

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. 47 - NO. 9

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

JUNE 2012

Brett Knott achieves journeyman

Brett Knott, right, was presented his journeyman lineman's certificate by Red Lake Electric Cooperative's manager of operations Bob Guillemette. Knott recently achieved his journeyman's status after four years of apprentice work, studies and tests. He began his employment with Red Lake Electric in May of 2008.



Milton R. Young Station

North Dakota's air quality receives 'A' grade

The American Lung Association's "State of the Air" Annual Report for 2012 gave eight North Dakota counties "A" grades for lack of ozone, also known as smog. One of the eight is Oliver County, where Minnkota's Milton R. Young Station is located.

Oliver County and Mercer County, which also received an "A" grade, are home to five of the state's seven power plants and the ligniteto-natural gas Great Synsfuel Plant. In addition to the counties, Bismarck (3725004.01 James Sorter) ranked as one of the cleanest cities in the nation for ozone and lack of particulates, also known as dust. Fargo was also among the top 25 cleanest cities for lack of particu-

In compiling the annual report each of the past 13 years, the lung association used local data that was submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency. This year's report covers the years 2008 to

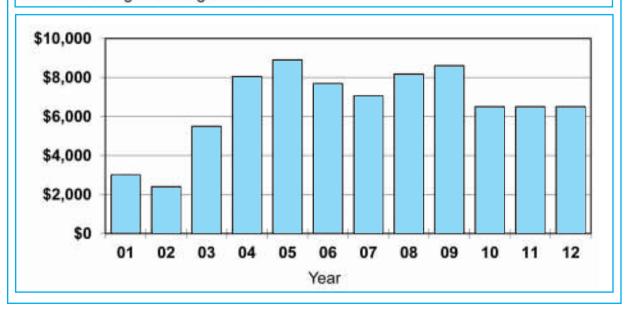
The lung association is not alone in its assessment of North Dakota's air quality. The EPA has designated North Dakota as one of only nine states to meet all of the nation's strict federal ambient air quality standards.

Utilities in North Dakota have invested nearly \$2 billion in technology to help protect the environment. Approximately \$425 million has been invested in environmental improvements at the Young Station in the last six years.

QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

The graph below shows the amount of money Red Lake Electric Cooperative has given in scholarships to our service area high school graduates for the past twelve years. The majority of this scholarship money is funded by unclaimed Capital Credits paid out by Red Lake Electric Cooperative. The ability of Red Lake Electric Cooperative to use these unclaimed Capital Credits this way was a privilege given to all Minnesota Cooperatives in 1987. Prior to that time, these monies were handed over to the state. We think this law change was a good one and are happy Red Lake Electric Cooperative can use this money to provide scholarships for our service area high school graduates.



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 10 recipients this year with each student receiving \$500.

The funds for these scholarships (7226005.08 Robin Hulst) come from unclaimed capital credits.

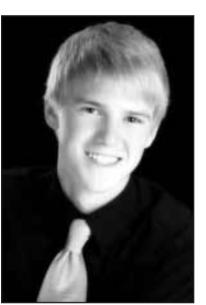
Congratulations and best wishes to these scholarship recipients.



COURTNEY KROHN Marshall County Central Ken Krohn and Cheri Bjorgaard Viking



TYLYNN MCKEEVER Badger/Greenbush/Middle River Ralph and Betsy McKeever Middle River



NATHAN BATES Lincoln High School Troy and Christine Bates Thief River Falls



EMALYNN DAHL Lincoln High School Steven and JoyAnn Dahl Plummer



ETHAN PETERSON Lincoln High School David and Betty Peterson Thief River Falls



BREANNA COLUMBUS Lafayette High School Bruce and Pam Columbus Red Lake Falls



TYRELL HAMRUM Red Lake County Central Lowell and Margaret Hamrum **Brooks**



KENSIE HAUGEN Goodridge High School Rory and Dawn Haugen Goodridge



MOLLIE KANTEN Crookston High School Erik and Judie Kanten Crookston



AMY GLASS Win-E-Mac High School Darin and Melanie Glass Mentor

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Hofstad Memorial Scholarship



Manager's **Comments**

by Roger Johanneck



Uncertainty, expectations and energy sales

I have a book page-marker that was given to me by one of my high school teachers years ago and on it is the words "uncertainty and expectations are the joys in life." At the time I received the bookmark, I remember thinking there was plenty of uncertainty in my life. Our country was at war in Vietnam and I had a low draft number that had my attention. Should I go to college or find a job? I was at that age where more decisions would have to made on my own. As I pondered the new page-marker and how it applied to the uncertainty going on in my life, I questioned the wisdom of those words, but not of my teacher. I must be having one heckuva joyful time I thought, I just didn't realize it!

