

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. 12

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

SEPTEMBER 2012

September is National **Preparedness Month**

September is National Preparedness Month, a time to make sure you are ready for emergencies and severe weather. Natural events such as storms, wildfires and tornados require preparedness, as do blackouts and other events. Such events can damage an electrical system, including downed power poles, stray lines and other equipment.

In addition to an emergency kit, you also need knowledge and information to stay safe in chaotic times. Safe Electricity has the following tips to help you prepare for (1333002.02 Ervin Ness) and stay safe in emergencies:



- Keep the electrical system in your home in good working order. This will help keep your electrical system stable in normal conditions and prevent accidents in extreme ones. A qualified electrician can inspect your home's electricity and make recommen-
- If there is a power outage, unplug electronics. The power may come back in spikes, which can destroy
- Stay at home, if possible. It can be hard to spot electrical dangers in the debris left by a storm. In the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, a Massachusetts man grabbed a porch railing as he left his house. A live wire was in contact with the porch, and the man was electrocuted instantly. You can avoid a tragic accident like this by staying in the house until you are certain it is safe outside.
- If your home is severely damaged or on fire, you need to leave. If you have time, turn off electricity at the box and natural gas at the meter before you go. This will make it safer when you can return home. Never turn gas service back on. That is a job for utility professionals.
- If you smell gas or suspect a leak, get out of the house. If the smell is strong, leave immediately without touching any switches. Once outside, call 911, and notify your gas utility.
- Do not enter a flooded basement or stand in water to turn off electricity. Standing water may be energized, and can cause electrocutions.
- Always treat electrical equipment as though it is energized and dangerous. Do not go near damaged electrical equipment, and warn others to stay away.
- Be prepared for power outages. Have important electronics charged, and keep a battery operated radio and flashlights on hand.
- Be careful with water-damaged electronics. They may spark or overheat. Have an electrician verify that electronics are safe to use if they have been damaged by water.
- Elevate your furnace, water heater and electric panel if you're are at high flood risk.
- Conserve electricity. Even though you still have power, your utility may be struggling to provide electricity to all its customers. Use only the electricity you need.

For more information on the proper precautions to take to clean up and return home after a disaster, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Kathy LaPlante retires from RLEC

Kathy LaPlante walked in the door of Red Lake Electric to begin her employment on March 15, 1976. Thirty six years later, on August 31st, Kathy retired.

After graduating from Lafayette High School in Red Lake Falls, Kathy attended Aaker's Business College, worked at the Park & Rec in Crookston, as an aide at Washington Elementary School in Red Lake Falls, and had a home day care before starting her journey here at RLEC.

Kathy was hired as a secretary where her main duties included typing the coop's correspondence and compiling the report for the board of directors each month. A lot of changes have happened since Kathy was hired. When Kathy started at RLEC all reports were produced and written out by hand and the final copy typed out on the typewriter.

RLEC's posting machine took up most of the space in an office. With the purchase of desktop computers and processes changing, Kathy became the coop's secretary/receptionist. "Meeting and greeting customers was my job" said Kathy, "and I certainly met a lot of people in the 36 1/2 years I worked at the Cooperative. Things have changed a lot in the way things get done now compared to years ago, but the customers are still a wonderful part of the coop. I will miss visiting and greeting them too."

"Kathy was our member database," said Shirley Bregier, RLEC accountant. "She had a knack of remembering our members and greeted them by first name as they walked through the door or called the office. I will miss not only her experience and knowledge but her ability to help out wherever needed, all the time with a smile on her

Being an avid hockey fan,



Kathy LaPlante, left, accepts a plaque in recognition of her service with Red Lake Electric Cooperative. She is congratulated by Shirley Bregier. Kathy retired from RLEC August 29 after 36 years of employment.

Kathy was the RLF Blue Line club secretary and member for many years. Her favorite hockey teams are the Lafayette Eagles, MN Gophers and MN Wild. She also loves high school volleyball, football and softball but any hockey game is still her favorite. She has been a member of St. John Lutheran Church all her life and has served as recording secretary for the church council. She is also a member of St. John LWML and was past vice president.

"RLEC has been a great place to work," says Kathy. "I will miss all my fellow employees who have become like family to me over the years. I'm looking forward to the change in my life. I am going to work part time for School Dist #630, but looking forward to summers off to spend more time with family and friends at the lake and at

home.' Kathy will have more time with her children Mandi and husband Darcy Cardinal of Red Lake Falls, Paul and Shelly LaPlante of Roseau and Aaron of Minneapolis. Kathy has 5 grandchildren, Hope, Anna and Josi Cardinal and Kilah and Teagan LaPlante. Kathy's husband, Mike, passed away in December of 2011.

