



Volts and Jolts

Published monthly for the members of
RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

SERVING THE FOUR-COUNTY AREA OF MARSHALL, PENNINGTON, RED LAKE AND POLK

VOL. 47 – NO. 4

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

FEBRUARY 2012



Pictured are many of the 51 members and friends of Red Lake Electric Cooperative who attended the District 7 meeting. The meeting was held Jan. 31 in Goodridge at Faith Lutheran Church. A total of 120 people attended the three district meetings.

District meetings held recently

Three district meetings were recently held within Red Lake Electric Cooperative's (RLEC) service territory. Topics reviewed at the meetings included; retail and wholesale rate outlook, wind generation and renewable energy surcharge, on-line bill pay, proper and timely use of space heaters, load management update, and the conservation improvement program.

The good news is RLEC's wholesale supplier, Minnkota Power Cooperative, has no rate increases planned for 2012 or 2013 which will hopefully result in no retail (5825003.03 Kevin and Deb Amiot) rate increases during the same period. The renewable energy surcharge will remain a part of each member's monthly bill until the economy rebounds and power pool prices for excess energy increases. The surcharge was recently reduced from .5 cents (5 mills) to 3.5 mills.

On-line bill pay will soon be a service available to RLEC members through the Cooperative. Watch future issues of the *Volts and Jolts* for announcement of this service.

Portable electric heaters have a time and place, but (4422008.02 Tom Fisher) not as backup to a controlled electric heating system. These heaters are defeating the purpose of off-peak electric heat if used during the peak billing peri-

ods.

Control of off-peak electric heat systems has been very minimal this heating season. Long term controlled electric heat has been off for only 30 hours. Even with the rate adjustments of 2011, the long term control off-peak electric heat rate of 5.85 cents (with the surcharge) is very favorable when compared to propane or fuel oil.

Conservation improvement programs for 2012 are very similar to previous years. Members can receive rebates for qualifying heating and cooling system upgrades. There are many different lighting rebates available for business members.

The District 7 meeting was held January 31 at Faith Lutheran Church in Goodridge. Incumbent director, Kelly Lundeen, was unanimously elected as the director nominee.

The District 2 meeting was held February 6 at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Holt. Current director, Stacy Blawat, was elected as the district's director nominee.

The final meeting was also held February 6 at St. John Lutheran School near Thief River Falls. Robert Finstad, the incumbent director, was unanimously elected as the director nominee.

A total of 120 members and friends attended the three meetings.

Door prizes were awarded and lunch was served following each meeting.

More photos on page 5.

Operation Round Up® grant applications due March 1

Organizations involved in community projects and charities are encouraged to apply for funds from Operation Round Up at this time. Completed grant applications are due in the Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) office by March 1.

Operation Round Up is a program adopted by RLEC, headquartered in Red Lake Falls. Members choosing to "round up" their (3831004.01 Tom Srnsky) monthly electric bill payment provide funds for this effort. More than 91 percent of RLEC members now choose to contribute pennies each month to enhance their communities.

Funds will be donated primarily to nonprofit organizations to help fund specific projects or programs. Since the program began in 1993, \$376 thousand has been granted to community organizations and charities. Money is donated for the betterment of the community within the outside service area boundaries of RLEC.

The Red Lake Electric Trust Board of Directors determines



grants. Board members are Van Swanson, Thief River Falls; Patty Mickelson, Oklee; Randy Knutson, Newfolden; Roger Johannek and Bonnie Christians, Crookston.

To apply for Operations Round Up grants, organizations should contact the RLEC office in Red Lake Falls at 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068. A short application must be completed and submitted along with a financial statement from the organization. The grant application form is available on the Cooperative's Web site at www.redlakeelec-tric.com.

For more information contact Roger Johannek, general manager of RLEC, at 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068.

In this month's *Volts and Jolts*

Page 2
Manager's Comments
Membership Meetings
Report from the Office
From the Mail Bag

Page 3
Recipe Corner
January DHIA report

Page 4
Feature of the Month
Pennington County
Humane Society

Page 5
District meetings photos

Page 6
Young Station high output
A year of saving
Home wiring

Page 8
Director nominations
Infinity Wind Energy
CGF route permit hearings

How to buy an energy-efficient appliance

You go shopping for a new refrigerator, and you're on a budget. The best buy is the fridge with the lowest sales price, right?

Not necessarily. If you buy the lowest-priced refrigerator, you may end up spending more than if you buy a more expensive one. The reason? The cost of owning a home appliance has three components: the initial purchase price, the cost of repairs and maintenance, and the cost to operate it.

To figure out how much you'll spend over the lifetime of the appliance, you have to look at all these factors. The appliance with the lowest initial purchase price, or even the one with the best repair record, isn't necessarily the one that costs the least to operate. Here's an example of how an appliance's energy consumption can affect your out-of-pocket costs.

Suppose you're in the market for a new refrigerator-freezer. Different models of refrigerators with the same capacity can vary dramatically in the amount of electricity they use. For one popular size and con-

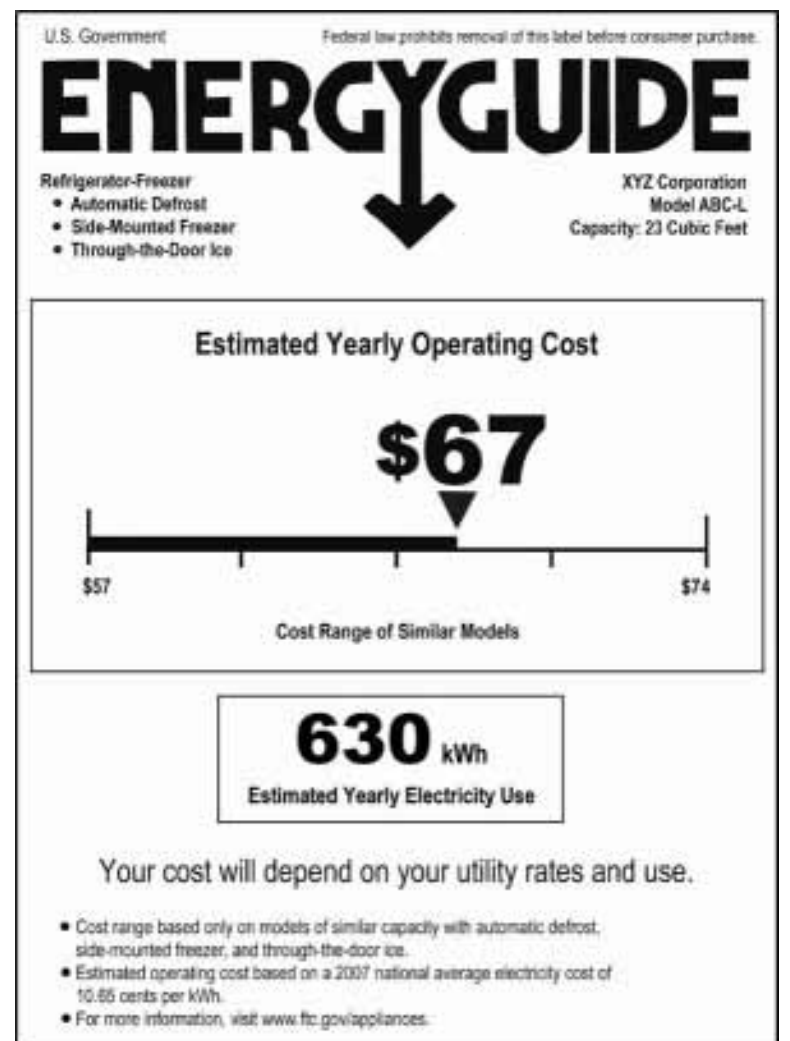
figuration, for example, the annual electricity consumption varies across models from a low of about 600 kilowatt-hours a year to a high of more than 800 kilowatt-hours a year. Based on national average electricity prices, that means the annual cost to operate this refrigerator can range from about \$50 to \$70, depending on which model you buy.

A \$20 difference in annual operating costs might not sound like much. But remember that you will enjoy these savings year after year for the life of the appliance, while you must pay any difference in purchase price only once. As a result, you may actually save money by buying the more expensive, more energy-efficient model.

You can learn about the energy efficiency of an appliance that you're thinking about buying through the yellow-and-black EnergyGuide label. The Federal Trade Commission's Appliance Labeling Rule requires appliance manufacturers to put these labels on:

- Refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers;
- Water heaters, furnaces, boilers;
- Central air conditioners, room air conditioners, heat pumps; or
- Pool heaters.

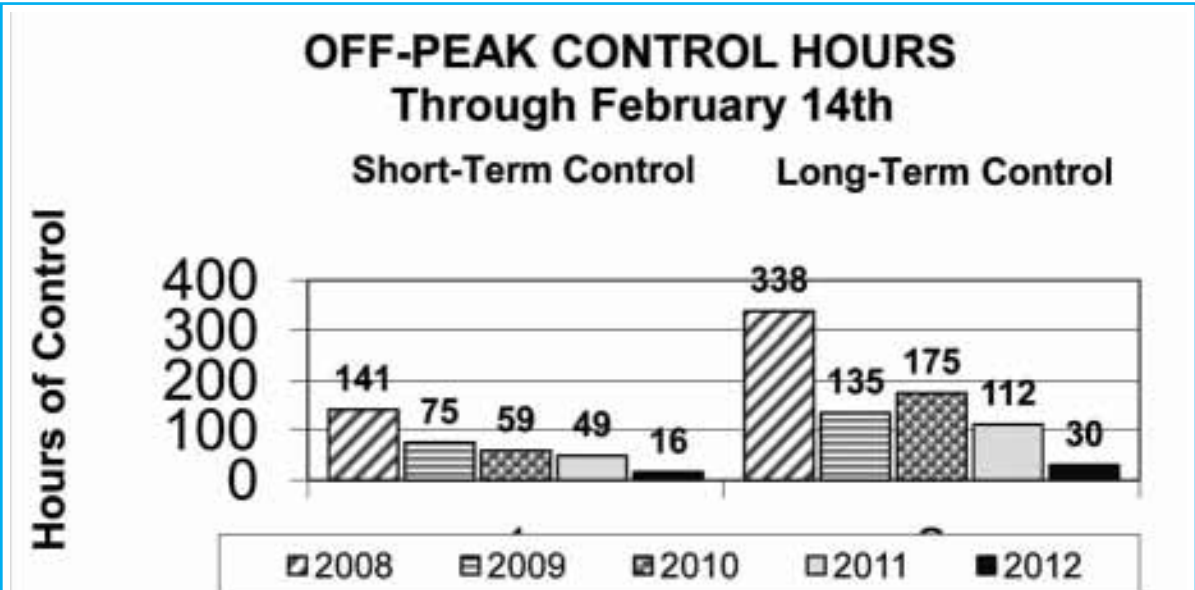
Continued on page 2.



QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

The chart below shows the amount of control time for Red Lake Electric Cooperative's Off-Peak customers this heating season compared to the same period the past four years. The mild winter and a decrease in systemwide demand for energy have contributed to fewer control hours this winter. The decline in control hours the past few years is attributable to renewable (Wind) generation added to Minnkota Power Cooperative's resources and lower pool energy prices. Minnkota's wind energy resources today total 358 Megawatts (MW), about one-third of Minnkota's total generation capacity.



Official Notice of Annual Meeting

All members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. are hereby notified of its annual meeting. The annual meeting will take place at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 28, 2012, at the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls.

The meeting agenda includes year 2011 in review, financial reports and election of directors. Door prizes will be awarded and lunch will be served.

All members are encouraged to attend.

/s/ Mark Hanson, Secretary



Manager's
Comments

by Roger Johannek



Membership meetings

Earlier this month, the Cooperative held three membership meetings in the area of Goodridge, Holt and Thief River falls. I appreciate the chance to visit with those members that were able to attend one of those meetings and share news, along with our staff, about business going on at your Cooperative. I thought we had decent attendance, good questions and great pie and coffee. Whatever the reason members come to Red Lake Electric Cooperative meetings; I hope you left satisfied and that we made the time and experience worthwhile for you.

If I forgot to remind those members at the meeting, I will ask all of you now; please share the information (7226017.04 Warren Perala) you took from the meeting with your friends and neighbors who were not able to be at a meeting; the next time you visit. I know those of you who attended this year's meeting left with a better understanding of:

- Why there has been minimal load control this heating season.
- Why hydronic under floor heat sinks, while initially more expensive to install, are more energy efficient and cost effective than under floor heating installations without a

good heat sink.

- How mini-split air source heat pumps provide an affordable home heating and cooling alternative for RLEC members.
- Why proper service sizing is important and what members can do to avoid service interruptions caused by overloading their electric service.
- RLEC's conservation improvement program.
- The monthly bill members receive from RLEC.
- Payment options available to members.
- Why portable space heaters should not be used over load control periods.
- Why the Minnkota renewable energy surcharge is still a part of members' monthly bills
- What the outlook is for electric rates.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issues facing our Electric Cooperative.

Before we put the district meetings to a close for another year though; I'd like to say a few thank yous:

- to the area churches, schools, and town halls – thanks for providing a comfortable place for us to hold our membership meetings;

- to the church guilds, 4-H groups and others who provide coffee and pie at each of our meetings – thank you;
- to those that step forward each year to help run our business meeting, the secretaries, chairman and vote tellers appointed at our meetings – thank you;
- to those willing to serve as a Cooperative director, who represent the interests of your district neighbors and help the Cooperative carry out its mission of being a reliable source of energy for all its members – thank you.
- to my fellow staff employees who help organize our District meetings and do a good job of presenting information I think is interesting and helpful to our membership – thank you.
- and to our members that continue to show an interest by taking the time to join us at our meetings. Thanks for your participation, understanding and support of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, all of us here working for you sincerely appreciate it.

If any of the meeting topics listed above raise a question that you would like us to answer for you, please give us a call.

How to buy an energy-efficient appliance
continued from front page

When you shop for one of these appliances in a dealer's showroom, you should find the labels hanging on the inside of an appliance or secured to the outside. The law requires that the labels specify:

- The capacity of the particular model;
- For refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers and water heaters, the estimated annual energy consumption of the model;
- For air conditioners, heat pumps, furnaces, boilers and pool heaters, the energy efficiency rating; and
- The range of estimated annual energy consumption, or energy efficiency ratings, of comparable appliances.

Some appliances also may feature the Energy Star logo, which

means that the appliance is significantly more energy efficient than the average comparable model.

To compare how updating appliances and making other changes around your home can impact your electric bill, visit www.TogetherWeSave.com.

Source: Federal Trade Commission, U.S. Department of Energy.

For an Energy-Smart Deal
on Your Next Appliance

- Read the EnergyGuide label (required for refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers, water heaters, and select HVAC systems).
- Compare the energy use of competing models.
- Estimate their differences in energy costs.
- Consider both purchase price and estimated energy use when

deciding which brand and model to buy.

Source: Federal Trade Commission.

Shopping Strategy

1. Select the size and style. Measure the space the appliance will occupy to be sure your new purchase will fit. Make sure that you'll have enough room to open the door or lid fully and enough clearance for ventilation. This may help you narrow your choices as you settle on the best capacity and style.
2. Know where to shop. Appliance outlets, electronics stores and local retailers carry different brands and models. Dealers also sell appliances through print catalogs and the Internet.
3. Compare the performance of different brands and models. Ask to see the manufacturer's product literature. Decide which features are important to you. Ask questions about how the different models operate: Are they noisy? What safety features do they have? What about repair histories? How much water do they use? How energy efficient are they?
4. Estimate how much the appliance will cost to operate. The more energy an appliance uses, the more it will cost to run. Consult the EnergyGuide label to compare the energy use of different models. The difference on your monthly electric bill



Report from the Office

by Shirley Bregier

The Red Lake Electric District meetings for 2012 are history. It was really nice to see so many of our members attend these meetings. I enjoy visiting with our members and hearing your comments and concerns. It is an opportunity for you to find out what your Cooperative is doing as well as being able to nominate the member you wish to represent you on the Cooperative's board of directors.

As we put the district meetings behind us, and start preparing for the annual meeting, one of the many jobs that we do is to assign the Cooperative margins for 2011 and get ready to retire capital credits.

Some of you may be wondering what capital credits are. Simply put, capital credits are the amount of revenue left over at the end of the business year once all the operating expenses have been paid. At the end of 2011, the Cooperative had margins (revenue minus expenses) of \$390,000. Being we are a not-for-profit cooperative, this amount will be divided up between all members who paid an electric bill during the year of 2011.

The margins will be divided up based on how much each member paid the co-op during the year for their electricity. The Cooperative had 4,450 members that will share these margins. This assignment of capital credits will remain in each members account to be used by the Cooperative to build new or rebuild aging infrastructure, improve capacity and operate the Coopera-

tion. can be significant, especially when considered over the 10-to-20-year life of the appliance. You could save money over the long run by choosing a model that's more energy efficient, even if the purchase price is higher.

5. Ask about special energy efficiency offers. Ask your salesperson or local electric cooperative about cash rebates, low-interest loans, or other incentive programs in your area for energy-efficient product purchases—and how you can qualify.

Source: Federal Trade Commission.

tive.

These capital credits reflect each member's ownership in the cooperative. Your Cooperative has an equity plan in place which guides the board in the annual evaluation of retiring capital credits to the membership.

When a payout is approved by the Board of Directors, the oldest capital credits are paid back first. RLEC retires credits on a rotation of approximately 20 years which helps the co-op maintain an ideal equity level. In January, your board of directors approved the payment of the balance of capital credits assigned to members in 1994 and 45 percent of the 1995 capital credit assignment for a total of about \$413,000.

For those of you that are a current member and still receiving an electric (2731001.03 Angela M. Warren) bill from Red Lake Electric, you will get this in the form of a credit on your March electric bill. If you have since moved and no longer receive an electric bill you will receive a check at the end of March. If you don't receive a check it may be that we don't have a current address for you. Please contact our office by phone or e-mail to let us know your current address so we may send your check.

If after attempting to locate the member and we are unable to deliver their capital credit check, we will use it to fund scholarships, which are awarded to our member's children graduating from high schools within our service area.

This is also a good time to remind those of you that have off-peak systems to check the reading on your off-peak meter to the reading shown on your electric bill. Keep in mind that the reading on the electric bill was taken on the 10th of the month. This is a good thing to do for all meters but off-peak systems, especially those in shops and garages, aren't always in use and therefore will send a reading showing no usage which may look okay to us. Even with all the checks we have in place to alert us when an automated reading device is not reporting correctly, it is still a good thing to look at the meter reading periodically just to be sure everything is working properly.

Like always, if you have a question or concern, please call our office at 1-800-245-6069 or e-mail us at redlake@minnkota.com.

Watch for your capital credit payment, enjoy the beautiful winter we are having and I hope to see you at the annual meeting March 28.

From the Mail Bag

Dear Red Lake Electric Trust:

Thank you for your donation to help keep our shelter operating. Because of you, we can continue helping the many unwanted animals in Northwest Minnesota.

Pennington County
Humane Society
Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC:

We thank you for the very informative meeting, you had at the St. John's school. We also thank you for the very handy door prizes you gave. John won a vise grip pliers and Renee won a 25-foot extension cord. Both prizes will be put to very good use.