"Uncertainy and expectations" would also be a fitting title for most budget reports; I know it would for the budget we prepare (5502002.06 Charles Naplin) each year for your Cooperative. Figuring out how much energy members will use is not an exact science, and has proven to be even more of a challenge the past few years. Weather, of course, is a big factor; the colder the winter, the more energy needed to heat our homes and businesses. What has added to the uncertainty of budgeting energy sales is the amount of grain storage, aeration and drying equipment that has been added throughout our service area.

Wet (or dry) weather during harvest time can impact your cooperatives energy sales. For example, last fall was very dry and there was very little energy used for aeration or drying. The conservation improvement program (CIP) mandate that started in 2007 has also created a new variable to our energy sales projections. How much have energy conservation habits and energy efficient replacements of heating, cooling and lighting and other appliances impacted our individual energy bills? The economy, while doing better here than many parts of our country, has also impacted the demand for and price of energy in the wholesale market place.

With five months records in the books here at your Cooperative, we see the impact of a warmer than normal winter, and the effects of what conservation and energy efficiency have had on your cooperative's energy sales. Energy sales are down 11 million kilowatt-hours (about 15 percent) at the same point from a year ago. History has shown modest increases and decreases from year to year but overall, energy sales to members has increased over 60 percent from 1980 to 2011.

Why are sales down significantly? This is an important question and one that members of the Minnkota systems are trying to answer. Is this a temporary drop in energy needs by member systems that is mostly tied to the recent warm winter? How much of the drop in energy sales is not weather related and due to conservation measures members have made in their homes and businesses that will have a long term impact?

What about future efficiency measures; how should your cooperative and our supplier of energy plan for that? According to a recent survey of U.S. consumers regarding electric bills, 83 percent of consumers polled took steps to cut electric bills the past year versus 68 percent the year before. Seventy Seven percent believe they have done everything possible to keep their bill down; 65 percent plan to use the same amount of energy in the future; 28 percent believe they will use less energy and 8 percent

think they will use more. With low energy prices in the wholesale marketplace, there is little financial benefit for Minnkota to sell its excess energy into the power pool. Selling excess energy over long term contracts with other utilities provides a better opportunity for Minnkota to generate revenue from (7029004.02 Craig Chaput) outside of its member systems. It is a prospect that will help keep rates in check for all of Minnkota's member systems, and in turn for our membership if a deal can be trans-

Finding the right balance of adequate power supply while managing a load control system within control hours acceptable to the members, and keeping rates in check is the continual task at hand for your energy provider.

Member Service Department

by Kevin Reich

Water heater

Operating Costs

Aside from space heating equipment, the water heater in your home is probably the greatest energy user. The water heater supplies hot water for personal use, laundry, cooking and dishwashing. It may also need to supply hot water for the hot tub or Jacuzzi.

So what is the cost of operating the water heater? If your home is equipped with an electric water heater, the typical household will use approximately 125 kilowatt hours (kWh) per month, per household member. A family of four will average about 500 kWh per month; 500 kWh at \$.10 per kWh amounts to \$50. This tells you reducing hot water usage would have a direct impact on your monthly electric statement.

Change Outs

Probably the most commonly asked question we receive pertaining to water heaters is, "My electric water heater is 15 to 20 years old; should I change it out with a more efficient unit?" My answer to this is, "If the water heater is working properly, no."

Yes most water heaters purchased today would be more efficient than your current unit but the (0536009.01 Gordon L. Nelson) costs associated with the change out cannot be justified. The only way a water heater is more efficient than your current unit is in the tank insulation. The elements and thermostat are not able to be made more efficient.

In our northern Minnesota climate, most years we heat the space of our homes eight or nine months of the year. Any heat loss from the water heater tank is captured within the home. The typical 50 gallon water heater change out will cost between \$450 and \$600. Therefore the payback because of heat loss reduction cannot be justified.

Tankless Type

For the last few years there has been more advertising in reference to tankless water heaters. Therefore another frequently asked question is, "Should I install a tankless water heater?" Again my answer is no.

Most tankless whole-house water heaters are capable of raising

the water temperature about 80°. Again, because of our northern location, most well water is 40° to 45°. Raising the temperature 80° provides 120° to 125° water. This would not be satisfactory for most home owners or occupants.

In order to properly size a tankless water heater a "flow needs" test would have to be performed. A typical household test would probably determine that due to the flow needs a 22 to 27 kilowatt (KW) electric water heater would be needed. An electric water heater of this size would require an additional 125 amps or more of electrical service in the home. Again, this is not a justifiable option for the average home.

Without getting into details, I can also say tankless whole-house electric water heaters are very detrimental to the Cooperative's electric system having a big effect on the Cooperative's electrical demand. Tankless whole-house water heaters are contradictory to our load-management program. Many utilities do not allow tankless, whole-house electric water heaters.

