



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

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RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

APRIL 2011

Red Lake Electric Cooperative holds 73rd annual meeting

The 73rd annual meeting of Red Lake Electric Cooperative was held March 30 in the Imperial Room of the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls. Approximately 250 members and guests were in attendance.

The meeting opened with the National Anthem sung by Kailee Vigen of Thief River Falls. Vigen is the 10 year old daughter of David and Missy Vigen. Pastor Oliver Urdahl of Viking gave an invocation.

In his president's report, Kelly Lundeen said the past year of 2010, RLEC faced the challenge and cost of stricter environmental regulations. On the distribution side of our business, 2010 was very good in many respects. RLEC was spared any major storm related outages and that the main cause for service interruptions was due to underground cable failure and a tornado that hit the SW part of RLEC's service area. Lundeen stated that outage time per customer averaged just over two hours in 2010. Lundeen reported \$500,000 was paid out in capital credit retirements, and member equity was 50% of assets. He also thanked the Cooperative's members who participated in the Operation Round Up program.

Roger Johanneck, general manager, gave his report and discussed two different topics:



Red Lake Electric Cooperative's 73rd annual meeting was held March 30 in the Imperial Room of the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls. Approximately 250 members and guests attended the meeting. Pictured are many of the attendees enjoying the noon lunch following the meeting.

Electric Rates and Future Challenges. Johanneck discussed the impact legislation is having on the way that Cooperatives/Electric Utilities operate today. Massive environmental plant upgrades, Renewable Energy, and Conservation Improvement Program mandates are impacting not only the way Cooperatives do business but in the rates members are paying for their energy. Johanneck also touched on the Cooperative's concern for future legislation as proposed by President Obama (having more energy generated by renewables) in his State of the Union address earlier this year. Johanneck also noted the aging workforce at the Cooperative and the challenge to replace those retiring, while maintaining a balance between safety, reliability and economics.

Johanneck also reviewed the impact to members of the recent rate increase that members will see on their April billing, as well as the need to increase rates later in 2011 because of Minnkota's larger than expected

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Operation Round Up grants total \$11,632



The Red Lake Electric Trust board met recently and awarded 19 grants to area non-profit and community organizations that totaled \$11,632. Since its inception in 1993, 619 Operation Round Up grants totaling \$366 thousand have been gifted to area community organizations.

The Red Lake Electric Trust receives money for grants from the Operation Round Up program administered by the Red Lake Electric (4312006.01 Jon Anton) Cooperative. Today, 91% of Red Lake Electric's members voluntarily "round-up" their monthly bill for the Operation Round Up program.

Follow are organizations awarded RoundUp funds to help the disadvantaged.

-Violence Intervention Project of Thief River Falls: \$1,000 for their Umbrella Tree Program that provides supervised child visitations.

-Strandquist Area Food Shelf: \$500 to help stock their shelves and provide help (food) to low income, disabled or elderly in need.

-Occupational Development Center of Thief River Falls: \$800 to purchase two recliners for individuals who otherwise would be confined to a wheelchair all day or when consumers are tired or ill.

-Early Childhood Family Advocate Program-TRF: \$750 to work with at-risk families who have children ages 0-5 in Pennington County. The program is designed to break the cycle of child abuse.

-Special Olympics-TRF: \$500 funds will be used for tournament supplies, food & equipment expenses for the Special Olympics Track & Field Athletic Competition being held in TRF.

-LifeCare Center of TRF: \$500 to provide positive alternatives to abortion. Money will be used to update materials.

-Falls D.A.C. Inc: \$500 to be used to repair & replace the outdoor basketball court equipment.

-Warren Food Shelf: \$250 to assist those in need with food items.

Two area emergency service providers were given grants.

-Viking Fire & Rescue: \$1,000 to help purchase a high pressure



Ruth Schultz representing the American Cancer Society-Red Lake County chapter- accepted a \$500 Operation RoundUp check from Trust Board director Bonnie Cote. Since its inception in 1993, 619 Operation RoundUp grants totaling \$366,000 have been gifted to area community organizations.

pump and hose reel.

-Goodridge Fire & Rescue: \$1,000 for a defibrillator to equip a fire truck.

Monies to benefit the general public were awarded to these organizations:

-American Cancer Soc, Red Lake Co Chapter: \$500 for 13th Relay for Life.

-Pennington County Relay for

Life: \$500 to support the American Cancer Society.

-Red Lake County Fairboard: \$300 to fund the fair's Variety Show and repairs to horse arena.

Area youth will benefit from Operation Round Up grants made to the following organizations:

-Pennington County 4-H: \$382 for purchasing exercise and healthy eating incentives for the Cloverbud Programs.

-Marshall Co Little Bros/Little Sister Program: \$300 to offer group activities for youth with suitable adults.

Four organizations that provide help and service to area seniors received the following grants:

-Inter-County Nursing Service, TRF: \$1,000 for home health care for elderly people whose needs do not qualify for Medicare or other programs.