Sincerely,
John and Renee Erickson
Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for the electric knife I won in the drawing at the District 8 meeting on Feb. 6. Also, thank you for the informative presentation your team brought and we do appreciate the effort you do in trying to keep our electric rates as low as possible.

Doug Torblaa
Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for the good district meeting held at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Holt. It was very informative. Thank you for the RLEC cap I won. I appreciate the services you provide.

Larry Gustafson
Thief River Falls



Red Lake Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

Things you should know
about your electric service

BILLINGS AND COLLECTION

You will receive your energy bill on or near the 20th of each month.

Payment of your monthly energy bill is due on the 20th of the month. You may pay your bill in person at RLEC during office hours, use the 24-hour drive-up drop box located next to the RLEC office, by Auto Pay, or by mail. Payment must be in the office, drop box, Auto Pay, or in the mail, as evidenced by the postmark, by the 5th day of the following month to avoid a late payment charge. A 1 1/2% monthly late payment charge will be computed on delinquent energy bills, the minimum late payment charge will be \$1.00.

If your payment is not received by the 15th of the month, a final notice of disconnection statement will be included on your following bill. The final notice statement will notify you when your electric service will be disconnected if the delinquent amount remains unpaid. If an employee is sent to disconnect your electric service, a \$50 collection fee will be charged to your account, even if you pay the collector.

To have a disconnected service reconnected, all amounts owing, a \$50 reconnection fee, and a security deposit must be paid. If the service must be reconnected after normal working hours, a \$100 reconnection fee must be paid.

BAD CHECKS

A \$15 charge will be levied each time a check is returned because of nonsufficient funds, account being closed or payment stopped.

OUTAGES

In case your electricity goes out, please do the following:

1. Check your fuses or breakers at the yard pole or meter pedestal.
2. Call your neighbor to see if they are out of electricity also.
3. Call the RLEC office (218-253-2168 or 1-800-245-6068) during working hours or 218-253-2200 after hours. We will accept collect calls for outages only.

METER TESTS

RLEC has a schedule in place to have its meters periodically tested for accuracy. Results from these tests show that meters generally slow down with age; however, if you think that your meter is recording too much usage, RLEC will test it for accuracy. You must pay a test fee in advance of the test. If the meter test shows that the meter was inaccurate, the test fee will be refunded to you.

STOPPED METERS

If you find your meter has stopped and you are using electricity, please contact the office immediately so we can replace it. Average consumption will be billed to the member for the time the meter was stopped so there is no advantage in not reporting a stopped meter.

METER READINGS

An automated meter reading system is utilized to obtain monthly meter readings. Although the system is normally reliable, there is always a chance that the correct reading has not been transmitted to the office for billing. Customers should periodically read their meter and compare it to the reading on the billing statement. If the actual reading is not close to the billing statement reading, please call the office.

GENERAL SERVICE RATES

Facilities charge variable \$27 to \$35 month
April-December9.5¢ Kwh
January-March9.9¢ Kwh
Multiphase users add \$22/month cost of service charge.

Standby, \$12/month (meter disconnected but the power line retained; standby is not available on services larger than 15 KVA transformer capacity).

Security light: high pressure sodium, \$8/month; mercury vapor, \$9/month; water heater flat credit, \$7/month (January-April billing); off-peak equipment charge, \$5.50/month per heat meter; off-peak energy rate: 5.5¢/kWh long-term control, 7.5¢/kWh short-term control.

Mission Statement

It is the mission of Red Lake Electric Cooperative to enhance the quality of life for people of our service area by consistently providing quality electric service and other valued services while holding our employees, our community and our environment in high regard.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

WE PROUDLY PRESENT TO YOU

The Red Lake Electric Cooperative
Customer Service Guarantee

It's short and simple! Red Lake Electric Cooperative employees will meet or exceed your expectations of friendly, courteous service and will meet any commitments they make to you. If your expectations of the service provided by our employees is not met, please contact me at the Red Lake Electric Cooperative office, 253-2168. You will receive \$5.00 for your inconvenience and our promise to serve you better in the future. Our employees' commitment to quality customer service makes this guarantee possible.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems



ROGER JOHANNEK
General Manager

RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.
VOLTS & JOLTS

(USPS 663-400)

Published monthly by the Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., 412 International Drive SW, Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750-0430, in the interest of its members and others. Periodical Postage Paid at the U. S. Post Office in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750. POSTMASTER, SEND ADDRESS CHANGES to Volts & Jolts, c/o Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., P. O. Box 430, Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750-0430. E-mail: redlake@minnkota.com

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

PRESIDENTBonnie Christians
VICE PRESIDENTRobert Finstad
SECRETARY-TREASURERMark Hanson
DIRECTORSKelly Lundeen,
Steven Linder, Peter Mosbeck,
Colette Kujava, Randy Versdahl, Stacy Blawat

Subscription Rate \$2.50 per year

NOTICE

Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of the Volts & Jolts are the names and account numbers of five RLEC members. They will appear within the articles in parenthesis as such (9999999.99 Roger P. Member). If you find your name and account number, clip it out and send it with your next payment. You will be credited with \$5 on your electric bill.

Recipe corner

Mexican Lasagna

1 can (10.75 oz.) condensed cheddar cheese soup
1/4 c. milk
1 pkg. (1 oz.) fajita seasoning mix, divided
1 lb. ground beef
1 can (10.75 oz.) condensed golden mushroom soup
1/2 c. water
1 Tbsp. chili powder
1-1/2 teaspoons crushed dried oregano leaves
12 (5- to 6-Inch diameter) corn tortillas
Chopped tomatoes, optional
Sliced green onions, optional
In medium bowl, stir together cheddar cheese soup, milk and half the fajita seasoning, mixing until mixture is smooth.
In skillet over medium-high heat, cook ground beef, crumbling with fork, until browned. Pour off any fat.
Stir mushroom soup, water, chili powder, oregano and remaining fajita seasoning into ground beef, mixing well.
Increase heat and bring mixture to a boil.
Reduce heat to low and continue cooking for 5 minutes. Remove skillet from heat.
Place 3 tortillas in bottom of a shallow, 2-quart baking dish, overlapping slightly and covering bottom as much as possible.
Spread 1 cup beef mixture over tortillas in dish. Add another layer of 3 tortillas and another cup of beef mixture. Repeat layers with 3 more tortillas and another cup of beef.
Top with remaining tortillas. Spread cheese soup mixture over tortillas.
Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes, or until hot and bubbling. Let stand at room temperature for 10 minutes.
Sprinkle with chopped tomatoes and sliced green onions, if desired.
Serve hot. Yields 6 servings.

Slow Cooker Lasagna

1 roll (1 lb.) Italian sausage
1 pkg. (9 oz.) no-boil lasagna noodles, broken into 2-inch pieces
1 carton (12 oz.) ricotta cheese
3 c. (12 oz.) shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
2 jars (26 oz. each) pasta sauce
1 Tbsp. dried parsley
Spray inside of slow cooker with cooking spray.
In skillet over medium heat, cook sausage, crumbling with fork, until brown. Place in slow cooker.
Add noodles, ricotta cheese, 2 cups mozzarella, pasta sauce and parsley. Stir gently to combine.
Cover and cook on low for 4 to 6 hours.
About 5 minutes before serving, remove lid and top with remaining cheese. Cover and allow cheese to melt. Yields 6 servings.

Shepherd's Pie Skillet

1 lb. lean ground beef
1 c. frozen mixed vegetables (peas, carrots and corn)
1 c. beef gravy
1 pkg. (24 oz.) prepared mashed potatoes
1/4 lb. (4 oz.) pasteurized prepared cheese product, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
Heat oven to 375 degrees.
In heavy medium ovenproof skillet, brown ground beef until no longer pink. Drain. Return meat to skillet.
Stir in frozen vegetables and gravy.
In mixing bowl, combine mashed potatoes and cheese. Carefully spread over meat mixture in skillet.
Bake for 20 to 25 minutes, or until heated through and lightly browned. Yields 4 servings.

Chicken and Rice Casserole

2 c. cooked rice
2 c. (8 oz.) shredded Monterey Jack cheese
1-1/2 c. cooked, chopped chicken breast
1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk
1/2 c. finely chopped red onion
2 large eggs, lightly beaten
1/4 c. finely chopped cilantro
2 Tbsp. butter or margarine, melted
1 Tbsp. diced jalapenos
Heat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease 2-quart casserole dish, or spray with nonstick cooking spray.
In prepared dish, combine rice, cheese, chicken, evaporated milk, onion, eggs, cilantro, butter and jalapenos. Stir well to blend.
Bake for 45 to 50 minutes, or until knife inserted in center comes out clean.

Savory Rice with Peas and Carrots

2 cans (10.5 oz. each) condensed French onion soup
1 c. uncooked converted rice
1 Tbsp. olive oil
Pinch black pepper
1 c. frozen peas and carrots
In 2-quart saucepan over medium-high heat, bring soup, rice, oil and pepper to boil. Reduce heat to low. Cover and cook for 15 minutes.
Stir in peas and carrots. Cover and cook for an addition 5 minutes, or until rice is tender.
Let casserole stand for 5 minutes before serving. Yields 6 servings.

Barbecue Quesadillas

1 roll (1 lb.) zesty hot sausage
1/2 c. thinly sliced red onion
1/2 c. spicy barbecue sauce
4 (10-inch diameter) flour tortillas
1 c. (4 oz.) shredded Monterey Jack cheese, divided
Oil
Sour cream and salsa, optional
In skillet over medium heat, cook sausage and onion, crumbling with fork, until browned. Stir in barbecue sauce.
Lay 2 tortillas on flat surface. Top each with half the cheese and half the sausage mixture. Top with remaining tortillas.
Heat large skillet over medium heat. Add small amount of oil to coat bot-tom of skillet. Cook one quesadilla at a time until golden brown on both sides, about 2 to 3 minutes per side.
Cut into wedges. Serve with sour cream and salsa, if desired.

