24-25, 2019, in observance of Christmas.

01  
JAN.

North Star Electric Cooperative will be closed Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020, in observance of New Year's Day.

## Celebrate with savings!

Buy energy efficient  
Christmas lights and decorations

## LED LIGHTING REBATE

### How to apply:



1. Purchase LED Christmas plug-in (not battery operated) lights and decorations in 2019.
2. Complete this rebate form and submit it to North Star Electric Cooperative by Dec. 31, 2019, **with a copy of your sales receipt and the packaging showing the number of lights per string.** ENERGY STAR® LEDs are recommended.
3. Select the appropriate rebate in the box below. **(Rebate cannot exceed 50% of cost. Maximum of five strings per customer.)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Strings	Rebate per String	Total Rebate
Fewer than 99 lights	\$3	
100-199 lights	\$6	
200-299 lights	\$9	
Greater than 300 lights	\$12	

Mail to: North Star Electric Cooperative • PO Box 719 •  
441 St. Hwy. 172 NW • Baudette, MN 56623

## HOME COOKING

### PUMPKIN UPSIDE DOWN CAKE

A fun take on a holiday favorite! Pumpkin pie on the bottom, buttery cake mix and walnut streusel on top. Delicious, easy, simple and fast to whip up!

Prep Time	Cook Time	Total Time	Servings
10 mins	1 hour	1 hour 10 mins	8 servings

### INGREDIENTS

- 3 eggs
- 1 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp. ginger
- 2 cans pumpkin
- 12 oz. can evaporated milk
- 1 package yellow cake mix (without pudding in the mix)
- 3/4 c. butter (melted)
- 1/2 c. chopped walnuts
- 1 container Cool Whip

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Lightly beat eggs; add remaining ingredients and mix well.
2. Pour in ungreased 9" by 13" cake pan.

3. Sprinkle 1 package yellow cake mix (not pudding-in-the-mix kind) over the pumpkin mixture (425-03-007-01, Clayton Peterson).
4. Drizzle 3/4 c. melted butter over the mix.
5. Bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees.
6. Sprinkle with 1/2 c. chopped walnuts.
7. Bake for 30 minutes longer.
8. Test as for pumpkin pie (If table knife inserted in middle of pan comes out clean, then it is done).
9. Top with Cool Whip.



Recipe courtesy of North Star Electric member Norma Anderson



# Merry Christmas

from all of us at North Star Electric!

## Board Members

Steve Arnesen, *President* ..... District 1  
Mike Hanson, *Vice President* ..... District 4  
Lorraine Nygaard, *Secretary-Treasurer* ..... District 6  
Randy Bergan ..... District 3  
Tom Smith ..... District 5  
Shelley Spears ..... District 2  
Bruce Sampson ..... District 7

## General Manager

Ann Ellis ..... General Manager

## Office Personnel

Robyn Sonstegard ..... Manager of Finance & Administration (B)  
Patsy Olson ..... Billing Coordinator (B)  
Susan Williams ..... District Office Supervisor (L)  
Tessa Strohl ..... Accountant (B)  
Brittany Hanson ..... Plant Accountant (B)  
Dan Fish ..... Purchasing Agent/CAD Draftsman (B)

Rachel Krohn ..... Billing Clerk/Administrative Assistant (B)

## Member Services

Kevin Holen ..... Manager of Member Services (B)  
Clayton Gubbels ..... Member Service Electrician (B)

## Line Crew

Marty Mollberg ..... Manager of Operations (B)  
Todd Thydean ..... Line Foreman (L)  
Tim Pelach ..... Line Foreman (B)  
Glen Marcotte ..... Line Sub-Foreman (L)  
Todd Higgins ..... Line Sub-Foreman (B)  
Darren Koschak ..... Lead Lineman (B)  
Jesse Huot ..... Journeyman Lineman (B)  
Preston Kennedy ..... Lead Lineman (L)  
Nick Horne ..... Journeyman Lineman (L)  
Cody Stuhau ..... Journeyman Lineman (B)  
Nathan Zortman ..... Journeyman Lineman (L)

**OFFICE HOURS | 7:30 A.M. - 4 P.M. | MONDAY - FRIDAY**

**Baudette** 218-634-2202 or 888-634-2202 | **Littlefork** 218-278-6658 or 888-258-2008

**For credit card payment** 855-874-5354 | **Online billing** info available via SmartHub app

**Electrical after-hours emergencies** 1-888-6OUTAGE (1-888-668-8243)

**Email us at** [nsec@wiktel.com](mailto:nsec@wiktel.com) | **Visit our website at** [northstarelectric.coop](http://northstarelectric.coop)

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TO STAY UP TO DATE**

Like your cooperative for outage updates during the winter season and other useful info.

[f /northstarelectric](https://www.facebook.com/northstarelectric)

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*