-Middle River-Thief Lake Living-at-Home/Block Nurse Program: \$500 to help elderly & others who are disabled to live at home instead of in assisted living or nursing homes.

-Newfolden Senior Citizen Club: \$600 to help fund a commercial dishwasher.

-Goodridge Senior Center Inc: \$750 to help install a new water service line to the building.

The RLE Trust Board of Directors determines grants two times per year, in March and September. Serving on the board are Randy Knutson -President, Newfolden; Van Swanson -Vice-President, TRF; and Bonnie Cote Secretary/Treasurer, Trail; Ex-officio directors are Bonnie Christians of Crookston and Roger Johanneck of Red Lake Falls, representing Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Grant applications are available at the Red Lake Electric Cooperative Office or by visiting their web site at www.redlakeelectric.com. The next deadline for Operation Round Up grant applications are due September 7, 2011.

Olson Serves 33 years as director



District 2 Board member Robert Olson, left, and Red Lake Electric Cooperative General Manager Roger Johanneck

Robert Olson of Middle River, was recognized at Red Lake Electric Cooperative's annual meeting for having served 33 years as board director. The 33 years spanned from March of 1978 to March of 2011. Olson represented District 2 of the Cooperative's service territory

which includes the Middle River, Holt, NE of Thief River Falls, and north of Goodridge areas. He was presented a plaque in appreciation of his years of service by Cooperative general manager, Roger Johanneck.

Former lineman Hagl Dies

Retired Red Lake Electric Cooperative lineman Doug Hagl lost the battle with cancer on March 24. He retired from Red Lake Electric in May 2006 after 32 years of service in the line department. Sincere sympathy is extended to his wife Lou and family. A complete obituary follows.

Douglas Hagl, 65, Red Lake Falls, died Thursday, March 24, 2011 at his home.

Mr. Hagl was born Aug. 18, 1945 in Crookston to Paul and Mabel (Marwitz) Hagl. He grew up in Red Lake Falls and attended St. Joseph's Catholic School and graduated from Lafayette High School. After high school he worked as a laborer before entering the Army from 1968 to 1970, where he was a track mechanic.

He started employment at Red Lake Electric in 1974 and retired in 2006.

He married Louella Hasby in 1984. He was a member of American Legion Post 22 in Red Lake Falls.

He is survived by his wife; four stepchildren, John Timm, Red Lake Falls, Gary (Kris) Hasby, Goodridge, Loretta (Hasby) Brooks, Walker, and Lance (Kris-sy) Hasby, Red Lake Falls; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; a brother, Ken Hagl, Red Lake Falls; and a sister, Dorothy (Gust) Samsa, Chisholm.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a daughter, a brother, a sister-in-law, and several aunts and



Doug Hagl

uncles.

The funeral was Tuesday March 29 at St. Joseph's Church, Red Lake Falls. Rev. Chuck Huck officiated. Marjorie LaCoursiere was organist. Margaret Toulouse was cantor.

Pallbearers were Tim Carriere, Alan Cota, Jay Guillemette, Bob and Roger Valley, Mike Wavra and Troy Schmitz.

Honorary pallbearers were Loretta Brooks, Lance and Gary Hasby, John Timm, and all of his grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Red Lake Falls American Legion Post 22 provided military honors.

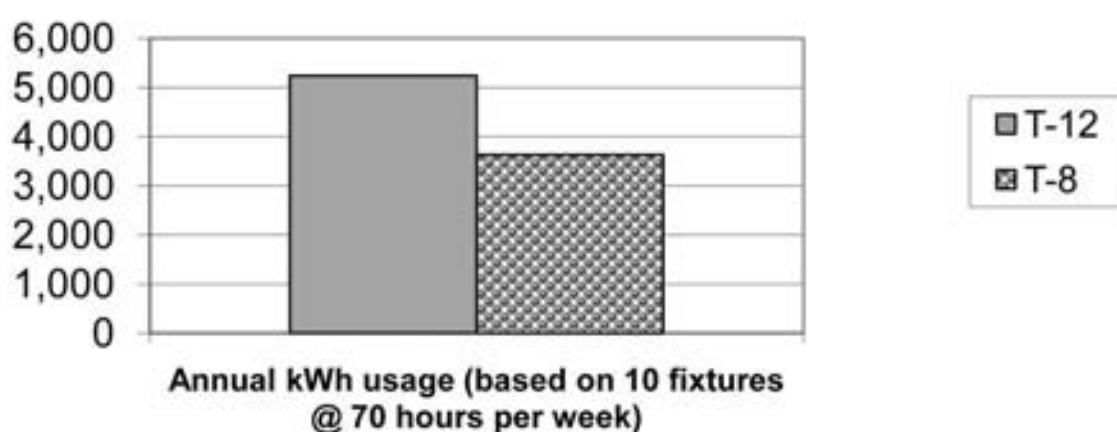
Burial was in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Red Lake Falls.
www.johnsonfuneralservice.com

QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. (RLEC) will pay cash rebates to commercial and industrial customers for the installation of qualifying lighting equipment to replace inefficient light fixtures in existing buildings. The maximum rebate per member is \$15,000 and cannot exceed 75% of the project cost, including materials & labor. The chart below shows the energy advantage (30% energy savings) of replacing older style (T-12) 4 foot/4 lamp fluorescent tube lighting with the new style (T-8) energy efficient 4 foot/4 lamp fluorescent tube lighting. Contact RLEC today and find out more about our commercial lighting retrofit rebate program.