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

Page 2

Manager's Comments Member Service Report From the Mail Bag

Page 3 Recipe Corner

Page 4 Feature of the Month

Wedul Century Farm Page 5

Road upgrade line move Page 8

\$100 Drawing

Steve Barbot ends service with RLEC

After nearly 35 years of working for Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Steve Barbot ended his service at the Cooperative August 31. He began employment on November 1, 1977 working the entire time in the member service department. He grew up in the Bottineau, ND area.

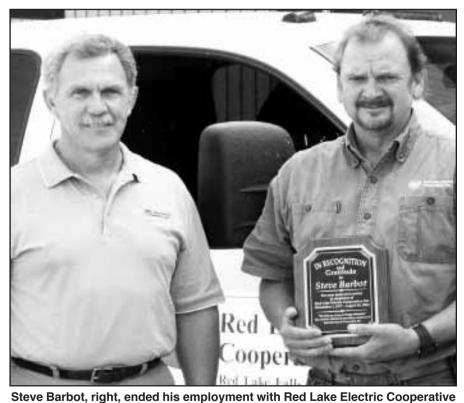
Barbot was hired to work delivering and servicing major household appliances. He became the senior service technician in March of 1983, a position held over 29 years.

Throughout the years Barbot did many other tasks, especially in more recent years, as the Cooperative discontinued selling appliances in 2000. He did a lot of work related to the Cooperative's load management program which included checking and maintaining ripple controls.

For the past three years the majority of Barbot's time was spent doing meter

work which included the installation, programming and maintenance of the AMR turtle devices. As much as it was a thankless job, for many years he had been the main bill collector out in the service

Steve and his wife Sandy live on Maple Lake South of Mentor where they enjoy entertaining family and friends. They are parents to six children Kalcy, Fargo, ND; Jesse (Jenny), Casselton, ND; Geriley (Shea) Boyum, Moorhead; Beth



on August 31 after nearly 35 years of service. He was congratulated and recognized for his service as he was presented a plaque by Kevin Reich.

(Brian) Lundeen, Thief River Falls; Patti (Ben) DeHaan, Red Lake Falls; Brady, Grand Forks, ND. They have eight grandchildren.

Barbot's are members of St. Lawrence Catholic Church of Mentor. Steve is a retired member of the Red Lake Falls Volunteer Fire Department and the Red Lake Falls Volunteer Ambulance Service.

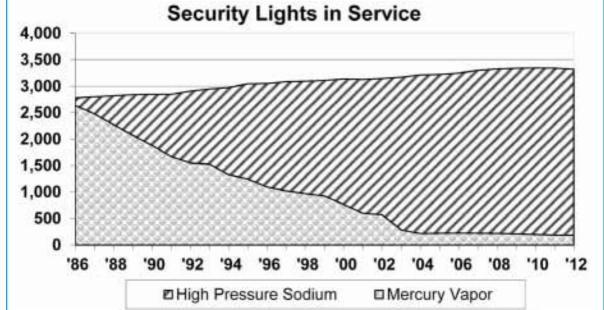
A quote that has been an inspiration to Steve is: "When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us", by Alexander Graham Bell.

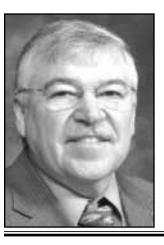
As he departed from Red Lake Electric Steve said "thank you to all the members, who always treated me so kind, regardless of my task that was at hand. Thank you to the board members, keep up the good work and thank you to my fellow co-workers, you are the Best! God Bless you all."

The shorter daylight hours that come with this time of year doesn't mean you have to be in the dark. Red Lake Electric Cooperative has outdoor Security Lighting available for just pennies a night. The monthly \$8 charge inloudes all costs to operate and maintain the light. If the light quits working, you simply contact RLEC and we repair it at no additional charge to you. If you want to add lighting to your yard or work area, give RLEC a call today. 1-800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168

QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative





Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck



Pole testing

The year 1950 seems like a long time ago; if you're counting in dog years, it's even longer. Numbers are such a relative thing and often don't mean much by themselves, we need to compare numbers to something else to give them more meaning. Kind of like the points your favorite football team racked up last weekend. The real excitement isn't in hearing the sportscaster say your team scored 40 points, it's when we hear the opponent scored only 39. Or less.