Rebates

"Are there rebates for electric water heaters?" The answer is yes on qualifying models. As part of Red Lake Electric's Conservation Improvement Program, a member can receive a \$150 rebate if they install a water heater with a capacity of 80 gallons or greater and an energy factor of .91 or greater. The water heater must also be controlled under the Cooperative's load management program.

In most cases a water heater purchase is not going to be made to get the rebate. Most households do not require a stored supply of 80 gallons or more of hot water. The Cooperative's current load management program does not support the need for a greater capacity water heater in most households. If your home's hot water needs require a greater capacity water heater, yes, go for the rebate otherwise the additional expense of a large capacity water heater cannot be justified.

If you have questions concerning water heaters and your household hot water needs, call us at 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068.

Until next time, have an enjoyable, fun-filled, safe summer.

Agassiz Refuge celebrates 75 years

Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) will celebrate their 75th anniversary Saturday, June 23. Events will be scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon and will include a bird walk, a management tour, and children's activi-

Agassiz NWR was established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1937 as Mud Lake Migratory Waterfowl Refuge. Its primary purpose was to be "a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife." Although its original focus was on waterfowl, over the years, other migratory birds and year-round resident wildlife, including mammals such as moose, deer, and wolves have received an increasing emphasis in Refuge management. In 1961, the Refuge's name was changed to Agassiz NWR, after the vast, ancient body of water - Glacial

Lake Agassiz - that produced the exceedingly flat terrain which characterizes the area today.

Agassiz is comprised of a diversity of habitats, which in turn support a wide diversity of resident and migratory wildlife, including 300 species of birds, 49 species of mammals, 12 species of amphibians, and nine species of reptiles.

Public use opportunities at Agassiz include a four-mile selfguided auto drive, three hiking trails, an observation deck, and a 100-foot observation tower.

Refuge Headquarters is located 11 miles east of Holt on Marshall County Road 7 (290th St. NE). Due to the replacement of the Thief River Bridge on County Road 7, visitors will need to follow an alternate route to get to the refuge. For alternate directions and more information, call 218-449-4115. Regular office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.





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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.

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 driveup 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 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 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

following:

In case your electricity goes out, please do the

1. Check your fuses or breakers at the yard pole or meter pedestal.

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

3. Call the RLEC office (218-253-2168 or 1-800-245-6068) during working hours or 218-253-2200 after hours. We will accept collect calls for outages only.

METER TESTS

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

STOPPED METERS

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

METER READINGS

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

GENERAL SERVICE RATES

Facilities charge variable \$27 to \$35 month April-December9.5¢ Kwh Multiphase users add \$22/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: high pressure sodium, \$8/month;

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

WE PROUDLY PRESENT TO YOU

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

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employees, our community and our environment in high regard.

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.

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RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.

(USPS 663-400)

VOLTS & JOLTS

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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

_	Bonnie Christians
	Robert FinstadRobert Finstad
DIRECTORS	Kelly Lundeen,
	Steven Linder, Peter Mosbeck,
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Subscription Rate	\$2.50 per year

NOTICE

ROGER JOHANNECK

General Manager

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

your electric bill.

Recipe corner

Spring Fruit Salad

- 1 can (11 oz.) mandarin oranges, drained
- 1 c. flaked coconut, toasted
- 1 c. miniature marshmallows
- 1 can (8 oz.) pineapple tidbits, drained
- 1 c. (8 oz.) sour cream
- 2 Tbsp. chopped walnuts
- 1 Tbsp. brown sugar Fresh mint, optional

In a bowl, combine the mandarin oranges, coconut, marshmallows, pineapple tidbits and sour cream; mix well. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Just before serving, sprinkle with walnuts and brown sugar. Garnish with fresh mint if desired. Yield: 6 servings.

Blueberry Orange Bread

- 2 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 egg
- 1/2 c. orange juice
- 1/3 c. water
- 2 Tbsp. butter or margarine, melted 2 Tbsp. grated orange peel
- 3/4 c. fresh or frozen blueberries

In a large bowl, combine the first five ingredients. In another bowl, combine egg, orange juice, water, butter and orange peel. Add to dry ingredients just until combined. Fold in the blueberries. Pour into a greased and floured 8-inch by 4-inch by 2-inch loaf pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 65 to 70 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes; remove from pan to a wire rack. Yield: 1 loaf.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Operating Report

MONTHLY COMPARISON

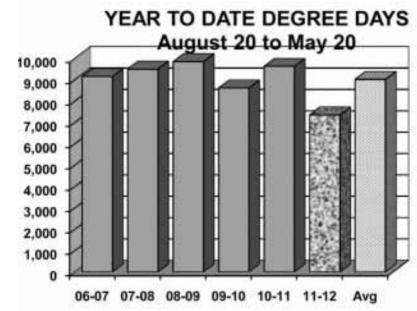
APRIL		APRIL
2011		2012
,148,232	\$	1,004,615
(7,132)	\$	38,190
888,642	\$	743,321
,362,420		9,721,040
24,239	\$	23,493
•	2011 148,232 (7,132) 888,642 ,362,420	2011 148,232 \$ (7,132) \$ 888,642 \$