4 foot Fluorescent Tube Lighting comparison.





Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck



Annual meeting

I want to thank those members, friends and guests that attended the Cooperative's Annual Meeting on March 30th. Our plan was to take care of the business we are required to do at our annual meeting yet keep the meeting short, informative and enjoyable; hopefully it was that for all of you who attended.

Spring Safety

With the annual meeting behind us, we expect that Spring and all the field work that comes with it to be close to follow. Hopefully cutting corners is not part of your plan as you prepare for the work ahead. Certainly, favorable weather goes a long way in easing the pace at which field work is accomplished but I remind you again to be cautious as you gear up for and plant your fields. This is the time when accidents are more likely to happen; either people getting injured or property getting damaged.

Be sure to take time for a tailgate session with those who will be helping you with your work and discuss where overhead power lines, power line poles, anchors, electrical equipment such as pad transformers and other hazards are located. Just a few minutes can make a big difference for you, your family and co-workers.

As I have shared before, the Cooperative has about 40,000 power line poles and 18,000 anchors in place as part of the Cooperative's electric plant. Ground line transformers and junction boxes are also a part of the mix of equipment that pose as hazards when equipment is working the fields and farm yards. Please be

mindful of this equipment as you plan your work; a little extra care can go a long way towards saving time, damages and most importantly, injury.

Bonnie Cote Completes Two Term as Trust Board Director

At the Cooperative's recent annual meeting, Bonnie Cote of Trail finished the second of two three year terms as director of the Red Lake Electric Trust Board; most recently serving as it's Secretary-Treasurer. Because the Trust by-laws limit director terms to two consecutive three year terms, Bonnie's time serving the Red Lake Electric Trust as a director is completed and she will be replaced with a (4522003.02 Merle Mostrom) new director prior to the Trust's upcoming September meeting. It was a privilege serving with Bonnie on the Trust board. She did a great job evaluating the Operation Round-Up fund applications during her six year tenure; her fairness to all the organizations seeking grants served the Trust board and the Cooperative members that participate in Operation Round-Up well. Thanks again Bonnie for accepting the invitation to serve on the Trust board, I sincerely appreciate it.

Robert Olson Retirement

Robert Olson of Middle River chose to step down as director of District 2, which covers the Northeast part of the Cooperatives service area. Robert was appointed to the board of directors in May of 1978 to fill a vacancy created when Manvil Moe, then Director of District 2, died. Robert fulfilled the

remainder of that term and was elected to the board to a three year term in 1979 and was re-elected by the members of District 2 to 11 consecutive 3-year terms since 1979. Robert was the last remaining director on the board that was here when I began working for the Cooperative back in 1980. He did a fine job serving the members of District 2 as evidenced by their continued trust in re-electing Robert to represent them at the Cooperative. We will not only miss his presence and voice in the board room, but his friendship as well. Our best to you Robert and thanks again for your service to RLEC.

Doug Hagl

Among the many tasks that we are called on to do, but never seems to get any easier, is the job of letting go. As you read elsewhere in this month's Volts and Jolts, we experienced that again this past month when we said good-bye to long time cooperative employee and friend Doug Hagl, who died March 24th. Some may resist the notion of talking about an employer and fellow employees as family but that is a thought that kept coming to the forefront as I witnessed the send off for Doug at his funeral service. Pall bearers, communion ministers, readers, musicians and others serving at the funeral; a good number of them Doug's former co-workers, there in service and friendship. I couldn't help but think of this gathering of Doug and his long time friends and employees as a family; an example of what those fellow employees meant to Doug and what Doug meant to them.

RLEC annual meeting, Continued from front page

wholesale power rate increase. Red Lake's bylaw provision of giving members a 90 day notice of a rate increase made setting the new rate necessary and prior to Minnkota's 29.8 % rate increase instead of the 16.9% Red Lake had planned for.

Accountant Shirley Bregier gave the 2010 Financial Report and said energy sales were down from the previous two years largely as a result of a dry fall and the need for less grain drying; a warmer heating season which reduced heating sales and conservation improvements made by members. The Cooperative sold 130 million kWh's in 2010. Revenues were \$11.1 million and the cost of wholesale power was \$7.6 million. Bregier said the Cooperatives margin was \$631 thousand; this is the amount that is allocated back to the members as Capital Credits. Bregier reviewed various operating expenses, fixed expenses and items on the balance sheet. She said RLEC fared very well financially in 2010 and was on firm financial ground.

