

# Wolts 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. 46 - NO. 08

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

**JUNE 2011** 

# June is Dairy Month

In recognition of Dairy month, Red Lake Electric Cooperative would (3726003.02 Bruce and Lynae Holte) like to take a moment to salute local dairy farmers and the entire dairy industry.

The Cooperative appreciates the outstanding effort and vital contributions these farmers make to the area.

• Good-Vue Ayr Farms, Michael and Linda Hanson, Goodridge.

- Marion and David Vraa, Goodridge.
- Daniel and Susan Holen, Goodridge. • Dale and Sheri Rupprecht, Thief River Falls.
- Leonard and Marge Geske, Thief River Falls.
- Kora-Kesh Holsteins, Ryan and Karon Griffin, Thief River Falls.
- Beyer Brothers, Chip and Neil Beyer, Red Lake
- Schindler Brothers, Joe and Carl Schindler, Red
- Lake Falls. · Gerardy Farms, Tony and Sheila Gerardy, Plum-
- Walter Brothers, Ray and Roger Walter, Plummer. • Arlen, Gerda and Dean Koskela, Plummer.



Oklee. • Wayra Dairy, Wayne and Debra

• Gary Rahier,

Vettleson, Trail. Orville Shirley Brinkman, Trail.

#### **Minnesota Dairy Facts**

 Approximately 4,540 dairy farms produce milk that provides milk, cheese, yogurt and other dairy foods for residents of Minnesota, the U.S. and dairy consumers around the world.

- Approximately 98 percent of all Minnesota dairy farms are owned by families - in many cases, multiple generations of the same family.
- In Minnesota, the average dairy cow will produce 7.5 gallons of milk per day.
- That's more than 2,257 gallons over the course of
- a typical year.
- Minnesota dairy farms produce 1.06 billion gallows of milk annually.
- Dairy is the second largest agricultural business in Minnesota.
- Generating \$1.66 billion a year.
- Total economic impact to Minnesota is \$11.5 bil-

## RLEC announces scholarship recipients

Each year, Red Lake Electric Cooperative provides scholarships for graduating seniors at each of the high schools operating throughout the Cooperative's service

The recipients are selected by the scholarship selection committee at the high schools. There were 11 recipients this year with each student receiving \$500.

The funds for these scholarships come from unclaimed capital credits.

Congratulations and best wishes to these scholarship recipients.



**KAYLEE DAVIDSON** Marshall County Central Kevin and Patty Davidson Newfolden



**JAKE THOMPSON** Badger/Greenbush/Middle River David and Karleen Thompson Middle River



**KAYLANI KIESOW** Grygla-Gatzke High School Ron and Coleen Kiesow Goodridge



RACHEL FREDERICK Goodridge High School Dave and Joani Frederick Goodridge



**KEVIN LONGTIN** Red Lake County Central Lonnie and Michelle Longtin Plummer

## Slay energy vampires with smart strips

#### By Brian Sloboda

As children, most of us were told to turn off the TV when no one was in the room to keep from wasting energy. But with today's televisions, turning off the set doesn't save as much energy as you think. "Off" doesn't really mean off anymore. Several devices

found inside your home are commonly referred to as "parasitic loads," "phantom loads," or "energy vampires"—consuming electricity even when switched off. Phantom loads can be found in almost every room, but a favorite "coffin" is your entertainment center.

Most TVs today slowly sip electricity while waiting patiently for someone to press the "on" button. They also use energy to remember channel lineups, language preferences, and the time. VCRs, DVD players, DVRs, and cable or satellite boxes also use energy when we think they're turned off.

Studies show that in an average home, 5 percent to 8 percent of electricity consumption stems from phantom (1126005.02 James A. Fick, Sr.) loads. To put that in perspective, the average North American household consumes roughly 10,800 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity per year. If you estimate that 6.5 percent of your total electricity consumption comes from phantom loads, the amount drained by these vampires equals about 700 kWh annually— or \$70 every year. So how can you tell

which devices are okay to leave plugged in and which need to have a wooden stake driven through their hearts?

#### **Identify Plug Parasites**

Microwave ovens and alarm clocks, which use relatively

small amounts of standby power, are acceptable to leave plugged in. A digital video recorder (DVR) uses a fairly significant amount of power when turned off, but if you record programs frequently you will want to leave it plugged in.

You don't have to worry about unplugging items with mechanical on/off switches, such as lamps, hair dryers, or small kitchen appliances like toasters or mixers—they don't draw any power when turned off.

Continued on page 6



**ALEXIS KLEMETSON** Lincoln High School Tonya Klemetson and Gary Klemetson Thief River Falls



**SHERI BARTH** Lincoln High School Randy and Patti Barth Thief River Falls



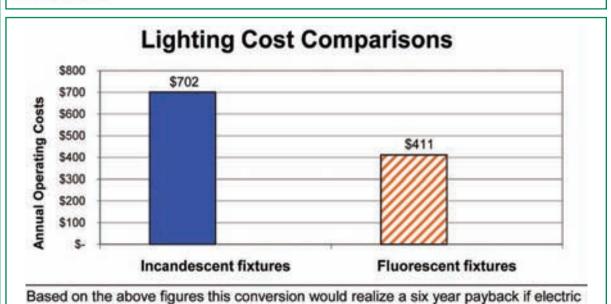
TRACY MEHRKENS Lincoln High School Albert and Cathy Mehrkens Thief River Falls

#### **QUICK TAKES**

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

rates remained constant.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. will pay cash rebates to business customers for retrofitting inefficient existing lights to efficient fluorescent lights. The rebate amount is determined by the conversion type. Retrofitting to energy efficient fluorescent lights should realize an energy savings of 30% or greater. The table below shows the annual dollar savings for converting 15-250 watt, incandescent fixtures to 15-147 watt, T8 high-bay, 4 foot, 4 lamp, fluorescent fixtures. The installed cost per fixture used is \$245, the rebate amount per fixture is \$70, the annual hours of operation are 2080, and the cost per kilowatt hour is 9 cents.