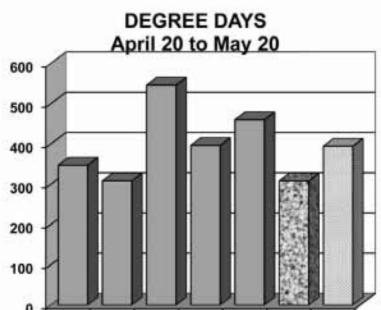
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

A	PRIL 2011	APRIL 2012
Total Revenue \$ 5,128	3,663 \$	5,222,468
Total Margins\$ 654	1,026 \$	662,739
Cost of Power \$ 3,442	2,990 \$	3,603,885
KWH's Purchased	3,865	52,534,745
New Service Connections	5	5
Customers Served 5	5,196	5,209
Capital Credits Paid to Estates\$ 37	7,012 \$	40,712
Miles of Line		
Overhead 2	2,324	2,324
Underground	239	245

DEGREE DAYS

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





06-07 07-08 08-09 09-10 10-11 11-12 Avg

Crispy Baked Cauliflower

- 4 c. califlowerets 6 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 1/4 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/4 tsp. paprika
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 2-1/2 c. cornflakes, crushed
- 2 egg whites

Place cauliflower in a saucepan with a small amount of water. Cover and cook for 5 to 10 minutes or until crisp-tender; drain. In a small resealable plastic bag, combine flour, garlic powder, paprika and pepper. Place cornflake crumbs in another resealable bag. Lightly beat egg whites in a shallow bowl. Toss the cauliflowerets one at a time in flour mixture, then roll in egg whites and coat with crumbs. Place on a baking sheet coated with non-stick cooking spray. Bake at 425 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes or until golden brown. Serve immediately. Yield: 6 servings.

Oriental Cauliflower

- 1 medium head cauliflower, broken into florets
- 3 Tbsp. cold water, divided
- 1/2 c. diced celery
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1/4 c. minced fresh parsley 1 Tbsp. butter or margarine
- 1 c. hot water
- 1 Tbsp. chicken bouillon granules
- 2 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 1 Tbsp. soy sauce
- Dash pepper

Place cauliflower in a microwave-safe dish. Add 1 tablespoon cold water. Cover and microwave on high for 6 to 7 minutes or until tender; drain and set aside. In a 1-quart microwave-safe bowl, combine celery, onion, parsley and butter. Cover and microwave on high for 1 to 2 minutes or until vegetables are tender. In a small bowl, combine hot water and bouillon until dissolved. In another small bowl, combine the cornstarch and remaining cold water until smooth. Add soy sauce, pepper and bouillon; mix well. Stir into celery mixture. Microwave, uncovered, at 70 percent power for 3 to 4 minutes or until sauce comes to a boil, stirring after each minute. Pour over cauliflower. Yield: 4 to 6 servings.

Fresh Blueberry Pie

- 3/4 c. sugar 3 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 1/4 c. cold water
- 5 c. fresh blueberries, divided 1 Tbsp. butter or margarine
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 pastry shell (9 in.), baked

In a saucepan over medium heat, combine sugar, cornstarch, salt and water until smooth. Add 3 cups blueberries. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened and bubbly. Remove from heat. Add butter, lemon juice and remaining berries; stir until butter is melted. Cool. Pour into the pastry shell. Refrigerate until serving. Yield: 6 to 8 servings.

Summer Berry Cheese Pie

- 1 pint fresh strawberries, sliced, divided
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 2/3 c. sugar, divided
- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- 1 tsp. grated lemon peel
- 1 graham cracker crush (9 in.)
- 2 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 3 to 4 drops red food coloring, optional
- 1 pint fresh blueberries

In a bowl, combine half the strawberries and lemon juice; mash berries. Add 1/3 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar; set aside. In a mixing bowl, combine cream cheese, lemon peel and remaining sugar. Spread into the crust. In a saucepan, combine cornstarch and reserved strawberry mixture until blended. Bring to a boil; boil and stir for 2 minutes. Stir in food coloring if desired. Cool slightly. Fold in blueberries and remaining strawberries. Spread over cream cheese mixture. Cover and refrigerate for at least 3 hours. Yield: 6 to 8 servings.

Grilled Three-Cheese Potatoes

Note: While this is delicious grilled, it can also be cooked in the oven at 350 degrees for an hour. Add cubed ham to it and you can serve it as a fullmeal main dish.