Robert "Mac" McLennan, President and CEO of Minnkota Power Cooperative updated members on power supply issues, wind generation, upgrades at the Young generating unit that have been required by the EPA and the \$425 million that has been invested in the power plant to meet these environmental mandates. McLennan also spoke about the impact the nation's economy has had on the demand for energy and the cause and effect that low market prices have had on Minnkota Power's surplus energy sales and the revenue Minnkota Power received for these sales. McLennan said that there is "a light at the end of the tunnel"; if there are no more new regulations placed on

Minnkota, rates should level off much like they did after Minnkota added base load generation in the early 80's. McLennan stated that the investments made will carry Minnkota and its member systems through the next two decades with power.

Four directors were elected at the annual meeting. They included incumbent Bonnie Christians, Crookston, District 1; incumbent Steve Linder, Oklee, District 4; incumbent Mark Hanson, Thief River Falls, District 5; newly elected director Stacy Blawat, Thief River Falls, District 2, for a one year term.

Safety awards were presented to three RLEC employees in recognition for their safe work records. Employees recognized for surpassing (4719005.02 Joseph Jagol) five-year increments of accident free work were: Steve Barbot, 10 years; Alan Cota and Kathy LaPlante each 35 years.

An appreciation plaque was presented to outgoing director Robert Olson who served as director from the Middle River area (district 2)

for 33 years. Olson stepped down after serving two of the three year term he was elected to in 2009.

Bonnie Cote, Secretary of the Red Lake Electric Trust board, presented a \$500 grant check to Ruth Schultz of the American Cancer Society - Red Lake County Chapter. Schultz thanked the members for their participation in the Operation Round Up program and said the grant would be used to help/support individuals and families who are faced with fighting cancer.

Johanneck then presented a plaque to outgoing RLE Trust director Bonnie Cote and thanked her for her six years of serving as a director on the board.

Musical entertainment was provided by Vern Rogalla of Goodridge. Door prizes were awarded with Lee Nielson of Erskine being recognized as a long-term member of the Cooperative. Lunch was served by members of Bethany Lutheran Church of Red Lake Falls.

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



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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.

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.

Dear Red Lake Electric Trust:

Thanks to the Red Lake Electric Trust for the generous gift of \$600 toward our dishwasher purchase. It is greatly appreciated by all the members.

Senior Citizens Club
Newfolden

Dear Red Lake Electric Trust:

Thank you very much for granting the Life Care Center funds to update our 'Earn while you Learn' program DVD materials. Last year we had 615 client visits. These funds will continue to help make this a popular program with up-to-date information.

Roxanne Zerwas
Director, Life Care Center
Thief River Falls

Dear Red Lake Electric Trust:

Thank you for awarding us the Operation Round Up grant of \$300 which will benefit our Little Brother/Little Sister Program of Marshall County.

Your gift is appreciated and will be used to help fund group events throughout the year that normally includes a winter activity, a spring activity and a picnic in the summer. Last August, a nice group enjoyed Grinding Day at the Old Mill State Park. This Sunday, a group will enjoy a meal together at the Roadside Cafe in Stephen and then attend the Stephen-Argyle Central Musical Beauty and the Beast.

We currently have approximately 15 pairings in Marshall County that enriches the lives of boys and girls with a positive role model and friend. Thank you again for your generosity.

Denise St. Germain
Marshall County Social Services

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for the Long Term Member gift of the radio. It is in my workshop to replace the 30 year old one that worked "Part time".

Also thank you for the angle grinder prize. That too, was on my "I need to get a new grinder one of these days". It truly was my "Lucky Day"!!

Thanks especially, to Red Lake Electric, for your dependable, constant, and friendly service.

Lee Nielson
Erskine

Dear RLEC:

Thank you so much for the \$1000 grant for our battered women's shelter. The funds will be used to purchase food and supplies for our shelter occupants. We know your board had many requests to consider and we will be careful to use this money wisely.

Sandi Bently, Exec. Dir.
Violence Intervention project
Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC:

Thank you to the Board of Directors of Red Lake Electric Trust, Inc. for the \$500 grant given to our Middle River - Thief Lake Living At Home/Block Nurse Program.

We appreciate this generous gift which will help our elders and disabled persons to live at home with assistance of volunteers recruited and trained through our program.

Congratulations, as well, on the overall success of the Operation Round Up program. It is great to see all of the financial support that goes out to so many organizations and charities.

Cynthia Huener
Middle River

Dear RLEC:

The consumers and staff of the Occupational Development Center would like to thank your organization for your generous grant. This money will go a long way in purchasing sensory items, fine motor manipulators, puzzles, games, arts and crafts, music, science and large motor activities to enhance our Leisure/ Wellness program.

Thank you for considering our organization and its mission while making your decision on this grant request.

Sally Hagl-McGlynn
Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for the toaster I won at the annual meeting and for another good informative meeting.