Top dairy herds for January DHIA

Randy Rasmussen, supervisor of the Red Lake-Pennington DHIA, put the following herds at top 10 in the association for January.

Name		% in	lbs.		lbs.		lbs.
	Cows	milk	milk	test	fat	protein	protein
Northstar Dairy LLC 3X	1148	91	73	3.7	2.7	3.1	2.3
Beyer Bros. Farm	62	98	73	3.5	2.6	3.1	2.3
Robert & Terri Dahlen	57	86	70	3.4	2.4	3.0	2.1
Wayra Dairy	294	90	69	3.8	2.6	3.1	2.1
Spring Prairie Colony	376	85	66	4.0	2.6	3.2	2.1
Walter Bros. Farm	356	89	66	3.9	2.6	3.1	2.0
Amundson Dairy	69	86	58	3.9	2.3	3.3	1.9
Mark Gladen	84	79	56	3.4	1.9	2.8	1.6
Dale & Sherri Rupprecht	63	98	53	3.9	2.1	3.2	1.7
Leonard & Marge Geske	42	88	50	3.5	1.8	2.9	1.5

The herd averages are affected by the number of dry cows in the herd. The amount of milk or butterfat is averaged out over all the cows. This gives the farmer a record of the earning power of the herd for the month. If too many cows are included in the herd, then the average for the month may be low, even though the cow that is milking produces a lot of milk.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Operating Report

MONTHLY COMPARISON

	DECEMBER 2010	DECEMBER 2011
Total Revenue	\$ 1,196,409	\$ 1,548,824
Total Margins	\$ 117,649	\$ 255,521
Cost of Power	\$ 848,181	\$ 1,024,474
KWH's Purchased	16,941,446	14,492,643
Capital Credits Paid to Estates	\$ 8,803	\$ 1,427

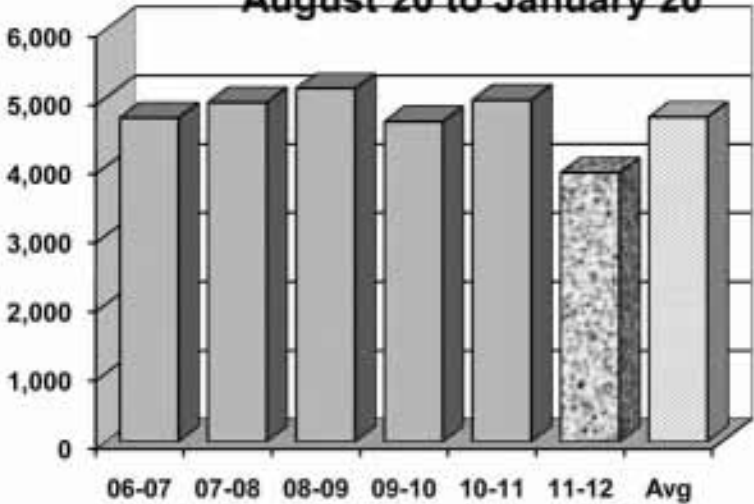
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

	DECEMBER 2010	DECEMBER 2011
Total Revenue	\$11,109,141	\$ 13,050,576
Total Margins	\$ 631,095	\$ 390,718
Cost of Power	\$ 7,629,478	\$ 9,670,981
KWH's Purchased	137,926,886	140,138,993
New Service Connections	50	71
Customers Served	5,193	5,222
Capital Credits Paid to Estates	\$ 91,016	\$ 82,079
Miles of Line		
Overhead	2,324	2,324
Underground	239	245

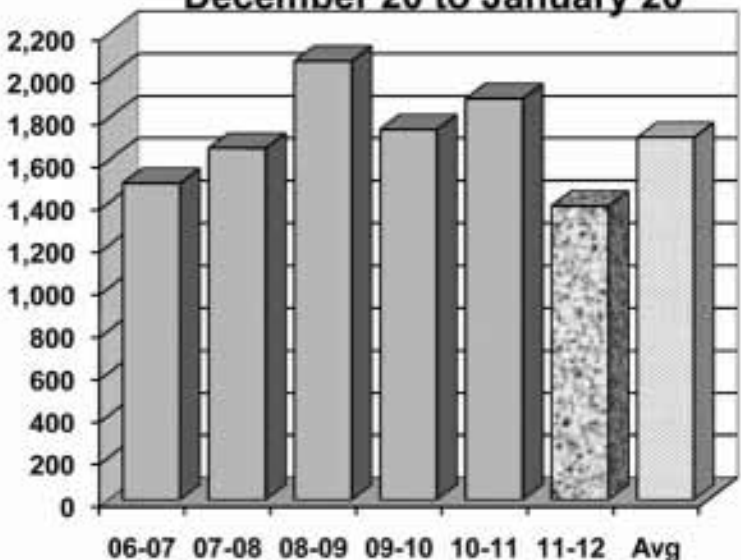
DEGREE DAYS

To determine degree days, you must calculate the daily mean temperature for the time period you are measuring. Degree day computation is based on the assumption that a building does not require any heat if the outside temperature averages 65 degrees during a 24-hour period. To obtain a degree day figure, the high temperature and the low temperature for the day are added and the total divided by two. That figure is then subtracted from 65. For example, if the high temperature was 30 degrees and the low temperature 10 degrees, the figure would be 30+10=40; 40/2=20; 65-20=45. This would be a 45-degree day. The higher the degree day figure, the more heat required to warm your home.

YEAR TO DATE DEGREE DAYS
August 20 to January 20



DEGREE DAYS
December 20 to January 20



Titan Machinery

THIEF RIVER FALLS

FINANCING
12 months
0% Interest
Followed by the best
qualified rate for
up to 84 months

Warranty
on 2005
& above
1 year or 500 hour
warranty with
\$500 deductible
on power train

We have **8**
CIH 8120
Combines
with low hours

CIH 1680	CIH 430	Versatile 2145	CIH New Holland T9505	CIH 450
----------	---------	----------------	-----------------------	---------

CIH 8120	YAG 210902	Sed. Hr.
CIH 8120	YAG 210876	250.02
CIH 8120	YAG 210875	239.47
CIH 8120	YAG 210877	238.64
CIH 8120	YAG 211732	230.97
CIH 8120	YAG 210903	483.00
CIH 8120	YAG 210905	477.00
CIH 8120	YAG 210904	530.00
CIH 8120		633.00

**Lots More
High Quality
New & Used
Equipment
To Choose From**

Stop in and see Jay or Mark for all your equipment needs.

CIH 8120

John Deere Maximizer

AGCO B62

CIH Draper Headers - 35 & 40 ft.

TITAN Your Solutions Dealer
MACHINERY

Hwy. 59 North
Thief River Falls, MN
www.titanmachinery.com

Toll Free: 1-800-888-2744
Phone: 218-681-1423

The Gazette . . . only \$29 in Red Lake County

Farmers Union
Oil Company

Thief River Falls218-681-3512



- Fertilizer
- Petroleum products
- Town and country deliveries
- Tires, batteries, accessories
- Farm supplies

WILCOX PLUMBING
AND HEATING, Inc.

RED LAKE FALLS

Plumbing/Heating/Air conditioning

BILL H. MOSER, Master Plumber
License No. 1770PM

BILL J. MOSER, Master Plumber
License No. 6039PM

Refrigerant Certified No. CFR089400285



- In-floor heating
- Pressure systems
- Electric heat pumps
- Oil furnaces
- Gas furnaces

FREE ESTIMATES

COMPLETE SALES AND SERVICE

218-253-4347

HQ

The
Head-Quarters

Hair and
Tanning Salon

HAIRSTYLING
FOR MEN AND
WOMEN

PARK PLACE MALL
RED LAKE FALLS, MINNESOTA

218 253-4223

Security

STATE BANK



- Operating loans
- Vehicle loans
- Farm real estate loans
- Consumer loans

"We appreciate your business."

218-796-5157

Fax 218-796-5158

anthony.holthusen@ssboklee.com



"THE FARMERS' HELPING HAND"

Dave Miller
Agency

DAVE MILLER, AGENT
RURAL ROUTE 1
VIKING, MINNESOTA 56760



- All-Risk Crop Insurance
- Crop/Hail Coverage

218-523-5861

VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Pennington County Humane Society serves local pet populations, communities

By Heather Blodgett

The Pennington County Humane Society is overflowing with animals looking for good homes. The society, who is licensed by the Minnesota Board of Animal Health, can house 27 dogs and 60 cats. It currently houses 20 more cats than their license allows because there have not been as many adoptions as there are homeless animals.

"We're really desperate for homes," explained Dawn Williamson, operations manager for the humane society. The surplus in cats is partly due to a rescue of 51 cats from a single home in Thief River Falls this past November.

Though they don't investigate animal abuse, they do often assist law enforcement during the removal of animals. They will then test the animals for diseases and house and care for the animals afterward. They then adopt out the animals to good homes.

This was the case recently when 28 American Eskimo dogs and two cats were removed from a Warroad home in an animal hoarding situation. Half of those dogs have been adopted and the remaining dogs are doing well according to Williamson.

"We are very pleased with their progress. The response has been tremendous. A ton of people have supported us on this," she said.

The society's Facebook page had around 150 followers before the incident and now boasts over 750. Concerned citizens from all over Minnesota have logged on to follow the story through the society's posts about the animals.

"Very few animals are actually abused," explained Williamson about the animals in the shelter.