- 6 large potatoes, sliced 1/4-inch thick
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 1/3 c. grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 c. (4 oz.) shredded sharp cheddar cheese, divided 1 c. (4 oz.) shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
- 1 lb. sliced bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1/4 c. butter or margarine, cubed
- 1 Tbsp. minced fresh or dried chives
- 1 or 2 tsp. seasoned salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper

Divide the potatoes and onions equally between two pieces of heavyduty foil (about 18-inch square) that have been coated with nonstick cooking spray. Combine parmesan cheese and 3/4 c. each cheddar and mozzarella; sprinkle over potatoes and onions. Top with bacon, butter, chives, seasoned salt and pepper. Bring opposite ends of foil together over filling and fold down several times. Fold unsealed ends toward filling and crimp tightly. Grill, covered, over medium heat for 35 to 40 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Remove from the grill. Open foil carefully and sprinkle with remaining cheeses. Yield: 6 to 8 servings.

Rhubarb-Strawberry Sauce

- 1 lb. fresh or frozen rhubarb, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 jar (12 oz.) currant jelly
- 2 c. sliced fresh or frozen strawberries

In a large saucepan over medium heat, bring rhubarb and jelly to a boil, stirring frequently. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 8 to 10 minutes or until rhubarb is tender. Remove from heat. Mash with a potato masher. Stir in the strawberries and sugar; bring to a boil. Cook and stir for 1 minute. Remove from heat; cool. Pour into freezer containers; refrigerate or freeze. Serve as a side dish or over ice cream or waffles. Yield: 2 pints.

From the Mail Bag

Dear RLEC:

Thank you so much for the scholarship to put towards my college education. I greatly appreciate it, and it will certainly help out.

Thanks again, **Ethan Peterson Thief River Falls**

Dear RLE Trust:

We would like to thank you for considering and awarding us the \$500 grant for our Veterans' Memorial construction. We will finish phase one of our Memorial by late summer; work on phase two will begin this fall and next year. Thanks again for your generous

Aldon Hyland, President **Goodridge Veterans' Memorial Park Committee**

Dear RLEC:

The help we received in moving a grain bin was very much appreciated. Response to my request was very prompt. Keep up the good work.

> Paul M. Hanson Crookston

Dear RLEC:

I am writing to offer our sincerest thanks for the generosity you have shown to hungry children, seniors and families in northwest and west central Minnesota through the CHS Harvest for Hunger cam-

Your gift is already hard at work making a profound difference in the lives of many struggling neighbors who depend on North Country Food Bank, Inc. to sustain them through difficult times.

We truly appreciate your compassion for the hungry and your support of North Country Food Bank, Inc.

Thank you again for caring. Together we are making real progress in the fight against hunger. Susie Novak

Crookston

Dear RLE Operation Round-Up: Thank you for helping us with our annual RLCC health fair. The families always like the variety of booths and items we have to give away.

Margaret Hamrum JoyAnn Dahl Susan Lee **Anita Bachand** Joni Bjerklie

Executive Director

North Country Food Bank

Honda MUV/ATV June ATV Bonus Bucks Rancher 420 4x4 Foreman 500 4x4 \$300

Call for Details!

Rubicon 500 4x4

Rincon 680 4x4



\$500

\$8,599

New Street Cycles

2012 CBR 250R 2012 250 Rebel \$4,199 \$7,699 \$7,999 2012 VT 750 Phantom 2012 VT 750 Spirit 2012 VT 1300 Touring \$11,849 2012 Goldwing On Display 2010 Sabre 1300 2010 Stateline 1300 \$9,499

2011 Fury 1300 \$11,149 2009 CRF 230M \$3,899 2012 Cycles & ATVs Now Arriving

2010 NT 700 Sport

NEW Off Road*

2012 CRF 50 2012 CRF 70 \$1,849 2012 CRF 80 \$2,329 2009 CRF 100F **SOLD** \$2,599 2009 CRF 150F \$3,299

Used Motorcycles

2001 Goldwing 1800 w/acc \$9,999 2003 Goldwing 1800 w/acc \$12,999 2006 VTX 1300 w/acc \$6,899 2007 VTX 1300 w/acc 2008 CRE 100F (Warr) \$2,099 2010 750 Shadow \$6,499



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- Pit Run Fill Sand: heachflorits, playgrounds, has some small rock in it Washed Sand: for floor heat, supply mound systems, and beaches
- Pea Rock: for drain fields, strain file, playgrounds
- 1" Round Landscape Rock 1" Crushed Rock w/Crusher Fines: orgoon, parking lots, in Fort of
- 9. 5" Dirty Rock: soft roads, frost bods, base material for around water tarries 10. 1" Crushed Rock: for purking areas, wood bissements, drain like
- 12. 1 %" Dirty Rock: soft roads, foot balls, base material for around water brike 13. 1 %" Round Landscape & Sewer Rock: landscaping & septic drain falcs 14. 1 %" Rail Road Ballets: 75% crushed rock, lambscape mox