John Roseland
Newfolden

Dear RLEC:

On behalf of the staff and clients of the Inter County Nursing Service I would like to thank you for the Operation Round Up grant we received. This is a great help to the clients that we serve in receiving home care services.

Once again thank you for the grant.

Anita B. Cardinal
Thief River Falls

Dear RLE Trust:

Thank you for the grant of \$750 to the Early Childhood Family Advocate Program in Thief River Falls. The funds will help us continue our work with local families. I would also like to thank Red Lake Electric members who participate in Operation Round Up. Your extra change each month truly does add up to benefit the community!

April Ballard
Thief River Falls

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.

RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.

VOLTS & JOLTS

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WE PROUDLY PRESENT TO YOU

The Red Lake Electric Cooperative
Customer Service Guarantee



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

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.

ROGER JOHANNECK
General Manager



Recipe corner

Ultimate Double ChocolateBrownies

- 3/4 cup baking cocoa
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 2/3 cup butter or margarine, melted, divided
- 1/2 cup boiling water
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1-1/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup coarsely chopped pecans
- 2 cups (12 ounces) semisweet chocolate chunks

In a large bowl, combine cocoa and baking soda; blend in 1/3 cup melt- ed butter. Add boiling water; stir until well blended. Stir in sugar, eggs and remaining butter. Add flour, vanilla and salt. Stir in the pecans and chocoiate chunks. Pour into a greased 13in. x 9in. x 2in. baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 35-40 minutes or until brownies begin to pull away from sides of pan. Cool. Yield: 3 dozen.

Maple Butterscotch Brownies

- 1-1/2 cups packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1-1/2 tsp imitation maple flavoring
- 2 eggs
- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- Confectioners' sugar, optional

In a bowl, combine brown sugar, butter and maple flavoring. Beat in the eggs, one at a time. Combine flour and baking powder; add to egg mixture. Stir in walnuts. Pour into a greased 9-in. square baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until brownies test done. Cool. Dust with con- fectioners' sugar if desired. Yield: 16 brownies.

Black Forest Brownies

- 1-1/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 cup butter or margarine
- 1 cup baking cocoa
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 2 cups sugar
- 1-1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 tsp almond extract
- 1 cup chopped maraschino cherries
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts

- ICING:
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine, softened
 - 1 tsp vanilla extract
 - 2 cups confectioners' sugar
 - 6 tbsp baking cocoa
 - 1/4 cup milk
 - 1/4 cup chopped nuts

Combine flour, baking powder and salt; set aside. In a large saucepan, melt butter. Remove from the heat and stir in cocoa until smooth. Blend in eggs, sugar and extracts. Stir in flour mixture, cher- ries and nuts. Pour into a greased 13in. x 9in. x 2in. baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 min- utes or until brownies test done. For icing, blend butter, vanilla, sugar, cocoa and milk until smooth; spread over hot brownies. Sprinkle with nuts. Cool. Yield: 3 dozen.

Chocolate Mint Brownies

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 4 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 can (16 ounces) chocolate-flavored syrup
- 1 cup sugar

- FILLING:
- 2 cups confectioners' sugar
 - 1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened
 - 1 tbsp water
 - 1/2 tsp mint extract
 - 3 drops green food coloring

- TOPPING:
- 1 package (10 ounces) mint chocolate chips
 - 9 tbsp butter or margarine

Combine the first seven ingredients in a large mixing bowl; beat at medi- um speed for 3 minutes. Pour batter into a greased 13in. x 9in. x 2in. bak- ing pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes (top of brownies will still appear wet). Cool completely. Combine filling ingredients in a medium mixing bowl; beat until creamy. Spread over cooled brownies. Refrigerate until set. For topping, melt chocolate chips and butter over low heat in a small saucepan. Let cool for 30 minutes or until lukewarm, stirring occa- sionally. Spread over filling. Chill before cutting. Store in the refrigerator. Yield: 5-6 dozen.

German Chocolate Brownies

- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 1 package (4 ounces) German sweet chocolate, broken into squares
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt

- TOPPING:
- 2 tbsp butter or margarine, melted
 - 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
 - 1 cup flaked coconut
 - 1/2 cup chopped pecans
 - 2 tbsp corn syrup
 - 2 tbsp milk

In a saucepan, melt butter and chocolate, stirring until smooth. Cool slightly. Add sugar and vanilla; mix. Beat in the eggs. Mix in flour, baking powder and salt. Pour into a greased 9in. square baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 18-22 minutes or until brownies test done. For topping, com- bine butter and brown sugar in a bowl. Add coconut, pecans,

Chocolate Peanut Butter Brownies

- 2 squares (1 ounce each) unsweetened chocolate
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour

- FILLING:
- 1-1/2 cups confectioners' sugar
 - 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
 - 1/4 cup butter or margarine, softened
 - 2 to 3 tbsp light cream or milk

- GLAZE:
- 1 square (1 ounce) semisweet baking chocolate
 - 1 tbsp butter or margarine

In a small saucepan, melt chocolate and butter over low heat; set aside. In a mixing bowl, beat eggs and sugar until light and pale colored. Add flour and melted chocolate; stir well. Pour into a greased 9-in. square bak- ing pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes or until the brownies test done. Cool. For filling, beat confectioners' sugar, peanut butter and butter in a mixing bowl. Stir in cream or milk until mixture reaches desired spreading consistency. Spread over cooled brownies; cover and chill until firm. For glaze, melt chocolate and butter in a saucepan, stirring until smooth. Driz- zle over the filling. Chill before cutting. Store in the refrigerator. Yield: about 5 dozen.