**ZACHARY CYMBALUK** Crookston High School Daniel and Becky Cymbaluk Crookston



**KRISTEN WEISS** Lafayette High School Ron and Sharon Weiss Red Lake Falls

#### In this month's Volts and Jolts

Page 2

Manager's Comments Plan Ahead Member Services Department From the Mail Bag

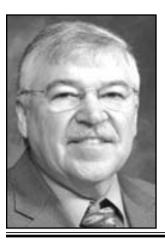
Page 3 Electric Miracle

Recipe Corner Page 4

Feature of the Month Bible Baptist Church

Pole Replacement Photos

Capital Credits Name List



### Manager's **Comments**

by Roger Johanneck



## PLAN Ahead

"Plan ahead" were words painted on a sign in my high school shop/industrial arts class. The signs lettering started off in nice even sized letters and then became progressively smaller and curved down to the lower right corner of the board because the sign's maker didn't allow enough room for the large font size they started out with.

It was a simple but catchy way to impress upon the students in class about the importance of planning ahead for the various projects we would build in school and I suppose, whatever followed high school.

All the planning we are required to do in the electric business has me think of that sign occasionally; most recently as your board of directors put their stamp of approval on two engineering studies completed at the Cooperative: one, a 20-year long range plan and two, a four year construction work plan and sectionalizing study.

The general purpose of each of these studies are similar in that they both analyze the past performance of Red Lake Electric Cooperative's system and to determine, recommend and estimate the cost of the system improvements required to provide satisfactory service under the electric load expected in the future. The Rural Utilities Service, our lender, also requires that we conduct these studies to maintain financing with them.

The long range plan is a management guide that outlines the most practical and economical means for providing safe and reli-

able electric service to RLEC's current and future customers. With proper maintenance, most of RLEC's distribution facilities have an installed life

exceeding 40 years. The fact that facilities have such a long (6704004.02 Melvin R. Johnson, Jr.) life span along with the increasing high cost of construction distribution facilities, make it imperative to ensure our distribution facilities are sized properly.

The shorter planning tool is the four-year construction work plan that includes proposed system improvements from 2012 through 2015 and is used as the basis for our loan application to the USDA Rural

Projecting growth in consumers, energy (kWh) usage, winter and summer peak energy demand, as well as ways to improve the reliability of the system through new tie lines, additional sectionalizing equipment and conductor and equipment replacement are all a part of this plan.

What will energy sales look like

in another 30 years? How many homes and businesses will we serve? What kind of impact will new technologies or new governmental regulations that impact our cost of providing service have on system sales and demand for ener-

We know technology will increase efficiencies from today's appliances, and that new technologies and new gadgets will place additional demands on our system. Will you be driving a car powered by electricity within the next 10, 20 or 30 years? These are some interesting questions to ponder as we plan for the future and construct a system to reliably supply the energy needs of our members.

Another study used in our business that provides direction in our construction plans is the power requirements study. This study is conducted every two years by RLEC and all of the Minnkota Power systems. The study focuses on energy trends and power supply needs and concluded that the average new consumer over the next 10 years will use slightly more kWh per household than the present residential consumer.

Long range planning at your Cooperative is not something that you should have to concern yourselves with, after all, that is what we as your employees have been hired, among other tasks, to do. I thought you would like to know a little bit about the plans we have in place, so you are aware that the work you see going on throughout our service area is not a random act of setting poles and stringing wire. We want you to know we have a plan in place and we are building your Cooperative to be a reliable energy provider for today and well in to the future.



## **Member Service Department**

#### by Kevin Reich

#### Incandescent versus compact fluorescent

Some people are under the misconception that incandescent light bulbs are being phased out.

Incandescent in their present form are to be phased out, but can be/will be replaced with more efficient counterparts.

Over the years, the incandescent bulb has changed very little. Of the energy consumed by the bulb, 5 to 10 percent provides lighting and the other 90 to 95 percent produces heat. In my opinion, this is not all bad when we live in an area where the heating degree days out-number the cooling degree days about 25 to 1. But manufacturers are being forced to improve the efficiency of incandescent bulbs due to the Federal Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

The law does not ban the use or manufacture of incandescent bulbs, nor does it mandate the use of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). It simply requires that companies make incandescent that are 30 percent more efficient.

The time frame for the production of more efficient incandescent spans from January, 2012 to January, 2014; starting with the 100watt bulb and ending with the 40watt bulb. There are exemptions written into the law that excludes "specialty bulbs" such as three-way bulbs, appliance bulbs, rough service bulbs and many others.

There is a more energy efficient 72-watt incandescent that has been made to replace the 100-watt incandescent. It is currently only available in California therefore you will not find it locally, yet.

Currently there are two other options to incandescent and those are CFLs or light emitting diodes (LEDs). For the most part, LEDs are not a viable option if one tries to justify the additional purchase price. Therefore CFLs are the most cost effective option.

Some people do not care for the look of the "spiral" bulb or the cool light of the CFLs. Other downfalls of the CFLs are the inability to provide instant full brilliancy and the fact each bulb does contain a small amount of mercury. For the most

part, these concerns are being addressed as improvements have been and will continue to be made. One true advantage of CFLs is

they use about 75 percent less energy than an equivalent incandescent. Often it is stated that a CFL bulb has not lasted for the hours of oper-

ation expected. I think this can also hold true for incandescent.