11. 1 % Crushed Rock: Instacoping

15, 1 - 3" Roond Landscape Rock

16. 2 - 4" Round Landscape: landscaping 17. 2-4" Dirty Rock: erosion, deep must holes & soft areas

18. 3-6" Round Landscape Rock

- 19. Class (Rip Rap (2 9") landscape, receion proframs 20. Clave I Modified Rip Rap (4 - 9') londscape, erosion problem 21. Class II Rip Rap (4 - 12") lendacque, erosioo problems
- 22. Class II Modified Rip Rap (6 12") Tandacape, protein
- 23. Class III Rip Rap (4 16") terriscape, erosios problem 24. Class III Modified Rlp Rap (12 - 18"), [12 - 24") Iandacape, entitio
- 25. Class IV Rip Rap (4 24") tarcheage, erosion problem
- 26. Class IV Modified Rip Rep (10 24") Tentscope, erosion problems 27. Boulders 24" (*) lendscrips, crosion problems
- 28. Fill Dire/Dirt Stripping: cheep dirt. 29. Black Dirt Top Soil: vary size golf det, no rocks 30. Peat

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VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Century Farm status given to Schafer family

By Heather Blodgett

Brian and Teresa Schafer's farm has been honored as a Century Farm this year by the Minnesota State Fair and the Minnesota Farm Bureau. To be bestowed with this honor, a farm must be continuously owned by a family for at least 100 years, be at least 50 acres in size, and currently involved in agricultural production.

Brian's great-grandparents, John and Sophie Zornig, purchased the farm in 1912 for \$28 an acre. They moved to Red Lake Falls from Davenport, Iowa with their three children, Harry, Jim and Velma. John, a masonry and concrete worker, built the homestead and started farming.

They farmed the land until John's death in 1943 when it passed to their son Harry. Harry continued farming and eventually passed the farm to his daughter Judy and her husband Robert Schafer in 1982. They then farmed on the land, with the help of their sons, Brian and Mike.

Brian and Teresa purchased the farm in 2003. They soon tore down the original house and rebuilt on the same

"Farming is an escape, it's enjoyable to do. -Brian Schafer

continued to the farm with the help of his sons until his

site. Robert

retirement, in which Brian and Mike took over Schafer Farms together. The brothers also farm land near Mike's home east of Red Lake Falls.

Over the years, the farm has grown soybeans, corn, wheat and barley as well as raised dairy cattle, sheep, pigs and chickens. Currently Brian and Mike grow wheat, soybeans and corn.

Brian feels the family connection to the farm. "I remember coming out here when we were kids," he said. He still has his grandfather Harry's tractors which include a number two and a number three Farmer's Union Co-op and an 8N Ford, which he hopes to restore one day.

Brian and Teresa saved a few items from the original farmhouse, including a granite shelf that Brian's greatgrandfather John made and a framed print dating back to 1824.

"I've always wanted to move out here," said Brian, "I've always liked it out here." They both enjoy the perks of country life that they get to share with their three girls, Paige, 7, Kayla, 4, and Becca, 1. "It's quiet out here," said Teresa. "It's nice to be able to take the kids for a bike ride."

The family gets to enjoy a lot of wildlife around the farm, especially birds and frogs. "There was the noise of the frogs when we moved out here," said Teresa, "We'd sleep with the windows open and freeze so we could hear the frogs."

Brian also points out how unique the landscape is. Browns Creek meanders around the homestead and the buildings, separating it from the rest of the land. The fields are also sloped towards the creek and offer natural drainage.

As for the farming, "It's an escape," he said, "It's enjoyable to do." Both Brian and Teresa say that their girls enjoy going out in the tractor or combine and seeing how everything grows. "It's in his blood," said Teresa of Brian's choice to continue to operate the farm.

Although they enjoy the farm, there are challenges like worrying about the weather or dealing with market fluctuations that determine the price of the product. Brian and Mike also run Schafer Electric together and Teresa is employed at St. Joseph Catholic Church, so finding time to farm while working full-time can be difficult.

Brian explains that he sometimes has to sacrifice family time, but often tries to blend the two by bringing his girls out in the tractor. Teresa helps by bringing meals out to the field, running for parts, and shuttling Brian and Mike between the two farms. Brian hopes that one day one of his daughters will want to continue to farm and carry on the family tradition.

The Schafers will be honored this summer by a sign commemorating their status as a Century Farm, as well as a certificate recognizing the farm by the Minnesota State Fair, the Minnesota Farm Bureau, and the Governor of Minnesota.



The farm operated by Brian and Teresa Schafer was recently designated as a Century Farm by the Minnesota State Fair and the Minnesota Farm Bureau.