RLEC Closed Good Friday

In observance of the Easter celebration, Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters will be closed Good Friday, April 22. In case of an electrical outage or emergency, call the after-hour phone number: 218-253-2200.

Have a blessed Easter!

Top dairy herds for March DHIA

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

Name	Cows	% in milk	lbs. milk	test	lbs. fat	protein	lbs. protein
Northstar Dairy LLC 3X	1146	91	73	4.0	2.9	3.1	2.3
Walter Bros. Farm	345	91	71	3.6	2.5	3.1	2.2
Wayra Dairy 3X	280	86	70	3.5	2.5	2.8	2.0
Spring Prairie Colony	376	84	68	3.9	2.7	3.0	2.0
Amundson Dairy	63	94	68	3.6	2.5	3.2	2.2
Beyer Bros. Farm	70	91	64	3.6	2.3	3.1	2.0
Bly Dairy Farm Inc.	249	89	62	4.0	2.5	3.3	2.0
CB Farms LLC	53	92	61	3.5	2.1	3.0	1.8
Mark Gladen	87	84	57	3.1	1.8	3.0	1.7
Leonard & Marge Geske	40	93	56	3.4	1.9	2.9	1.6

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 pro- duces a lot of milk.



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Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Operating Report
MONTHLY COMPARISON

	FEBRUARY 2010	FEBRUARY 2011
Total Revenue	\$ 1,256,629	\$ 1,409,605
Total Margins	\$ 202,045	\$ 269,975
Cost of Power	\$ 789,840	\$ 876,419
KWH's Purchased	16,948,776	17,423,803
Capital Credits Paid to Estates	\$ 6,780	\$ 7,431

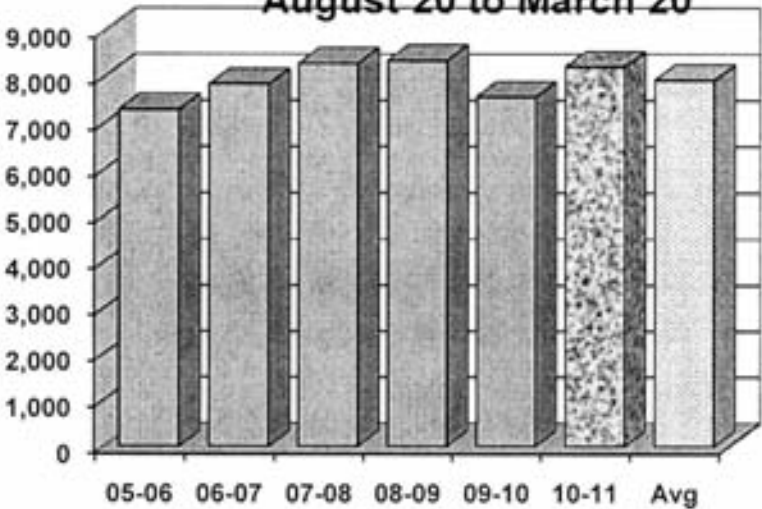
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

	FEBRUARY 2010	FEBRUARY 2011
Total Revenue	\$ 2,610,577	\$ 2,794,764
Total Margins	\$ 488,816	\$ 493,777
Cost of Power	\$ 1,602,847	\$ 1,773,275
KWH's Purchased	34,623,652	35,436,929
New Service Connections	0	2
Customers Served	5,196	5,192
Capital Credits Paid to Estates	\$ 15,609	\$ 12,773
Miles of Line		
Overhead	2,325	2,324
Underground	235	239

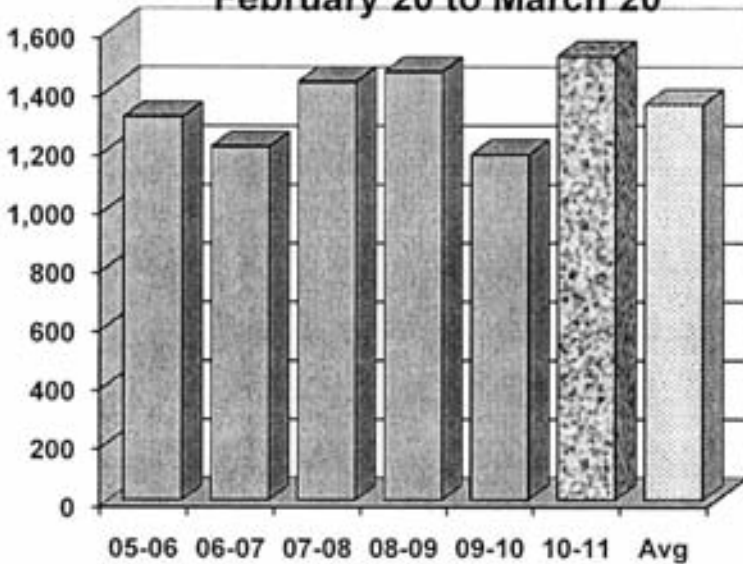
DEGREE DAYS

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 March 20



DEGREE DAYS
February 20 to March 20



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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