"Most are very nice, healthy animals that just weren't claimed."

She goes on to explain that the media plays a role in the perception people have about animals in the shelter. "The increase in animal hoarding is really just due to more people reporting it. Before, people just tended to ignore it," Williamson stated.

The humane society, located just east of Thief River Falls on Highway 59, serves all of Northwestern Minnesota, including Roseau, Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, and Red Lake Counties. Stray animals from Red Lake and Pennington Counties are placed in the Thief River Falls city pound before residing at the facility.

"Animals stay in the pound about 10 days so their owners can claim them. If they aren't claimed, they are brought out here if we have space," said Williamson.

Once they enter the facility, they are tested for disease, vaccinated, and are spayed or neutered. They are then inserted with a microchip to identify the animal and are put up for adoption. Any dangerous or diseased animals are euthanized.

The society doesn't just accept cats and dogs. Nicknamed "pocket pets", rabbits, ferrets, chinchillas and gerbils are also welcome. Chickens and ducks have even resided in the facility in the past.

For those looking to adopt a pet, the process is simple. The society posts photos on their Facebook page of animals up for adoption so you can find your

Dawn Williamson holds Sweetness, one of the American Eskimo dogs removed from the home in Warroad. Sweetness is diabetic and will require more care before she can be adopted.

future pet online or visit the facility and choose the animal in person. Then after meeting the animal and fulfilling a few simple requirements, the new owner can take their pet home the same day.

Adoption fees are \$125 for

dogs and \$80 for cats. The society sometimes runs specials when they are over capacity, as they are now. As of press time, they are offering a special on adoption fees for black dogs for \$75, as they are less likely to be adopted due to the lack of distinction in their features, and a free will donation for cat adoptions. A transfer to the twin cities is currently being planned for some of the animals to bring the society closer to its license capacity.

In addition to caring for animals in the shelter, the society does outreach services in the area. Public speaking engagements and community education classes are held to educate about the animals and how to care for them.

They've also hosted a mobile spay and neuter clinic semi-annually for the last two years. The mobile clinic is a specialized van that contains a surgical suite to offer the service for low income families. The society receives a grant to fund the clinic and plans to continue the service if funding allows.

Operating mostly through

donations, they accept both monetary gifts and pet-related supplies. Several fundraisers are held throughout the year including a fall rummage sale and Woofstock, a burger and bean feed. This year's Woofstock will be held at the Thief River Falls Eagles Club March 17 and will feature a silent auction, raffle and bake sale. The meal is free will donation.

"It's too bad, our focus should be on the animals but too often it's on fundraising to keep the shelter open," explained Williamson.

In October, the shelter almost closed their doors because there wasn't enough funding. A donation drive was held that managed to keep the operation afloat. "It was just amazing the donations that came in. It really astounds us just how much people care," said Williamson as she expressed her gratitude. "We've got a terrific local following. A huge thank you goes out to everyone in the area for the support they have shown."

The facility, started in 1997, has grown to include several buildings and covers three and a half acres. While all animals are housed indoors, there is a fenced off area for the animals to run outside and cats are often let out the front door to explore.

The facility has changed over the years in the amount of adop-

tions they have seen. Last year saw record numbers for both intake and adoption of animals. "Approximately 350 animals came in and were adopted out," said Williamson.

As a no-kill shelter, animals are not euthanized to make room for other incoming animals. "As long as they are healthy and can be adopted, we don't put them down to make space," Williamson stated. Most animals are adopted out within a year but some have stayed almost two while waiting for a home.

Employing one full-time manager and seven part-time employees, it also relies on volunteers to give animals the attention they need. "The most important job for our volunteers is to socialize with the animal and to give it that one-on-one time. The more people the animals come into contact with, the easier it will be for them to adjust to their new home," advised Williamson. The employees often don't have enough time to give the animals the attention they would like to because they are busy cleaning and meeting the physical needs of the animals.

To donate, volunteer, or adopt an animal, contact the humane society by phone at 218-681-8045, e-mail at pawstrf@pawstrf.org, or by visiting the facility.

Several cats make themselves cozy at the Pennington County Humane Society in Thief River Falls.

These cats at the humane society are enjoying exploring and climbing all over the equipment designated to them at the shelter.

Bray-Gentilly
Mutual Insurance Co.

Locally Owned and Operated

Serving Policyholders Since 1900

218-683-3200

2017 Hwy. 59 SE • P.O. Box 592
Thief River Falls, MN 56701

INSURANCE FOR
FARMS, HOMES
AND PERSONAL
PROPERTY

TELEPHONE US FOR AN
AGENT NEAR YOU!

THIS SPACE
FOR RENT

253-2594

Kilen's
Custom Cleaners

- Commercial
- Residential
- Custodial



Specializing in
Water, Fire & Soot Restoration

Jordan Kilen - Owner
(218) 686-2591
www.kilencustom.com

Free Estimates

"Achieving excellence
one customer at a time"

Want to cut your heating
cost by up to 50%?

Buy a YORK Affinity
heat pump today!



GROVE MECHANICAL, INC.

Your hometown heating &
air conditioning team!

Serving Crookston and the surrounding
communities for 30 years.
(218) 281-3863

OFFICE PHONE
253-2168

OUTAGE PHONE
253-2200

1-800-245-6068



Red Lake Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems



Ernest Swanson, Goodridge, served as chairman at the District 7 meeting held Jan. 31 at Faith Lutheran Church in Goodridge. He has been a member of Red Lake Electric Cooperative for nearly 68 years.



District 7 meeting attendees enjoy pie and ice cream following the meeting. The meeting was held Jan. 31 at Faith Lutheran Church in Goodridge.



Meeting attendees listen intently to information presented at Red Lake Electric Cooperative's District 8 meeting held Feb. 6 near Thief River Falls.



Sharon Russell, Thief River Falls, served as the meeting chairperson at the District 2 meeting held at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Holt Feb. 6. This was the first member meeting of Red Lake Electric Cooperative for Sharon to attend.



A part of each Red Lake Electric Cooperative member meeting, that is enjoyed by all in attendance, is the lunch consisting of pie and ice cream. Pictured are many members who attended the Feb. 6 District 2 meeting in Holt.



Doug Torblaa, Thief River Falls, was one of many prize winners at Red Lake Electric Cooperative's District 8 meeting held at St. John Lutheran School near Thief River Falls.



Mildred and Emery Horien, Thief River Falls, were both prize winners at Red Lake Electric Cooperative's District 2 meeting held at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Holt.



Left: Ginny Armstrong, Thief River Falls, served as the Chairperson at Red Lake Electric Cooperative's District 8 meeting. The meeting was held Feb. 6 at St. John Lutheran School near Thief River Falls. Ginny has served in this capacity previously.



Gary Iverson, Goodridge, was one of several prize winners at the District 7 meeting held Jan. 31 in Goodridge. He shows the LED flashlight he won.

GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

Call before digging! It's the law!

1-800-252-1166

**The Gazette
only
\$29 in Red
Lake County**



RAM

TRUCK MONTH

TEST OUR METAL

2012 RAM QUAD CAB

*Big
Savings*

**Lowest
Priced Rams
EVER!**

**WOW! We Have A Dozen RAMS
In Stock And More Available!**



**HEMI Engine • 4 Doors
4 x 4 • Trailer Tow Package
20" Aluminum Wheels
Dual Exhaust & More**

NICELY EQUIPPED
Starting at only

\$27,770*

Ask about "Truck Month Bonus Cash"

*Includes \$3,000 Rebate plus \$1,000 Truck Month Bonus Cash. MSRP Starting at \$33,555, In stock

THE 2012

SHOWCASE EVENT

DODGE

CHRYSLER



**BRAND
NEW**

**2012 DODGE
AVENGER**



**\$3,000 Rebate
or
0%** Financing
for 72 Months**

**In Lieu of Rebates, O.A.C.
See Dealer for Details.

2012 DODGE JOURNEY'S

**GREAT SELECTION!
MANY TO CHOOSE FROM!**

**Starting at Only
\$21,985***

**2012 CHRYSLER
200**



2012 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN

**3.6L Pentastar V-6 Engine • 283 Horsepower • Keyless Entry
Stow 'n Go Seat • Aluminum Wheels • Power Options
3 Zone Temperature Control • Sunscreen Glass • Rear Heat & A/C**



**Equipped with
Great Features!**

**PLUS Receive Another
\$750 OFF
for Owner Loyalty***

**Sale Price Only
\$24,575***

*Includes \$1,000 Rebate
**Owner Loyalty Available To Current Dodge & Chrysler Minivan Owners

Need A New Or Used Car?
CALL US TODAY!!



**WESTSIDE
MOTORS**

*Service and Sales
Nobody Does It Better!*

WWW.WESTSIDEMOTORS.NET
1730 3rd St. W., Thief River Falls, MN
(218) 681-4303 • (866) 848-4303



ROGER SHAFFER



MATT SHAFFER



JOSH HAGEN



BERNIE POLLESTAD

Young Station output at high levels

Things didn't appear conducive to having a banner year.

Boiler feed pump turbine vibration problems limited the load for many hours, the economy led to load drops and there were three scheduled cleaning outages, one tube leak outage and a couple of other short outages.

Nonetheless, Young 2 had a great 2011.

The net generation of 3,438,037 megawatt-hours (MWh) is the second best on record. The record for Young 2 is the 3,521,111 MWh produced in 2008.

Both units combined for a net output of 5,110,416 MWh, which is sixth best in plant history. The record output for both units came in 2008 with 5,412,978 MWh.

"The biggest impact on unit operation for the year was the vibration we experienced on our boiler feed pump turbine," Plant Manager Gerry Pfau said. "This limited our load, especially over the summer months when the warm lake water impacts the condenser performance. The turbine must work a little harder due to the impact the higher condenser back-pressures have on overall unit efficiency."