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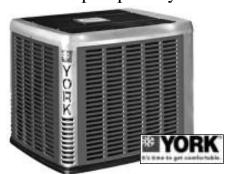
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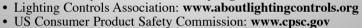
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Informational Web Sites

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













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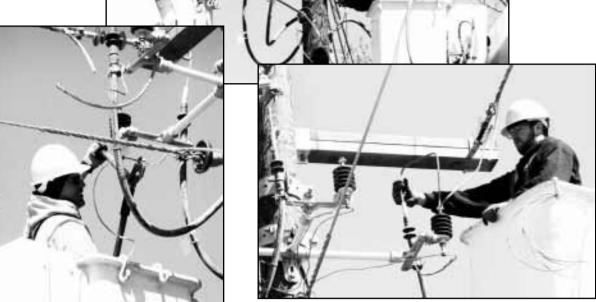
Ditch 1 reroute is cause for powerline rebuild

The reroute of Pennington County Ditch 1, on the south edge of Thief River Falls, was cause for Red Lake Electric Cooperative to redo the powerlines in the area. Approximately half a mile of threephase overhead line was rebuilt and a quarter mile of three-phase underground line was replaced. Approximately quarter of a mile of singlephase overhead line was rebuilt and a quarter mile of single-phase overhead line was replaced with singlephase underground. The ditch reroute was a Red Lake Watershed project so the costs to redo the powerlines were paid by the Water-

Right: Troy Schmitz uses a crimp tool to make one of many ground connections on the riser pole.

Below: Brett Knott, left, and Troy Schmitz work on a double deadend, two-way feed, three-phase pole as part of the line rebuild for the Ditch 1 project. The two-way feed allows for the line to be fed from two different directions. This allows for greater dependability and serviceability.

Right: Troy Schmitz, left, and Sam Pahlen work to make the many terminations and connections on a new three-phase riser pole as part of the line rebuild for the ditch project.



Above: Sam Pahlen prepares to connect the jumper wire between the terminal pin on the end of the underground wire to a lightning arrestor on the riser pole.



Trudell Contracting of Warren was contracted by Red Lake Electric to replace the underground for the Ditch 1 project. Trudell's cable plow crosses a township gravel road as all three underground cables are placed approximately 40 inches below the surface.



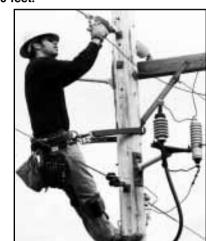
Trudell Contracting uses their boring machine to bore under the new channel for the ditch and a county tar road. Once the bore span has been completed, the underground wires are attached to the end of the bore pipe and pulled back through the bored hole as the bore pipe is retracted. This bore had to be 15 feet below the surface as the cut for the new ditch channel was to be 10 feet.



Right: This is the completed two-way feed pole showing the cut-outs on the under side of the upper cross arms. Normally, the cut-outs will be in an open position. If a problem occurs up-line on either of the feeds, the cut-outs can be closed to back feed a line from the other direction.



Aaron Derosier, foreground, and Casey Thronson work to make the terminations and connections in the new underground transformer cabinet in the yard of Gary Anderson. With the work in the area, for the Ditch 1 project, Anderson chose to have the overhead line into his yard converted to underground. He paid for the conversion less the depreciated value of the overhead line.



Casey Thronson unframes a single-phase riser pole that will be retired as it is in the path of the new ditch channel. Many of the harware pieces will be salvaged and reused on another project.

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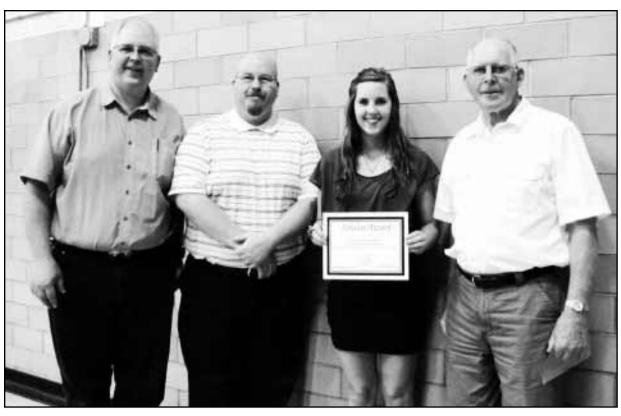
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Michelle Olson, Red Lake Falls, was winner of the Linda Hofstad Memorial Scholarship. She received her award during Awards Day at Red Lake County Central High School in Oklee. Olson is pictured with members of the Hofstad family, from left, Arlan, Jared and Glenn.

Olson receives Hofstad Memorial Scholarship

Linda Hofstad of Trail was killed in an automobile accident June 17, 2011. To help increase the importance of safe driving, the Hofstad family sponsored a scholarship for Red Lake County Central graduating students.