There may be an exception to that relativity thing when we take a look at the 40,000 poles that are standing throughout the Cooperative's service territory. Over a quarter of our poles in service have been in place since 1950 or earlier. Without comparing that to anything else, that seems to me like a very good service life. Part of the reason we get such longevity out of our poles is the product itself and some is due to the climate we live in. The northern climate, we are told, is less harsh on wooden poles than warmer climates to the south. Another factor that extends the life of the pole is the periodic maintenance that is done to the poles.

Red Lake Electric has hired the services of a pole testing company to test a portion of the 40,000 poles we have in our service area. The Cooperative has done annual pole testing for a number of years now, it has proven to be an effective way to extend the life of the pole and improve upon the electric service you count on from Red Lake Electric. Our poles are inspected, on average, once every ten years. We are now on the third time around of

testing and treating poles in our service area.

RAM Utilities of Moorhead, MN has been contracted to inspect and treat as necessary poles serving out of the Morris Owen substation (Circuits one and three), mostly south of Thief River Falls. Another area to be inspected this fall is circuit four out of the Highlanding substation which is mostly west of the Goodridge and Highlanding area.

The RAM inspection crew uses a pickup and ATV to help them move about our service area. We have given them Red Lake Electric Cooperative signage to identify their vehicles. The crew can also be identified by the bright colored construction vests with their company name affixed to them and also protective hard hats. I share this bit of information because we want you to know who and why there may be someone near your home or business doing work on behalf of Red Lake Electric.

Work or maintenance varies between each pole based on a visual inspection. If the pole looks in tough shape, it may be rejected outright and RAM (2621005.04 Michael L. Anderson) will not perform any maintenance on the pole. They instead notify Red Lake Electric Cooperative that the pole needs replacement; something RLEC will do with our own crews.

Poles that fall in the category between rejected or new, will be sound tested and bored to determine the quality of the pole. If some decay is noted, dirt will be removed at the ground line and an exterior treatment will be applied to

the pole or a preservative will be applied in the hole that has been bored.

Another service performed by the pole testing crew is to document the GPS location of each pole. This process will help identify and catalog the inventory of poles the Cooperative has in place. Not only information to the pole database itself, but the equipment that is attached to the pole, will be more accessible for future reference.

The ongoing maintenance to the system, like the pole inspection that is in progress, has proven to be a worthwhile investment by your Cooperative. Treatment has extended the life of the poles in service and delayed by years when the poles need to be replaced. Another benefit of a systematic pole testing program across our service area has been service reliability. When the first system-wide pole inspection occurred, many more poles were being rejected than what we experienced from the second system-wide inspection. We expect that trend to continue on now, our third system inspection. Replacement of rotten poles before they create an interruption of service not only makes good sense from a reliability standpoint, it is a cost saving benefit to your Cooperative. Sounds like a win-win proposition to me.

Goodbye to recent retirees

I want to add my thanks and best wishes to our recent retirees from Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Kathy LaPlante, and Steve Barbot. Their collective years of service spanned some 70+ years; you don't work with someone that long and not miss them in the workplace. When we had an employee send off for them recently, I said that we could make the statement that the Cooperative is losing the voice and the face of Red Lake Electric with these two retiring. Kathy LaPlante's role as receptionist made her voice the one callers were most likely to hear when they contacted Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Steve Barbot's role as appliance service technician made him one of our most visible employees to our memberfor many who had Steve in their homes to do service work. Our best to Kathy and Steve, we wish both of them the best in all that is to come.



An employee of RAM Utilities, Moorhead, bores the butt of one of Red Lake Electric Cooperative's line poles. Boring determines the quality of the pole. Poles are most prone to decay at the ground line and their service life can often be extended with treatment.



RAM Utilities of Moorhead has been contracted to inspect and treat as necessary, poles on three of Red Lake Electric Cooperative's substation circuits. Red Lake Electric has had a pole inspection program in place for over 20 years. Each pole is inspected every 10 years.

Mission Statement

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



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

VOLTS & JOLTS

(USPS 663-400)

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

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

00=	
PRESIDENT	Bonnie Christians
VICE PRESIDENT	
SECRETARY-TREASURER	Mark Hanson
DIRECTORS	Kelly Lundeen,
	Steven Linder, Peter Mosbeck,
Colette Kujav	va, Randy Versdahl, Stacy Blawat
Subscription Rate	\$2.50 per year

NOTICE

Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of the Volts & Jolts are the names and account numbers of some 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.