There are two things one should go hand-in-hand. Purchasing bulbs

with a 130-watt rating rather than bulbs with lower wattage ratings, will last longer. One can be assured that these bulbs will be a little more expensive. Bulbs are not different than anything else one purchases in that "you get what you pay for."

Every type of bulb has its advantages and disadvantages and lighting options will continue to evolve. So one asks the question, what is the best option – personal prefer-

Have a safe, enjoyable, sun-lit

Utilities Service.

Energy (kWh) sales has fluctuat-

ed up or down from year to year but overall, members served and energy usage has been on a steady rise since the Cooperative was formed. An example of that is the energy purchased in 2009 was the most ever in the Cooperative's history; over 142 million kilowatt-hours were purchased to supply our member's energy needs. In 2010 energy purchases dropped off to 138 million kilowatt-hours. In 1980, annual energy purchases were 88 million kilowatt-hours. Over a 30 year period, even with the occasional dips in usage, annual energy needs by RLEC members increased by 56

consider when purchasing any type of bulb, the (6828004.01 David Plante) voltage rating and the purchase price. These two things often



## **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

Things you should know

**BILLINGS AND COLLECTION** 

20th of each month.

be \$1.00.

You will receive your energy bill on or near the

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

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 discon-

nect your electric service, a \$50 collection fee will

be charged to your account, even if you pay the col-

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

A \$15 charge will be levied each time a check is

returned because of nonsufficient funds, account

In case your electricity goes out, please do the

1. Check your fuses or breakers at the yard pole

2. Call your neighbor to see if they are out of

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

reconnection fee must be paid.

being closed or payment stopped.

**BAD CHECKS** 

**OUTAGES** 

or meter pedestal.

following:

Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

## From the Mail Bag

Thank you so much for the \$500 scholarship for my college educa-

> Sheri Barth **Thief River Falls**

Dear RLEC:

Thank you so much for awarding me your generous scholarship, it will help out in my education to come.

**Alexis Klemetson** Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for providing me with the scholarship. It will be greatly appreciated as I pursue my degree at BSU next year.

**Kevin Longtin** Plummer **Dear RLEC:** 

Thank you for the generous scholarship. It will be used next year when I attend the University of Minnesota, Crookston. I will be majoring in agribusiness and minoring in agronomy. Thanks

Zach Cymbaluk Crookston

Dear RLEC:

I would like to thank you for awarding me your \$500 scholarship. The money will help with my college expenses while attending the University of Minnesota, Crookston while pursuing a degree in agronomy.

Jake Thompson Middle River **Dear RLEC:** 

I would like to thank you so much for the donation that you have given to the 4-H Youth Development Program here in Red Lake County. This means so much to the 4-H members. It is a great incentive for them to work hard on their fair exhibits.

I would like to invite you to come to the Red Lake County Fair in Oklee June 24 through 26. We will be having the 4-H awards presentation on Saturday, June 25 at 6 p.m. in the community hall.

Thanks again for your donation.

Sincerely, **Sharon Weiss 4-H Program Coordinator Red Lake County** 

#### 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.

ROGER JOHANNECK General Manager

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

#### 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. POSTMAS-TER, 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**

PRESIDENT	Kelly Lundeen
VICE PRESIDENT	Bonnie Christians
SECRETARY-TREASURER	Mark Hanson
DIRECTORS	Robert Olson, Robert Finstad,
	Steven Linder, Colette Kujava,
	Randy Versdahl, Peter Mosbecl
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 (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.

#### about your electric service **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 \$24 to \$31 month Over 500 KWH (April-Dec.) . . . . . . . . . . 8.4¢ Kwh Over 500 KWH (Jan.-Mar.) .....9.1¢ Kwh Multiphase users add \$20/month cost of service

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

Security light, \$7/month, high pressure sodium, \$8/month, mercury vapor; water heater flat credit, \$7/month (on January-April billing); off-peak equipment charge, \$5.00/month per heat meter; off-peak electric heat rate, 4.7¢/kWh long-term control, 7.0¢/kWh short-term control.

## Recipe corner

#### **Apple Crisp Muffins**

- 2 c. all-purpose flour 1/3 c. packed brown sugar
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon 1 egg, beaten
- 1 c. 2% milk
- 1/2 c. canola oil
- 2 c. finely chopped peeled apples
- Filling:
- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- 2 Tbsp. maple syrup
- 4 tsp. grated orange peel
- 1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
- Topping:
- 1/4 cup all-pupose flour 1/4 cup old-fashioned oats
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/4 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 3 Tbsp. cold butter 1/4 cup chopped pecans
- In a larg bowl, combine the flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and cinnamon. In another bowl, combine egg, milk and oil. Stir into dry ingredients just until moistened. Fold in apples. Fill greased or paper-lined muffin cups three-fourths full.

In a small bowl, beat the filling ingredients until smooth. Drop by tablespoonfuls into centers of muffins.

For topping, in a small bowl, combine the flour, oats, brown sugar and cinnamon. Cut in butter until crumbly. Stir in pecans. Sprinkle over filling. Bake at 400 degrees for 16 to 20 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in muffin comes out clean. Cool for five minutes before removing from pan to wire rack. Yield: one dozen.

#### Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## **Operating Report**

MONTHLY COMPARISON

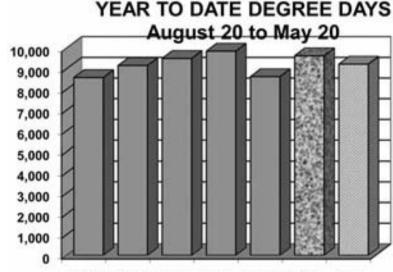
	APRIL	APRIL	
	2010	2011	
Total Revenue	884,154	\$ 1,148,232	
Total Margins\$	44,350	\$ (7,132)	
Cost of Power	620,820	\$ 888,642	
KWH's Purchased	0,871,375	12,362,420	
Capital Credits Paid to Estates\$	14,373	\$ 24,239	

#### YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

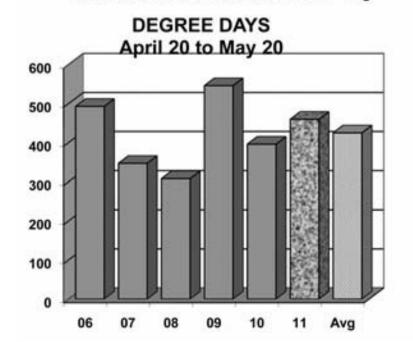
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## **DEGREE DAYS**

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.



05-06 06-07 07-08 08-09 09-10 10-11 Avg



#### **Amaretto Peach Parfaits**

4 egg whites 1/2 tsp. cream of tartar

1 c. sugar

Parfaits:

5 c. sliced peeled fresh or frozen peaches, thawed 1/4 c. sugar

1 Tbsp. plus 1/4 cup Amaretto, divided

1/2 c. cream cheese, softened 1 c. confectioners' sugar

2 c. heavy whipping cream

Optional toppings: toasted flaked coconut and/or sliced almonds.

In a large bowl, beat egg whites and cream of tartar on medium speed until soft peaks form. Gradually add sugar, 1 Tbsp. at a time, beating on high until stiff glossy peaks form and sugar dissolved.

Drop by heaping tablespoonfuls two inches apart onto parchment paperlined baking sheets. Bake at 250 degrees for 32 to 38 minutes or until firm to the touch. Turn oven off; leave meringues in oven for one hour. Remove from the oven and cool on baking sheets.

#### **Nectarine Barbecued Cornish Hen**

- 2 medium nectarines, peeled and sliced
- 2 Tbsp. ketchup
- 2 tsp. thawed orange juice concentrate 1 tsp. sugar
- 1/8 tsp. chili powder
- 2 Tbsp. finely chopped onion
- 1 tsp. olive oil
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 Cornish game hen (20 oz.), halved lengthwise
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper

In a food processor, combine the first five ingredients; cover and process until smooth

In a small skillet, saute onion in oil until tender. Add garlic; cook one minute longer. Stir in nectarine mixture and bring to boil; cook and stir for one minute

Sprinkle hen with salt and pepper. Using long-handled tongs, dip a paper towel in cooking oil and lightly coat the grill rack. Grill hen, covered, over medium heat for 20 to 25 minutes or until juices run clear, turning and basting occasionally with sauce. Yield: two servings.

#### **Rosemary Pork with Berry Port Sauce**

- 2 pork tenderloins (1 lb. each)
- 1 tsp. minced fresh rosemary or 1/2 tsp. dried rosemary, crushed
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. pepper
- Sauce:
- 1 shallot, finely chopped
- 1 tsp. olive oil 1-1/2 c. port wine or grape juice
- 1 c. reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 1/2 c. dried cherries

1 c. fresh or frozen blueberries

1/2 tsp. minced fresh rosemary or 1/4 tsp. dried rosemary, crushed Rub pork with oil; sprinkle with rosemary, salt and pepper. Place on a rack in a shallow roasting pan. Bake at 425 degrees for 20 to 30 minutes or until a meat thermometer reads 160 degrees.

Meanwhile, in a small saucepan, saute shallot in oil. Stir in the remaining sauce ingredients. Bring to a boil; cook until liquid is reduced by half. Cool slightly. Transfer to a blender; cover and process until blended.

Let pork stand for five minutes; slice and serve with sauce. Yield: eight servings.

#### More than keeping the lights on

From the beginning, electric cooperatives have had a simple goal: keep the lights on.

While that goal hasn't changed much over the years, the value of electricity continues to grow with each passing day.

Besides simply brightening up the dark, electricity warms our water, cools our food, cooks our meals and washes and dries our clothes. It powers televisions, computers, entertainment systems and other electronics. And it's available at a relatively

low price compared to other con-

sumer goods. A single dollar can power a refrigerator for a week, an average television for 48 hours or a laptop for 72 hours. Many of these services are provided for pennies per hour. Electricity has also supported

numerous advances in our community and provides many of the modern day conveniences that we often take for granted. Where would we be each morning without an alarm clock, a warm shower, or a cup of coffee before heading out the door?

On the way to work or school, street and traffic lights often guide us along the way. Upon arrival, electricity is there powering computers, printers, pop machines and many of the heating and air conditioning units.

These businesses, in turn, provide jobs and much-needed goods and services in the community. Electric cooperatives contribute to economic development in the very areas they serve.

Electricity from your co-op comes with the added benefit of member-owned service. Your electric cooperative operates on a notfor-profit basis under the direction of a democratically elected board of directors. This means that the sole motivation is to provide quality service at the lowest possible cost. It also means that you have a voice in how these services are delivered.

Recently, much has been made of the rising cost of electricity. However, it's important to understand the value that electricity brings to our lives - each and every day. When you flip that switch, remember that your electric cooperative is working hard to keep the lights on.