To avoid high vibration, Young Station workers kept the turbine speed below certain limits. Because



of the vibration issues, 102,000 MWh were still lost. Otherwise, the Young 2 output would have been the best ever.

On the other end, one fewer cleaning outage helped output. Changes in boiler fouling patterns due to the Over-Fire Air system and two more hydrojets to clean parts of

the upper furnace walls enabled the plant to go from the usual four cleaning outages to three in 2011.

"Thanks to everyone who contributed to this successful year," Pfau said. "Without everybody contributing, we could not accomplish this level of generation."

A year of saving

Got cabin fever this winter? Spend time making your home more energy efficient and start saving for your summer vacation!

You can trim your electric bill all year long by taking a few simple steps. Here's a list of Red Lake Electric Cooperative's (RLEC) recommendations for year-round energy and money savings!

January: Lowering your thermostat just a few degrees during winter months can save as much as \$85 per year. Programmable thermostats make it easy to save by offering pre-programmed settings to regulate a home's temperature throughout the year.

February: Adjust your water heater. Turning down the temperature gauge to below 120 degrees Fahrenheit can heat up your savings.

March: Stop air from escaping your home and money from escaping your wallet! Head down to your home's basement and seal those leaky ducts.

April: A little caulk can go a long way. Air leaks in your home add up. Caulking cracks and openings to the outside could save more than \$200 a year.

May: Make sure your refrigerator is on your spring cleaning to-do list. Throw out expired items, clean the refrigerator inside and out, and check the temperature gauge. For maximum operating efficiency, a

refrigerator's temperature should be between 37 and 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

June: When was the last time you changed a filter? Replacing furnace and air conditioner filters regularly can have a big impact on a home's energy use. Dirty filters can restrict air flow and reduce the overall efficiency of your cooling system, forcing it to work harder on hot summer days.

July: Your home's cooling costs can skyrocket—right along with the temperature outside—during summer months. Keeping your thermostat set between 78 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit can save up to 8 percent on monthly cooling bills.

August: Heading out of town on vacation? Be sure to unplug all of your electronic devices like computers, monitor, printers, TV and cable boxes, DVD players, and microwaves. Electronics with digital displays and instant-on features consume energy even if they're not in use.

September: Be a "fan-atic." While they don't replace an air conditioner or a heat pump, fans move

the air so everyone feels more comfortable. On a milder day, a fan is a much more energy-efficient choice than cranking up the air conditioning. Fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off when you leave.

October: Get ready for winter by insulating your attic. Adding nine or more inches of insulation could save you more than \$150 a year.

November: As the weather cools down, pull up your window shades. Keeping blinds open during cold weather lets heat from sunlight in, reducing the need to turn up your home's thermostat.

December: Put a new Energy Star appliance at the top of your Christmas wish list. Upgrading appliances like washing machines to Energy Star-rated models can save up to \$140 per year.

RLEC is dedicated to being an energy efficiency resource for its members. To learn more about how you can save money through energy efficiency practices, call us at 253-2168 or 1-800-245-6068.

Source: Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.

Home wiring 'over the hill'? Consider easy upgrades to boost safety

By Kelly Trapnell

Nothing has the charm of an older home on a family farm or a cute cottage in a historical downtown district. But cosmetic and structural upgrades are often packaged with the cozy charm.

When upgrading your home, a fresh coat of paint and updated fixtures may come to mind. But what about hiring a professional to update the wiring behind a switch plate or outlet? Do you know the hidden dangers of aged wiring in your home? Don't take on wiring problems yourself—electrical upgrades often require a professional who knows what inspections and permits are needed. Here are a few clues to find out if your home's electric network needs a professional switch.

1. Type of wiring. Modern wiring is insulated, meaning it is covered in plastic. Older homes may have copper or aluminum wiring. Copper wiring can work just as well as modern wiring if it is still in good condition and has not been altered or improperly installed. However, fire risk increases in homes with both copper and aluminum wiring. Corrosion to aluminum from copper can lead to loose connections causing fires. Use only aluminum-approved switches, outlets, and other accessories if your home has aluminum wiring.

2. Plugs fall out of outlets easily. Loose plugs are a high fire danger. Older outlets that have lost their grip need to be replaced. Luckily



Ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets are required in areas around water like near a kitchen or bathroom sink or outdoors, but many older homes don't have these safety measures installed.

this upgrade is affordable.

3. Not enough outlets. The increasing use of chargers for phones and many other electronic devices means outlets are in high demand, especially in older homes where outlets are not as plentiful. A lack of outlets can result in overuse of extension cords and power strips. Be sure to use quality, 14-gauge or thicker cords that are approved by Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Never overload an outlet. Overloading can cause heat, leading to fire risk. Consider hiring a licensed electrician to add outlets to your home.

4. Danger in wet areas. GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) outlets are now required in areas around water like near a kitchen or

bathroom sink or outdoors. But in older homes, GFCIs may not have been installed. It is fairly simple to replace old receptacles with GFCIs; hire a professional to upgrade outlets near water.

5. Wind causes lights to blink. If you notice your lights blinking on windy days, it may be due to worn wiring in the weatherhead (where overhead lines enter your home). Contact your electric co-op to check weatherhead wiring.

Source: This Old House, Underwriters Laboratories.

Kelly Trapnell writes on writes on safety issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Arctic Cat — Arctic Cat — Arctic Cat — Arctic Cat — Arctic Cat — Arctic Cat

INVENTORY SALE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29TH

Due to the lack of great snow, we need to move our winter season snowmobiles, clothing and accessories!
We also have a huge selection of ATV/UTV units and accessories on special. All items are new, unless otherwise noted.
All pricing applies to In-stock merchandise only! Accessory installation available at standard shop labor rates!

New 2012 Snowmobiles			Arcticwear Winter Clothing			New 2009 ATVs		
	Reg.	Sale*						
Youth 120	\$2,874	\$2,499	25% Off	Winter Jackets, Pants		366 4x4 Auto	\$4,599	
F570 ES, Rev	\$7,649	\$6,599		Casual Wear		550 EFI 4x4 Auto	\$5,799	
F500 LXR, ES, Rev	\$9,249	\$7,999		Boots & Socks		700 EFI 4x4 Auto	\$6,199	
500 SnoPro	\$9,049	\$7,799		Gloves, Mittens, Caps				
Bearcat 570 2UP, ES, Rev	\$9,449	\$8,199		Helmets, Facemasks				
TZ1, 4-Str, 2UP, ES, Rev	\$11,499	\$9,899						
F1100 4-Str, ES, Rev	\$11,049	\$9,499	New Aluma Snowmobile Trailers - Wide			New 2010 ATVs		
F1100 S/P LTD, 4-Str, ES, Rev	\$11,649	\$9,999				300 2x4 Utility	\$3,199	
M1100-153 4-Str, ES, Rev	\$11,349	\$9,799				450 EFI 4x4 Auto	\$5,599	
M1100-153 SP, 4-Str, ES, Rev	\$11,649	\$9,999				550 EFI 4x4 Auto LTD	\$6,899	
XF1100 LXR, 4-Str, ES, Rev	\$11,249	\$9,699				700 EFI 4x4 Auto LTD	\$7,299	
XF1100, S/P, 4-Str, ES, Rev	\$11,549	\$9,899				New 2010 ATVs w/Power Steering		
*All Rebates Applied						550 EFI 4x4 Auto	\$6,299	
Other 2012 Models Available						550 EFI 4x4 Auto LTD	\$7,399	
Bearcat Z1XT	XF800 LXR					700 EFI 4x4 Auto	\$7,299	
TZ1 LXR	XF800 S/P					700 EFI 4x4 Auto LTD	\$7,999	
M800-153	XF800 High Co.					New 2011 ATVs		
M1100 S/P-153	XF1100 S/P Anniv.					450 XC Sport 4x4 Auto	\$5,599	
F8 LXR	XF1100 S/P-Ltd.					350 4x4 Auto	\$4,899	
F8 S/P-LTD	XF1100 Turbo S/P					425 EFI 4x4 Auto	\$5,299	
CALL FOR PRICING						450 EFI 4x4 Auto - Camo	\$5,799	
New 2011 Snowmobiles						450 EFI 4x4 Auto - LTD	\$5,999	
F570 ES, Rev		Sale				550 EFI 4x4 Auto - Camo	\$6,299	
F5 LXR, ES, Rev		\$7,599				650 4x4 Auto	\$5,699	
Z1 S/P 4-Str, ES, Rev		\$8,999				450 EFI 4x4 Auto - 2 Rider	\$6,499	
F8 LXR ES, Rev		\$9,299				550 EFI 4x4 Auto - 2 Rider	\$7,049	
F8 S/P, Rev		\$9,299				700 EFI 4x4 Auto - 2 Rider	\$7,599	
F8 LXR, S/P LTD, ES, Rev		\$9,599				New 2011 ATVs w/Power Steering		
Crossfire 8 S/P LTD, ES, Rev		\$9,699				550 EFI 4x4 Auto - PS	\$7,049	
Crossfire 8 S/P, Rev		\$9,399				550 EFI 4x4 Auto LTD - PS	\$7,899	
Z1 Turbo Ext, 4-Str, ES, Rev		\$11,199				700 EFI 4x4 Auto - PS	\$8,199	
Z1 Turbo S/P, 4-Str, ES, Rev		\$10,999				700 EFI 4x4 Auto LTD - PS	\$8,549	
Z1 Turbo LXR, S/P, LTD (Loaded)		\$10,999				700 EFI TXB 4x4 Auto - PS	\$8,249	
M8-153 S/P LTD		\$9,999				New Prowler Side-By-Sides		
Used Snowmobiles						2012 550 EFI XT	\$9,599	
2009 A/C F6 S/P Rev		\$5,499				2012 700 EFI XTX	\$11,399	
2009 Z1 Turbo LXR, 4-Str, ES, Rev		\$7,999				2012 700 EFI HDX	\$12,099	
2011 F8 S/P LXR, ES, Rev		\$7,599				2012 700 EFI HDX-Camo	\$12,399	
Snowmobile Accessory Items						2012 1000 EFI XTX	\$13,699	
	Reg.	Sale				2011 550 EFI XT	\$8,999	
#2639-683 Rear Rack Bag	\$185.95	\$49.95				2011 700 EFI XTX	\$10,599	
Select Non-Current A/C						2010 550 EFI XT	\$8,499	
Snowmobile Covers	\$179.95	\$99.00				Used Prowler or ATV		
3-Pc. Moving Dolly Set						2009 Prowler 700 EFI,		
- Plates (5639-863)	\$49.95	\$39.95				Camo, Winch, Acc.	\$7,999	
Track Jack Lever Lift	\$84.95	\$69.95				2007 400 DVX 2x4 Sport	\$2,899	
3-Pc. Dolly Set-Metal						ALL IN-STOCK SNOWMOBILE OIL/LUBRICANTS 20% OFF		
(5639-579)	\$69.95	\$54.95						
Arctic Cat 40th Ann.								
Legend Books	\$39.99	\$9.99						
Arctic Cat 50th Ann.								
Folding Chairs	\$19.99	\$14.99						
All 50 th Anniv. Items & Clothing 20% off MSRP								
Asst. Hood Decals (Trim to fit) up to \$59.95	\$10.00							
5639-152 Handlebar								
Service Stand	\$79.95	\$63.95						