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VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

A bird in the hand leads to direct marketing

Where better than the "Goose Capital of the World" could you expect to find Johnson's Waterfowl of Middle River. That's where you will also find Emily Johnson, a third generation poultry producer who operates the hatchery full time and produces thousands of birds per year, in many different types and breeds.

One may think that keeping poultry is a thing of the past but it is staging a comeback in rural and suburban areas where zoning laws are beginning to be rewritten to allow certain types of poultry. Livestock enthusiasts are clamoring back to hobby farming and some are launching into larger numbers of birds to raise their own sustenance and try to beat rising food costs.

Although Johnson's Waterfowl can supply anyone anywhere from Alaska to Florida to Puerto Rico with a wide variety of poultry, they currently keep on hand birds of the goose and duck variety. Johnson's laying barns are teeming with interesting breeds that may at times include ducklings in Saxony, Rouen, Pekin, Magpies, Khaki Campbell, Dark Campbell, Cayuga, Silver Appleyard, Black Swedish, Blue Swedish and many varieties of Runners. Goslings in Buff, African, Grey Pomeranian, White and brown Chinese, Sebastopol. Assortments are available for the indecisive or indiscriminate poultry keeper.

Emily Johnson has been involved in hatching fowl most of her life. She and her husband, David, purchased the location of the hatchery in 1976 and aside from a short stint in the 80's, the farm has been the place where thousands upon thousands of waterfowl eggs have been produced and hatched in the past 26 years. Last year the Johnsons delivered more than 11,000 birds



David and Emily Johnson hold some of the newest additions to the flocks of ducks and geese located on the family farm where they operate Johnson's Waterfowl which is the culmination of four generations of poultry experience.

through their marketing efforts.

Their son, Nathaniel Johnson, is the fourth generation to engage in the poultry business and assists in the daily chores. They have another son, Jeremiah, living at home and two other children, Mark and Jane of Newfolden.

The daily routine involves the usual feeding and watering of the animals and the collection of eggs which are taken to the family kitchen where they are washed, disinfected and prepared to set in the incubators. The gambrel barn on the farmstead includes an electrical-

ly heated room in the hay loft that houses an array of incubation cabinets. These cabinets use electricity to create the ideal environment for the eggs by regulating the temperature and humidity as well as gently turning the eggs. Everything a brooding hen could pro-

vide is provided by the machines.

In a matter of weeks, the birds begin to emerge within hours of each other as if prodded by an internal clock. As soon as they are fully emerged from the shell and dried off, they are either placed in shipping containers or placed in another out-building on the farm where they hover under electric heat lamps until they can be put into the flock, taken to market, or sold on the spot to a customer.

The volume of birds produced by Johnson's Waterfowl by far exceeds the local market. This was always the difficulty the Johnsons faced until a nephew, Austin Johnson had the idea of direct marketing the surplus through the internet.

In 2008, the internet site eFowl.com was launched in an effort to market the products of the hatchery. Much to the amazement of the Johnsons, the popularity of the website quickly outgrew the production capacities of the farm which sparked the idea to network with other poultry farms and hatcheries to offer customers a wide selection and improved availability and order fulfillment.

The website makes it possible to ship thousands of birds per week all around the country. Johnson's Waterfowl combined with eFowl.com made buying poultry easy and viable for consumers.

Direct marketing has become the key not only to increase the profitability of Johnson's Waterfowl but also to ensure that the Johnson family can continue to do what they enjoy every day.

More photos of the Johnson's waterfowl hatchery and livestock are located on page 6.



The laying stock of a variety of ducks and geese enjoy a few moments of mid-morning air outside one of the laying barns located on the David and Emily Johnson farm near Middle River, a rural town in northern Minnesota that is sometimes referred to as "Goose capital of the world."



So, what came first, 11,000 ducks and geese or 11,000 eggs, or was it 11,000 website hits? The approximate number of waterfowl sold from the family farm of David and Emily Johnson exceeds 11,000. After more than two decades of traditional farm produce marketing, the Johnsons have used the internet to sell the majority of what they produce at Johnsons Waterfowl and also the produce of a vast network of other hatcheries.

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Annual meeting time is always an opportunity for neighbors and friends to catch up on the latest. Pictured are Red Lake Electric annual meeting attendees visiting prior to the call of the meeting.