## **Electric vehicle sales** to grow in coming years

**Reprinted from Great River News** 

More than 1 million plug-in electric vehicles (PEV) could be on U.S. roads by 2015, according to a report from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

A similar report released by Pike Research estimates total PEV sales will reach almost 360,000 annually by 2017.

"The performance and cost effectiveness of the early [PEVs] in the market will be a major, but unknowable, factor in how many [PEVs] are on the road by 2015, the DOE report said. "The cumulative impacts of the various policy initiatives, the experience of the early purchasers of electric-drive vehicles and future oil prices will

Starting at 30¢

GAZETTE

105 Main Ave, Red Lake Falls

253-2594

all play a role in determining future consumer demand."

The DOE report notes that sales of hybrid vehicles have grown to nearly 3 percent of total annual light-duty vehicle sales, with more than 1.6 million sold over the past six years. Electric vehicles are expected to represent 2.4 percent of annual car sales by 2017, according to Pike Research, with the majority being sold in New York, California and Florida.

AND SATURDAY...

#### Chicken Stuffed with Walnuts, Apples & Brie

- 1/4 c. chopped onion
- 3 Tbsp. butter, divided
- 1/2 c. chopped peeled apple
- 2 Tbsp. chopped walnuts, toasted 1/8 tsp. dried rosemary, crushed
- Dash plus 1/4 tsp. salt, divided
- Dash plus 1/4 tsp. pepper, divided 2 boneless skinless chicken breast halves (6 oz. each)
- 1/8 tsp. garlic powder
- 2 oz. Brie cheese, cubed
- 1/4 c. cider vinegar
- 3/4 c. unsweetened apple juice, divided

1-1/2 tsp. cornstarch

In a large skillet, saute onion in 1 Tbsp. butter for one minute. Add apple; cook 2 to 3 minutes longer or until apple is golden brown. Remove from the heat; add walnuts, rosemary, and a dash of salt and pepper. Flatten chicken to 1/4 inch thickness; sprinkle with garlic powder and

remaining salt and pepper. Place apple mixture and Brie on half of each chicken breast; fold chicken over. Secure with toothpicks if necessary. In the same skillet, brown chicken in remaining butter. Stir in vinegar

and 1/4 cup apple juice. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and cook for 15 to 20 minutes or until a meat thermometer reads 170 degrees. Remove chicken to a serving platter; discard toothpicks. Combine corn-

starch and remaining apple juice; add to the pan. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for two minutes or until thickened. Serve with chicken. Yield: two servings.

#### **Apple Kolaches**

- 1 c. butter 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- 2 c. all-purpos flour
- 1-1/2 c. finely chopped peeled apples 1/4 tsp. ground cinnamon
- Icing:
- 1 c. confectioners' sugar
- 4-1/2 tsp. 2% milk 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- In a large bowl, beat butter, and cream cheese until light and fluffy. Gradually add flour and mix well. Divide dough into two portions; cover

and refrigerate for two hours or until easy to handle. In a small bowl, combine apples and cinnamon. On a lightly floured surface, roll one portion of dough into a 15 inch by 9 inch rectangle; cut into three-inch squares. Place a teaspoonful of apple mixture in the center of each square. Overlap two opposite corners of dough over filling; pinch tightly to seal.

Place two inches apart on ungreased baking sheets. Repeat with remaining dough and apple mixture. Bake at 400 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes or until bottoms are lightly browned. Cool for one minute before removing from pans to wire racks. Combine the icing ingredients; drizzle over kolaches. Yield: two and a half dozen.

#### **Electric miracle**



by Mark Glaess, Manager Minnesota Rural Electric Association

It's a story about a town visited by missionaries who in turn gave rise to rouge, extended daylight and formed a militia. It's a narrative sparked by a want ad and donation by a maybe, probably not, Presidential candidate. It's a new legend, on an old legend, about rural elec-

trification. It must be 15 years when a pastor by the name of Lucien Caleb traveled from his parsonage located in Pignon, Haiti to his wife's hometown in Alabama. Haiti is among the poorest countries in the world where life pretty much ends at 50. There is a correlation between life expectancy and electricity, which may or may not have ignited the pastor's interest when he read, quite by accident, an ad to sell a turbine to generate electricity.

The Pastor, perhaps thinking of the feeding of the 5,000 parable, or possibly he was just cheap, bid \$1. The seller, curious at a bid far below all others, inquired why. Caleb said his town needed electricity to provide lights for the kids, the hospital and maybe create a business or two. "Deal," said Donald Trump. Yes, that Donald

Trump. Nothing, of course, is ever easy and transporting a diesel engine from New York to Haiti is more difficult than most and costing a bit more than the buck paid. Still the Pastor hauled it across the ocean, paid what can charitably called "tribute," only to drag the better part of a locomotive over mountain roads into a shed. That's where it

stayed. Meanwhile, various missions to Pignon included an engineer by the name of Mike Callies. Upon introductions on the role of the mission the Pastor asked Callies, "by the way, what do you do?" The question led Mike, an engineer at Min-

Cash

Prizes!!

nesota Valley located in Jordan, to the shed where the answer was, "yes, I think we can do something with this."

That something was electrifying the town of Pignon by planting poles in the ground, stringing lines, and fulfilling the mission of the turbine all by hand and all reminiscent of what happened in Minnesota many decades earlier. Electricity sparked not one, but three beauty shops, lit up the town square, if not homework, and saw businesses sprout, including, conceivably, "made in Pignon, Haiti."

Sewing machines heretofore were operated by foot. Gwen Thomas, who is a VP at East Central Energy located in Braham, traveled to Pignon and showed how much faster those machines work with the on switch. Gwen is part of the Minnesota co-op traffic to Pignon to advise that co-op on everything from keeping the books to safely keeping the lights on.