ALL IN-STOCK SNOWMOBILE ACCESSORIES 25% OFF

Terms: Credit Cards Accepted for Clothing and Accessory Items. \$2,000 Credit Card Limit on Serial Number Items. Snowmobile, ATV, UTV and Trailer Pricing Includes Inbound Freight Charge and Setup Fee. All New Items Have Full Factory Warranty. Pricing On All Items End February 29th, 2012!

SHARE OUR PASSION.

Monday - Friday
9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

www.rvsports.com

RV Sports, Inc.

1412 3rd St. W. • Thief River Falls
(218) 681-1007

Arctic Cat — Arctic Cat — Arctic Cat — Arctic Cat — Arctic Cat — Arctic Cat

GOPHER STATE



ONE CALL

Call before digging!
It's the law!

1-800-252-1166

FISH FRY

Friday, February 24
Serving begins at 5 p.m.

1 Fillet - \$10, 2 Fillets - \$12



American Legion Post 22
121 Main Ave S. • Red Lake Falls
GAMBLING LICENSE #01101

NOW OPEN!

STUDIO FITNESS

Group Exercise & Personal Training

Schedule and Pricing can be found online: www.studiokfitness.com

Class sizes are limited - Sign up in advance!
218-686-0752 or kjelsy@studiokfitness.com

Greenwood Crossing Plaza, Hwy 59 South, Thief River Falls

Zumba® • 20 Min ABS • Body Sculpt • Combo Aerobics • Floor Aerobics

Informational Web Sites

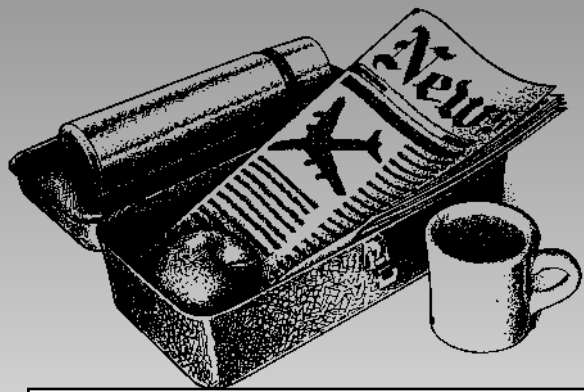
The following is a list of Web sites that can provide information and education in reference to electrical safety and energy conservation. These Web sites are listed as links on Red Lake Electric Cooperative's Web site at www.redlakeelectric.com.

- Electrical Safety Foundation International: www.esfi.org
- Alliance to Save Energy: www.ase.org
- US Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.gov/greenhomes
- Energy Star: www.energystar.gov
- Minnesota Safety Council: www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org
- Safe Electricity: www.safeelectricity.org
- Lighting Controls Association: www.aboutlightingcontrols.org
- US Consumer Product Safety Commission: www.cpsc.gov

AFTER-HOURS

OUTAGE PHONE

218-253-2200



Your key to buy, sell or trade anything is the CLASSIFIEDS

The members are invited to use this FREE WANT AD service.

If you have anything to trade or sell, just drop a card to Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750.

For Sale

FOR SALE — 1976 Continental Mark IV, \$2,400. Call Leon at 218-681-1440.

DON'S MACHINE SHOP
ASE CERTIFIED REBUILDERS
ALL GAS AND DIESEL ENGINES

- Automotive •Industrial
- Marine •Agricultural
- High Performance
- Vintage Auto
- Heavy Duty Diesel


CALL FOR ESTIMATE!
INSTALLATION AVAILABLE

FOSSTON, MN

218-435-6379 or 1-800-448-1518

PRICE EXAMPLES:
•GM 350 \$1,315 - \$1,419
•GM 6.5 Diesel with new block \$5,330
•Ford 7.3 Diesel Powerstroke \$4,200
All prices are with exchange on a rebuildable core.

LUMBER
AND
Building Supplies



ASK ABOUT
OUR COMPLETE
BUILDING PLANS
SERVICES!
We're glad to help you with
any building problem you
may have.

**Oklee
Lumber, Inc.**
(218) 796-5131

Carpet ETC. of St. Hilaire, MN
Flooring to Fit Every Lifestyle
Carpet, Vinyl, Ceramic, Laminate

Quality Flooring at a price you can afford.

310 Broadway • St. Hilaire, MN • (218) 964-5555 • M - F 9:530 & Sat 9-3 • Anytime By Appointment

Midwest Roofing
Residential and Commercial

Licensed • Bonded • Insured
FREE ESTIMATES

20061 Center St E (218) 681-3879
Thief River Falls, MN 56701 (218) 686-4475

**KM Transmission
And Repair**

Quality • Experience
Dependability • Honesty

Fair Prices
It's all just that simple. Keith Moen
Mon. - Fri. 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sat. by appointment
(218) 681-4250
616 Davis Ave. N, Thief River Falls

Late Model Auto Parts
-National Parts Locator-
Toll Free 1-888-560-5321
Bus: 218-964-5321

WE BUY PARTS CARS!
20 Bakers St., St. Hilaire, MN
Jeff Brouse & Brian Bugge, Owners
B & B Auto Recycling, Inc.

www.sollie.net • www.sollie.net

PRICE SLASHED! #3701



After 25 years of operating this well-established

Drive-In/Restaurant located along Hwy #32 in Red Lake Falls, it's now being offered for sale. Everything comes together here. Great location, positive cash flow, affordably priced, operationally ready and unlimited trade area. Seven month season allows for winters off! How great is that? And the best part, it's only \$124,900. **Call Today!**

Sollie Realty, Inc.
Fosston, MN • (218) 435-1525
www.sollie.net

www.sollie.net • www.sollie.net

**Burns
Welding
and
Repair**

- Skid-steer loader rental
- Farm machinery repair
- Custom cattle gates built to your needs
- Custom size hay feeders
- Portable welding
- Aluminum welding and tig welding

CALL SHOP
218-964-5444

We Buy Cars and Car Bodies **We Sell Welding Supplies** **Roll-Off Boxes Available**

We Buy Aluminum Cans **We Sell New Steel - Structural and Sheet** **We Buy Scrap Iron and Metals**

Evans Scrap & Steel, Inc.
218-681-3488 • Toll Free 1-800-906-3488
13203 190th St. N.E. • Thief River Falls, MN

Winter Hours:
7:30 - 4:30
Monday-Friday

**SCHAFFER
ELECTRIC**

BRIAN SCHAFFER
218-289-5430
CELLULAR

MIKE SCHAFFER
218-289-5431
CELLULAR

16483 120th Avenue SW
Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750
Office 218-253-2497

COMMERCIAL TRENCHING RESIDENTIAL FARM

Electrical Contractor Shop: (218) 253-4123
Home: (218) 253-4127

KEN'S ELECTRIC, INC.
Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750
"We Service Our Work"

Contact Us For All Your Electrical Needs!

Allen Remick - Cell: (218) 689-0313
Jason Knott - Cell: (218) 289-5104

Specializing In

**Water, Fire/Soot Restoration
Emergency 24 Hour Service**

Carpet and Upholstery
Ceilings and Walls
Strip and Wax
Tile and Grout
Furnace Duct Cleaning
Janitorial Services
Maid Service • Weekly
Monthly • One Time

Kilen's Custom Cleaners
"ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE ONE CUSTOMER AT A TIME"
(218) 686-2591
Thief River Falls • www.kilenscustom.com

Commercial
Residential
Custodial



TR SALVAGE INC.

702 Dawn Ave.
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
218-681-8221 • 1-800-950-9917
Email: sales@trsalvage.com • Website: www.trsalvage.com

NEW AND USED FARM EQUIPMENT PARTS

HELP! HELP! HELP!
"My basement is wet! Who do I call?"