Seniors were encouraged to submit an essay on safe driving and the precautions a driver should take. The winning essay was submitted by Michelle Olson of Red Lake Falls. She received a \$1,000 scholarship in memory of Hofstad. Olson is the daughter of Eddy and Linda Olson. The following is her essay: "Safe Driving"

By Michelle Olson

We all know a relative, friend, colleague, or a member of the community who was killed or injured in a car accident. It can happen at any moment and time. That is why everyone has to take precautions because it can happen so suddenly. What are those precautions?

First off, seat belts save lives. It's that simple. A seat belt greatly reduces the risk of injury and death. No one wants to be notified that their brother, sister, mom, dad, or close relative has just been injured or killed in a car accident because they weren't wearing their seat belt, especially when it is such a simple device to put on. If you don't wear your seat belt, then take a moment to think about your loved ones. If you don't wear it for your own safety, wear it for their sake.

I've known too many people who have been involved in car accidents, and when you first hear

30th Annual Lions Golf

about it, your heart just stops. We all know that feeling. You hope the next words out of the informer's mouth are "they are okay though", but sometimes this isn't the case. The public needs to be more aware of safer driving skills and techniques. There are too many loved ones who are lost to something that could have been easily prevented. There are so many distractions

when you are driving. Texting and driving is one of the biggest distractions and there are so many people that do it. A text can wait no matter what. Even talking on the phone is a distraction. Dean Sugano wrote a comprehensive review in 2005 about cell phone usage and how it relates to car accidents. The 15 studies on the subject that the author referenced had one thing in common. Cell phone use degrades driving performance compared to control groups that didn't use cell phones. Those studies concluded that the increase in the risk of an accident can increase anywhere from 1.16-fold (Wilson et al., 2003) to 9-fold (Violanti, 1998). People under the influence of alcohol or drugs are also a big hazard. Call a friend or family member to come get you. Don't forget that law enforcers are here to help as well. Call for a ride from a deputy as well. They would rather see you get home safely than arrive as the first one on the scene of your accident. Simply put, don't endanger yourself and other people on the roads.

I was riding in a vehicle with my mom and dad just recently and my

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dad got upset at a person who was driving a little recklessly. In my head I thought, "Why get all worked up over how another person is driving?" I didn't really see the reason and my dad, as if reading my mind, says, "People like that can hurt the ones I love." I won't question why ever again, and it is in my mind every time I see a reckless driver myself.

In conclusion, there are many ways you can take precautions, not only for your own life but also all the other drivers on the roads. Everyone should take a second and think about what they could do to drive safer and help pass the message along. Unsafe drivers can hurt another person's loved ones. References

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A year to honor cooperatives



The United Nations General Assembly designated 2012 as International Year of Cooperatives (IYC 2012), under the banner "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World." The resolution recognizes the vital role cooperatives play in the economic and social well-being of nations around the globe.

"At a time when folks are losing faith in big corporations, International Year of Cooperatives 2012 offers us a great opportunity to showcase the many ways the local, consumer-owned and member-controlled cooperative form of business benefits communities all over the world," declares National Rural Electric Cooperative Association CEO Glenn English. "It gives cooperatives a perfect venue to contrast how we differ from profit-driven companies."

Every day, more than 29,200 cooperatives supply essential products and services to American consumers.

One example can be found in the morning paper. Many of the articles may be labeled "Associated Press" or "AP." Those stories were written by individual reporters but distributed by a cooperative news organization. If your breakfast includes freshly squeezed orange juice, it may be from a Sunkist product. Sunkist is a cooperative formed by California and Arizona citrus grow-

And the list goes on: Land O' Lakes butter, Ocean Spray cranberry juice, Sun-Maid raisins, Welch's grape jelly, Nationwide Insurance, Blue Diamond almonds, Ace Hardware, REI outdoor gear-they are all cooperatives.

In fact, one out of every four Americans claims membership in some type of cooperative, including 91 million served by credit unions and 42 million connected to more than 900 electric cooperatives in 47 states.

America's Cooperatives Build a Better World

- Provide 2 million jobs with annual sales of \$652 billion
- Electric co-ops own and maintain 42 percent of the nation's electric distribution lines that cover 75 percent of America's landmass
- Two million farmers are members of nearly 3,000 farmer-owned cooperatives
- More than 7,500 credit unions offer financial services
- to 91 million consumers • Approximately 233 million people are served by insurance companies organized as or
- closely affiliated with co-ops • Around 50,000 families use
- cooperative day-care centers • Roughly 1.2 million Americans in 31 states are served by

260 telephone cooperatives

• More than 1.2 million families live in housing owned and operated through cooperative associations

> Source: International Cooperative Alliance

The Cooperative Principles The seven cooperative principles hold that a cooperative must provide:

- Open and voluntary member-
- Democratic member control • Members' economic participation
- Autonomy and independence • Education, training and information
- Cooperation among coopera-
- Concern for community

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