Their co-op; 75 years later we tend to forget what that means. For the citizens of Pignon, it also meant arming themselves to prevent that country's civil war from tearing down their investment. Imagine that, or not, because with electrification, life expectancy grows by decades, as does income, educational achievement and knowing, at least in Pignon, children will have a better life than their parents.

Say what you will about climate change. What's indisputable is electrification be it from coal, natural gas, propane, or in the case of Pignon, Haiti, diesel fuel, transforms lives. Maybe that's why John Wesley, the theologian and father of the Methodist Church, once observed that "electricity is the soul of the universe." It could be the reason why Minnesota is a national leader when it comes to forming electric cooperatives elsewhere. Astonishingly, the Pignon effort has been replicated in 42 other countries. That's also the electric miracle of electric cooperatives.

## Little Miss 🚳 Junior Miss Summerfest Pageants Thursday, July 21, 7 p.m. Community Hall, Red Lake Falls

Little Miss: Open to girls ages 5-8; \$15 entry fee required.

Junior Miss: Open to girls ages 9-12; \$20 entry fee required.

For more information on the Pageants, please contact Destiny at 218-684-1169

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"Cookie Bake Off" 10:30 AM -12:00 PM \*\* First place prizes cash. Chocolate Drop Cookies or Oatmeal Cookies

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Contact Margaret Hamrum at Imhamrum@gvtel.com or 698-4449 (H)

12:00 p.m. BBQ Cook off check in begins - 1:00 p.m. BBQ Cook off Starts Contact Leah Larson at 268-4747 or rlcfair@yahoo.com 8:30 p.m. BBQ Cook off Judging begins\*\*\*\*judged by the public

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## **VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH**

## 35 years pass in growing an independent church

May 15, 2011 marked the 35th anniversary of Bible Baptist Church with a special celebration held at the recently expanded facility near Crookston.

The celebration included a song service prepared just for the occasion with several arrangements by members of the congregation's church choir. Guest speaker Dr, Charles Curtman, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in St. Louis, Missouri, addressed the audience. During the evening service, Dr. Curtman again spoke and delivered a message entitled "Patriotism and our Constitution in times like these."

After serving in the U.S. Navy, Dr. Curtman graduated from Missouri Baptist University and Saint Louis University. He has been in the ministry for over forty years.

Curtman's extended ministry includes preaching in special meetings, conferences and special events in many different parts of the country. He is an author and accomplished preacher.

The Bible Baptist Church began its ministry in 1976 as an offshoot of Bible Baptist Church of East Grand Forks where Richard Doss was assistant pastor. The church was looking for a place to start a daughter church and had current members from the Crookston area. These facts precipitated in Pastor Doss holding the first service on May 31, in the St. Joseph Academy building located at 314 Houston Avenue in Crookston.

The biggest obstacle was finding a place that people wanted to come to," commented Doss. "The small chapel on the third floor could hold about 100 people."

The church continued to meet at this location under the guidance of Pastor Doss until ten acres of land were purchased just east of Highland

Construction began in the spring of 1979, and the first service was held in the new facility in December of the same year. The old academy build-



2007 is modestly decorated and includes a choir area, full emersion baptismal font, pulpit areas and a technology booth. The booth contains the audio, video, and lighting equipment necessary to project sound, light the hall, show presentations and record video for the church archives.



Pastor Richard Doss ministers to the members of the congregation of Bible Baptist Church near Crookston along with the help of his wife Dorothy.

ing was razed a short time after the move to the new facility.

Over the past 35 years, the Bible Baptist Church has become an independent church and has experienced steady membership growth and, as a result, has undertaken several expansion projects. In 2001, a second building project was undertaken with the construction of a new Sunday School and office wing on the West side of the original building.

In the spring of 2007, a third building program was initiated which included the construction of an enlarged sanctuary, a larger nursery, an efficiency apartment for visiting guest speakers, and several additional classrooms. The original sanctuary was then renovated into a dining facility, and the Sunday School and office wing became a kitchen and large central fel-

Included in this program were numerous improvements and the expansion of the parking lot. Among the items specifically included for the growing ministry and the comfort of the members were technology improvements. The technology booth contains the audio, video, and lighting equipment necessary to project sound, light the hall, show presentations and record video for the church archives.

The nursery area is equiped with pagers that are checked out to parents enabling caregivers to contact the parent of a child needing extra supervi-

Modern "green" technology was applied to the newest building addition through the use of in-floor heat and efficient lighting with a minimum use of windows. All of the restrooms are modernized with automated fixtures. The dining area makes use of the former worship hall and is furnished with large, wooden, oval tables and wooden chairs among other appointments resembling the comforts of home.

Much of the work was done by contractors with some aspects being completed by members of the congregation such as the application of Nova Brick siding on the entire exterior of the facility.

"It's a nice building but not overdone." When asked how these building projects were able to be accomplished, Pastor Doss added, "The Lord first

and willing servants after that."

Many things have been accomplished by the Bible Baptist Church congregation in its 35-year history. When asked about the organization of the membership in order to accomplish these tasks by working together, member Craig Hoiseth simply stated, "We serve the Lord by serving others."

The church uses no formal hierarchy other than the guidance of Pastor Doss when it comes to decision making or getting the work done in building and maintaining the church and its grounds.