RADNIECKI'S
Classic Cleaner

- ☒ Carpets ☒ Pet Stains
- ☒ Upholstery ☒ Odor Control
- ☒ Ceilings & Walls ☒ Air Duct Cleaning
- ☒ Emergency Water & Smoke Damage

Call: **(218) 681-7679**

And for all your cleaning needs call 218-681-7679



**DAVIDSON
READY MIX &
CONSTRUCTION**

- Concrete
- Rebar
- Gravel
- Septic Tanks
- Concrete Blocks
- Rock
- Backhoe and Dozer Service



**CALL (218) 449-4865
or (218) 681-7033**
1325 Greenwood St. W
Thief River Falls
www.davidsonconstruction.com

Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Want Ad Order Form

Use this handy form to submit your want ads.
PLEASE PRINT.

Mail or bring your ads to the RLEC office by the tenth of the month. Commercial ads are 10¢ per word with a minimum charge of \$4 per insertion.

Member want ads are FREE. One want ad per member per month.

Please PRINT . . .

Your Name, Address and Phone Number. Mail with your power bill payment, if you prefer, or fax to 218-253-2630.

SUBSCRIBE TO **GAZETTE**

Save at least \$23 annually over the newsstand price!

To subscribe just clip and fill out this form and bring it to the *Gazette* office at 105 Main Avenue in Red Lake Falls or mail to: The *Gazette*, PO Box 370, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750.

THE GAZETTE SUBSCRIPTION RATES . . .

In Red Lake County, \$29 a year In Minnesota, \$35 a year Out of state, \$39 a year

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ Send the Gazette to . . .

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

VOTING DELEGATE CERTIFICATION

Members that are corporations, churches, townships, schools or other government units may vote at the annual meeting. This form designating the voting delegate must be filled out, signed by officers and presented at the annual meeting registration desk or returned with a mail ballot.

The _____ has, at an official

Name of Member

meeting, designated _____

Name of Delegate

to represent us at the 2012 annual meeting of the Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Attest _____

Chairman or President

Attest _____

Clerk or Secretary

Director nominations, petitions due February 27

Each year the terms of three of Red Lake Electric Cooperative's (RLEC) directors expire the day of the annual meeting. Members of each of the three districts whose present director's terms will expire March 28 have elected director candidates at the recently held district meetings.

The names of the candidates are Stacy Blawat, Thief River Falls, District 2; Kelly Lundeen, Trail,

District 7; and Robert Finstad, Thief River Falls, District 8.

Their names will be placed in nomination at the annual meeting. Any other member within these districts wishing to have their name placed in nomination must do so by petition. The petition is due in the RLEC office in Red Lake Falls by 10 a.m. Feb. 27.

At least 15 members of the district must sign the petition for the

director nominee. The nominee's name will then be placed on the election ballot at the annual meeting March 28 at the Ralph Engstad Arena in Thief River Falls.

Petition forms are available at the RLEC office in Red Lake Falls. Contact Roger Johanneck, cooperative manager, at 800-245-6068 or 253-2168 for more information.

RLEC director qualifications required to be elected/serve

No member shall be eligible to become or remain a director who:

- Is not a member of the Cooperative, receiving electric service at the member's primary residence in the district from which the director is elected.
- Within three years preceding a director candidate's nomination was an employee of the Cooperative.
- Is or becomes, or at any time

during the three (3) years preceding a director candidate's nomination shall have been employed by a labor union, which represents, or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employees of the Cooperative.

- Is a parent, spouse or cohabitant of any employee of the Cooperative.
- Is a person who is a parent, spouse or cohabitant of an incum-

bent director who is not up for re-election at that time.

- Is in any way employed by or substantially financially interested in an enterprise competing with the Cooperative or any Cooperative-affiliated business.
- Is or becomes the full-time employee or agent of, or who is or becomes the full-time employer or principal of, another director.

CGF Route Permit application filed, hearings ahead

As the final regulatory milestone in the state's review of the Center to Grand Forks (CGF) Project, Minnkota submitted its Route Permit application to the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) in early December.

Similar to the process followed during the application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility, the PSC will hold public hearings in three communities along the project route for the 250-mile, \$312 million transmission line:

- Feb. 22, 9 a.m., Memorial Hall in Washburn;
- Feb. 27, 9 a.m., Baker Courtroom, UND School of Law, Grand Forks;
- March 1, 9 a.m., Chieftain Conference Center in Carrington.

The Route Permit application process will result in siting the specific location of the transmission facilities within the broader approved corridor. The public hearings will allow the PSC to seek public input on the route location.

While the approved corridor measures 1,000-feet wide (except in a few locations where it was widened to provide more flexibility in final siting), the proposed right-of-way is 150-foot wide. Within this narrower footprint, Minnkota is now working with landowners to define final pole placement for the transmission facilities. As part of this process, Minnkota's right-of-way agents are working with landowners to extend easement options.

Once a Route Permit has been approved by the PSC, Minnkota will begin to mobilize for construction. While a few initial activities, such as gate installation and tree clearing, will be conducted in the spring, full mobilization is not expected until early summer. The estimated project completion date is fourth quarter 2013.

Besides the direct local benefit of paying a transmission line tax (more than \$600 per mile annually), which is distributed to local school and fire districts, the project can help keep the electrical rates provided by local distribution cooperatives along the line's route some of the lowest in the nation.

This project may postpone the need for investment in additional transmission resources by the region's transmission providers, which would be costly and ultimately paid for by ratepayers. This

project also provides additional transmission capacity to the North Dakota grid, which can lead to the development of additional wind

energy resources in the region.

Go to www.minnkotacgf.com for project updates.

Kezar Music Showroom Presents

#Sunday, February 19th ~ 2:00 p.m.

Doors Open at 1:00 p.m.

featuring The High 48's *mp*



Premier Minneapolis-based BlueGrass Band
with special guests: **Bob Skoglund & Dickie Miller**

Tickets Available at Kezar Music ~ \$15

KEZAR Music

315 Duluth Ave. N, Thief River Falls
(218) 681-2148

 COMING MARCH 18TH

Live Music At The

GOODRIDGE MUNICIPAL LIQUOR STORE



Ashlee Hewitt

Playing Two Nights

Friday, Feb 17th (after Bingo)

& Saturday, Feb 18th 8:30 p.m.

Goodridge, MN


Join the harvest

The Infinity Wind Energy program was developed by our power supplier, Minnkota Power Cooperative, to bring wind-generated electricity to customers of the associated distribution systems in eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota.

Presently, two 900-kilowatt, commercial-scale wind turbines are producing wind energy for customers enrolled in the program. One turbine is located six miles east of Valley City, N.D., along I-94 and the other, three miles east of Petersburg, N.D., along Highway 2.

To date, hundreds of customers across the region have made the decision to purchase blocks of wind-generated electricity through the Infinity program. Today, we're inviting you to join us, and others, to help harvest the energy of the wind.





Yes! I want to join with others and participate in the *Infinity Wind Energy* program.

Please indicate the number of 100 kilowatt-hour *Infinity Wind Energy* blocks you wish to purchase each month. Each 100 kilowatt-hour *Infinity Wind Energy* block costs an additional 3¢ per month.

1

1 block (100 kilowatt-hours per month), \$0.30/mo.

2

2 blocks (200 kilowatt-hours per month), \$0.60/mo.

3

3 blocks (300 kilowatt-hours per month), \$0.90/mo.

4

4 blocks (400 kilowatt-hours per month), \$1.20/mo.

5

5 blocks (500 kilowatt-hours per month), \$1.50/mo.

Other

Please specify the total number of 100 kilowatt-hour *Infinity Wind Energy* blocks you wish to purchase per month: \$ ____/mo.

If you require assistance in determining the number of wind power blocks you wish to purchase, call Red Lake Electric Cooperative at 218-253-2168 or toll-free 1-800-245-6068. We will be happy to assist you.

I understand that my commitment is for one year and will continue on an annual basis until I notify you in writing to end my participation in the *Infinity* program.

Name _____

Address _____

Home phone _____

Cell phone _____

Account number (located on your bill) _____

E-mail address (optional) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

AUTO PAY OFFERED BY RLEC

Red Lake Electric Cooperative is pleased to offer you Auto Pay. Now you can have your monthly energy bill paid automatically from your checking or savings account. You can receive the Auto Pay service by completing the Auto Pay sign-up sheet and returning it to Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

The Auto Pay service is free of charge. Not only is this service free, you will eliminate the expense of writing a check, postage to mail your payment and no more late payment penalties because your bill will be paid on time, every month, for you.

Your payment will be automatically made for you on the 5th of each month. If the 5th falls on a week-

end or holiday, the payment will be made on the next business day. You will continue to receive your monthly energy bill as you have in the past, indicating the amount that will be withdrawn from your bank account. The proof of your payment will appear on your bank statement and your next month's energy bill statement.

Continue to pay your monthly bill until you are notified on your bill that the Auto Pay has been set up for you.

If you have any questions about the Auto Pay please call RLEC at 800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168.

AUTO PAY SIGN-UP SHEET

I authorize Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) and the bank listed below to initiate variable entries to my checking or savings account. This authorization remains in effect until I notify RLEC in writing to cancel it in such time as to allow RLEC to act on it.

RLEC ELECTRIC ACCOUNT # _____

NAME (PRINT) _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE # _____

NAME OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION _____

CHECKING ACCOUNT # _____

SAVINGS ACCOUNT # _____

SIGN HERE TO AUTHORIZE _____

Please return this authorization form with a blank, voided check to:
Red Lake Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

Phone	218-253-2168
Toll-free	1-800-245-6068
Fax	218-253-2630
After-hour outage	218-253-2200
Office hours	Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:30
E-mail:	redlake@minnkota.com
Web site	www.redlakeelectric.com

Call Before You Dig - Gopher State One Call • 1-800-252-1166

P. O. Box 430 • 412 International Drive SW • Red Lake Falls, MN 56750-0430