Mac McLennan, Minnkota Power Cooperative President and CEO, shared many of the challenges Minnkota is being faced with. Minnkota is the generation and transmission cooperative who is the wholesale supplier of electricity to Red Lake Electric. Minnkota's wholesale rates and Red Lake Electric's retail rates are certainly affected by the challenges which include the stressed economy, difficult wholesale power market conditions, environmental and regulatory requirements.



Lee Nielson, Erskine, long-term member and friend of Red Lake Electric Cooperative was presented a Milwaukee shop radio at the Cooperative's annual meeting.



John Roseland, Newfolden, won a Proctor Silex toaster as one of many door prizes that were awarded at Red Lake Electric's annual meeting March 30.

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Pastor Oliver Urdahl of Viking gave the invocation at Red Lake Electric's 73rd annual meeting. Urdahl also shared that he recently spent nine days in Haiti and enjoyed the benefit of electricity only three hours out of the nine days. He shared how fortunate Cooperative's members are to have electricity at the flip of a switch virtually 24 hours a day.



Musical entertainment was provided by Vern Rogalla of Goodridge at Red Lake Electric's 73rd annual meeting.



Former Red Lake Electric director Henry Wieland (L) of Red Lake Falls visits with retiring director Robert Olson of Middle River. Wieland served 28 years as a board director and Olson completed 33 years of service.



Ricky Peterson, Thief River Falls, was winner of a Cabela's gift certificate at Red Lake Electric's annual meeting. Four Cabela's gift certificates were provided by Border States Electric of Grand Forks. Border States supplies Red Lake Electric with line construction products and services.



Norman and Lorraine Stenvik of Goodridge were one of many couples who registered and attended Red Lake Electric's annual meeting March 31.



Donald Stenberg (L), Oklee and Darrow Lundeen, Trail, visit while they enjoy coffee and doughnuts prior to the call of Red Lake Electric Cooperative's annual meeting.



Red Lake Electric Trust board director Bonnie Cote, Trail, was thanked and recognized for her six years as a trust board director. Trust board directors oversee the awarding of grants for the Cooperative's Operation RoundUp program. During her tenure Cote served as secretary/treasurer and vice chairperson of the trust board.



Kailee Vigen, Thief River Falls, sang the National Anthem at Red Lake Electric's 73rd annual meeting. She is the 10 year-old daughter of David and Missy Vigen. Her grandparents are members of Red Lake Electric: Larry and Mayvonne Vigen of Goodridge and James and Marlene Taggart of Newfolden.



James Glass and his son Jacob, of Crookston, were two of the many attendees who attended Red Lake Electric Cooperative's annual meeting.

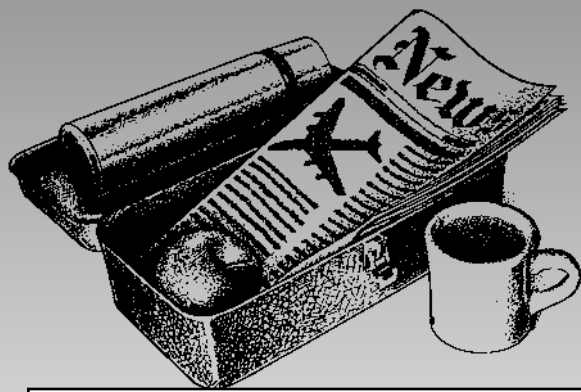


Allen and Dorothy Barsness, Oklee, register for Red Lake Electric Cooperative's annual meeting as they enter the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls.

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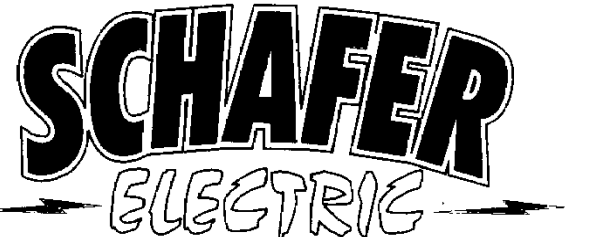
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Three Red Lake Electric Cooperative employees were recognized at the Cooperatives annual meeting for combined total of 80 years of safe work. Included from left are Alan Cota, crew foreman, 35 years; Kathy LaPlante, customer service representative, 35 years; Steve Barbot, service technician, 10 years.

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Mn/DOT will be working on more than 250 construction projects across the state this season. City, county and tribal governments also will (2721002.01 Greg Underdahl) begin work on multiple highway improvement projects. Work zones

- Minimize distractions such as using cell phones, eating or drink-

Promoting work zone safety is a component of the state's core traffic safety initiative, Toward Zero Deaths. A primary vision of the TZD program is to create a safer driving culture in Minnesota in which motorists support a goal of zero road fatalities by practicing and promoting safe and smart driving behavior. TZD focuses on the application of four strategic areas to reduce crashes — education, enforcement, engineering and emergency trauma response.

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.

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

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.

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



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

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