Along with the many expansion projects, the Bible Baptist Church has experienced steady ministry growth as well and has retaining Doss as pastor since the inception of the satellite church. Over the years the church has trained several young men for the work of the ministry, started other churches in the Red River Valley area, and is actively supporting mission-

In February of 2006, the church developed a weekly radio program named "Heavenly Sonlight" which can be heard over KROX each Sunday at 7:45 a.m. Recently, the 280th program was aired. A shortened, sevenminute edition of the program is aired over KROX each Wednesday at 5:35

The program was expanded to the Thief River Falls area and is also aired over KTRF each Sunday morning at 10:15. The 12-minute program includes special music and a brief message.

The church considers it a privilege to have ministered to the Crookston community and surrounding area for the past 35 years.



Assistant Pastor Matt Johnson, Bible Baptist Church Pastor Richard Doss and Cornerstone Baptist Church Pastor Dr. Charles Curtman were part of the ceremony celebrating the 35-year mark in the history of Bible Baptist Church near Crookston. Dr. Curtman served as a guest speaker during the event.



The exterior of the recently remodeled Bible Baptist Church indicates the various expansions over the 35-year history of the church. The new worship space looms tall in the foreground. The additions are seamlessly integrated into a modern yet modest facility with many amenities and useful application of technology.

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**VOLTS & JOLTS** June 2011

This three-phase pole was broken by strong winds. During restoration work the upper part of the pole was secured to the pole butt until the pole could be replaced at a later time.

## Pole replacements are never ending

Replacing poles throughout Red Lake Electric Cooperatives service territory is almost a daily accurrance. Poles need to be replaced; because of age, the need for greater clearance, for a service or line upgrade, due to being struck by farm implement or vehicle, because of a road rebuild, due to damage from wind or a storm. With nearly 40,000 poles in service, pole replacements are never ending for the Cooperative's line workers.

Right: Alan Cota, linecrew foreman, attaches a link stick to a phase wire as he prepares to un-tie all the wires on the damaged pole.





Two phase wires are tied-off and held out of the way, with link sticks, as part of the preparation to change out the pole.

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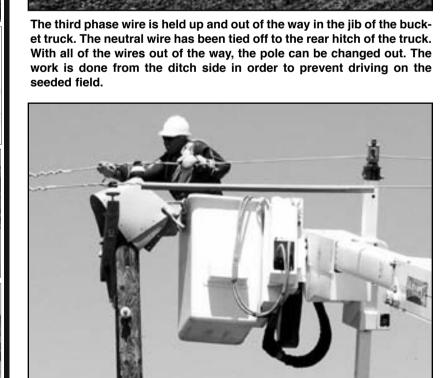
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The replacement pole is in place and Alan Cota ties-in the wires onto the insulators. Rubber blankets and sleeves are used to cover-up items of different potential from the wire he is working on. The process of changing out the pole takes place with each phase wire energized with 7,200 volts. There was no disruption of electrical service to any member during the change out. Another pole replaced, hopefully to serve 40 to 50 years or more.

#### **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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## **Bulbs die differently**

## Don't be fooled; a popping sound or smoke means a CFL's end-of-life mechanism works

Worried when you hear a compact fluorescent lightbulb (CFL) pop or sizzle? Despite confusion caused by an e-mail hoax circulating since April 2010, these sounds signal the bulb is working safely in its final hours. Smoke, a popping noise, and even a slight odor are typical and do not pose a fire risk as claimed in the misleading e-mail.

According to Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL), an independent not-for-profit firm that tests and sets minimum standards for electric-consuming items, about 130-150 million CFLs are sold every year in the U.S. While the bulbs produce 75 percent less heat than their incandescent cousins, differences between the bulbs go deeper than the amount of heat released. As the first wave of CFLs begins reaching the end of their lifespan, consumers are learning the bulbs die differently, too.

"As with any new product, it's important that consumers understand how it works," notes John Drengenberg, UL consumer affairs manager.

Most folks know traditional

incandescent lightbulbs tend to burn out the same way: a pop, a flash, and, when shaken, the familiar rattle confirming the bulb needs to be changed. With CFLs, light dims over time and the lamp may produce a more dramatic pop, emit a distinct odor, and even release some smoke. Sometimes the plastic at the base of a CFL will turn black, which is normal in most cases as safety standards require application of special flame-retardant plastics.

"CFLs are one of the products we regularly test to specific requirements for electrical safety, fire, and shock hazards," Drengenberg notes. "Any popping sounds or smoke that a consumer might see when a CFLs burns out means that the bulb's end-of-life mechanism worked as it should have."

Consumers should look for the UL mark on packaging when purchasing CFLs. "If a CFL carries the UL mark, consumers know we have investigated it to specific safety requirements," reports Drengenberg

For more information, visit www.safetyathome.com.

## Bone up on bone health for a healthier future

By Holly Israe

Poor bone health has become a widespread health problem. Instead of enjoying their "golden years," many seniors face curtailed activities and bouts with fractures.

"More than half of Americans over the age of 50 develop osteoporosis, and it's four times more common in women than men," stresses Dr. J. Edward Puzas, Ph.D., a professor of orthopedics at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York. "Once your bones become thinner and more fragile, you're more apt to suffer fractures. If you're elderly, this can be fatal."

Osteoporosis is linked to a lack of dietary calcium, which is critical to bone health. The average American consumes far less calcium than needed. Exercise is also essential to possessing strong bones.

Calcium is used by the body to form and maintain healthy bone tissue, and because 90 percent of our adult bone mass is already formed by the age of 17, healthy diets and active lifestyles are important from an early age. Kids need about 1,500 mg. of calcium per day. From around age 17, the process of maintaining healthy bones begins, and

calcium intake should be a minimum of 1,000 mg. per day through age 50. Calcium needs to return to 1,500 mg. per day for ages 50 and older, especially for postmenopausal women.

Various foods are high in calcium, such as dairy products - skim and 2 percent milk are just as rich in calcium as regular milk; deep green, leafy vegetables; soy; tofu; and almonds. Careful attention to food labels shows that certain items, such as some orange juices, cereal, and bread, are now fortified with calcium.

To determine how many milligrams per serving is in an item, find calcium listed on the food label, and add a zero to the Daily Value percentage. Many people turn to supplements to ensure enough calcium consumption, but a balanced diet is really better for overall health. Supplements must have added vitamin D, as this aids your body in getting the calcium to your bones.

Exercise is the second key to bone health because it causes new

bone tissue to grow and makes bones stronger. During weight-bearing exercise, muscles push and pull against the attached bones, strengthening them. Walking or running and weight training are great for bone health. Adults need 30 minutes of exercise per day, while children need 60 minutes each day.

No matter what age, taking steps to achieve a well-balanced diet and active lifestyle are essential to healthy bones and an all-around healthy body.

## Slay energy vampires with smart strips

#### Continued from page one

How do you slay other energy vampires? Try plugging household electronics like personal computers, monitors, printers, speakers, stereos, DVD and video game players, and cell phone chargers into power strips. Not only do power strips protect sensitive electronic components from power surges, you can quickly turn off several items at once. (Routers and modems also can be plugged into power strips, although they take longer to reactivate.)

Smart Strips = Easy Savings Power strips, however, are often hidden behind entertainment centers or under desks and forgotten. A bet-

ter solution may be found in "smart

strips." Most smart strips feature three outlet colors, each with a unique task. The blue outlet serves as a control plug, and is ideal for a heavily used device like a TV or computer. Anything plugged into red outlets stays on—electricity to these receptacles never cuts off—making them perfect for satellite boxes or other appliances that need constant power.

The remaining outlets generally

The remaining outlets, generally neutral or green in color, are sensitive (4313001.03 Travis and Tanya Harbott) to current flowing through the blue outlet, so turning off the TV or computer cuts power to them as well. Some smart power strips can be made even smarter with timers or

occupancy sensors that determine when to cut power to various devices.

Smart strips are available online or at specialty electronic retailers and generally cost \$20 or more depending on their size. Payback generally can be achieved in under one year, depending on the type of equipment the strips control and how often they are used.

Maybe our parents asked us to turn the TV off because vampires, phantoms, and parasites haunted their electric bills. These days, smart strips can chase these load monsters away from your home—and your pocketbook.

# Can you help us locate any of the following?

The following people have capital credit refunds due them. Checks mailed to their last-known address have been returned by the Postal Service. If you can provide a current address for someone who is listed or the name and address of an heir if they are deceased, call or write Red Lake Electric Cooperative, PO Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750; 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068.

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# What do the Declaration of Independence and electric cooperatives have in common?

When Benjamin Franklin signed the Declaration of Independence, he is credited with saying, "We must, indeed, all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately." That recognition of the need to work together may also be why Franklin, in 1752, founded the first successful cooperative in the United States, the Philadelphia Contributionship for the Insurance of Houses from Loss by Fire, which still operates today.

The principles behind the Declaration of Independence that form the basis of American democracy also form the basis of cooperatives. A cooperative is owned and democratically controlled by the people who use its services. Each member has one vote regardless of their stake; that is, some members can not buy more control than anyone else. This stands in stark contrast to investor-owned businesses where only shareholders have a vote in how the business is run; and even among shareholders, some have more votes than others depending on their shares of stock

The Declaration of Independence declared the equality of rights of its citizens and that people had the right to organize to secure their futures when their rights were infringed upon. At the time the

Declaration was written, democracy was a pretty untested idea - but the founders of our country were determined to make it work.

So when you celebrate the many liberties and rights we enjoy with our families and friends this year, think about those principles that inspired our Founding Fathers. They also inspired the pioneers who established electric coopera-

tives - folks who were determined to provide safe, reliable, and affordable power to secure the futures of rural communities.

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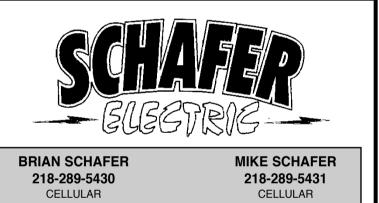


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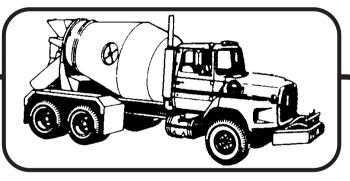






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Shop: (218) 253-4123 Home: (218) 253-4127

#### 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

We Sell We Buy Cars and Welding Supplies Car Bodies We Sell We Buy Aluminum

Cans

Roll-Off Boxes **Available** 

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:

## HELP! HELP!

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

Classic Cleaner

**X** Carpets **☒** Pet Stains

**▼** Upholstery **☒** Odor Control

*Greg* ☑ Ceilings & Walls ☑ Air Duct Cleaning **⋈** Emergency Water & Smoke Damage

call: (218) 681-7679

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

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

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

Please PRIN'

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

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

VOLTS & JOLTS June 2011



#### Wire reels to be given away

Red Lake Electric Cooperative has wire reels to be given away on a first-come, first-serve basis. The reels can be picked up at the Cooperative's headquarters in Red Lake Falls Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



#### Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

Phone
Toll-free
Fax
After-hour outage
Office hours
E-mail:
Web site

218-253-2168 1-800-245-6068 218-253-2630 218-253-2200 Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:30 redlake@minnkota.com www.redlakeelectric.com

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

## **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 weekend 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.

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



802 Third Street West . Thief River Falls, MN