Member Service Department

by Kevin Reich

People come and people go but life goes on

Fourteen years ago my Grandpa Reich passed away. His death was a big loss for me as he had been my best friend throughout my entire childhood. I grew up on the same farm as my Grandpa and Grandma and spent more time with them than with my parents. As I grieved his loss I was blessed with my first grandchild, only five weeks later. I had someone to refocus my thoughts and time on. All the knowledge and history that had been lost due to the death of an eighty six year old man was going to start all over in the life of a baby

I experienced something similar to this, not the grieving, when the veteran group of employees that were at Red Lake Electric when I started, began retiring in the 1980's. (4317001.04 Vernon Erdmann) Often one wondered how are these people, their talent and their knowledge going to be replaced. It was shown in time that they would be

replaced by those of us that were hired in the 1970's. We would begin our journey on becoming the new veteran employees. It seemed many years away before we would be the senior employees and facing retirement, but that time has come.

In the last six years Red Lake Electric has said good bye to 10 senior employees and by the end of this month it will be 11. But there has been no time in the past six years that the loss has been greater, in terms of years of experience, than what will be experienced in just one month. These years of experience will only be replaced in time.

The end of August Red Lake Electric said good bye to Kathy LaPlante with 36 years of service and Steve Barbot with 35 years of service. At the end of this month another good bye will be said to Bev Schmitz, the most veteran employee in the history of the Cooperative, with 46 years of serv-

ice. In four weeks 117 years of service, knowledge and history walks out the door.

Speaking of the door, Bev has walked in and out of the same doorway at least 44,000 times. No wonder the door had to be replaced a few years ago.

My thanks to these co-workers for their service, their assistance, and most importantly their friendship. A special thanks to Steve as he and I have worked in the same department, often doing similar tasks, for all 35 years.

So who will carry on where these people left off? It will be the younger employees who have begun their employment in the last few years, dating back to 2004. As the current group of senior employees depart and focus on the next chapter of their lives the newer employees take over. It is their time to grow in knowledge and years and life at Red Lake Electric goes

From the Mail Bag

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for the scholarship you presented me with. I will be attending Northland Community and Technical College in Thief River Falls for nursing.

Kensie Haugen Goodridge

Dear RLEC:

Thank you so much for choosing me as one of the recipients for a scholarship! It will be extremely helpful to me as I attend college again!

Emalynn Dahl Plummer

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for the scholarship! It is such an honor to receive it. I will be attending Jamestown College to major in accounting. With this scholarship it will help me achieve this goal. Thanks again!

Tylynn McKeever Middle River **Dear RLEC:**

Thank you for sponsoring the trophy for dairy production at the Pennington County fair. Also for using my picture in the Volts and Jolts.

Matthew Hanson Highlanding 4H Club Highlanding Dear RLEC:

Thank you sponsoring my breeding ewe lamb trophy at the Pennington County Fair. Thank you.

Sami Larson Steiner 4H Club Euclid

Thank you

Thank you to the following members and friends for your hospitality.

Doug Knott
Brian Vatthauer
Bernice Grandstrand
Verna and Val Gagnon
Henry and Deloris Bendickson
Russel and Carol Jasperson
Deejay and Cay Donlin
Leonard and Anita Blazejewski





Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

Things you should know about your electric service

BILLINGS AND COLLECTION

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

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

If your payment is not received by the 15th of the month, a final notice of disconnection statement will be included on your following bill. The final notice statement will notify you when your electric service will be disconnected if the delinquent amount remains unpaid. If an employee is sent to disconnect your electric service, a \$60 collection fee will be charged to your account, even if you pay the collector.

To have a disconnected service reconnected, all amounts owing, a \$60 reconnection fee, and a security deposit must be paid. If the service must be reconnected after normal working hours, a \$120 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:

only.

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

METER TESTS

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

STOPPED METERS

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

METER READINGS

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

GENERAL SERVICE RATES

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

harge.
Standby, \$12/month (meter disconnected but the ower line retained: standby is not available on

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.

Recipe Corner

Cajun Country Fried Chicken

2 cups milk

clear. Yield: 8-10 servings

- 2 tbsp Cajun seasoning, divided
- 8 boneless skinless chicken breast halves
- 4 boneless skinless chicken thighs, halved
- 1-1/4 cups all-purpose flour 1/2 tsp lemon-pepper seasoning
- 1/2 tsp garlic salt

In a large bowl, combine milk and 1 tbsp Cajun seasoning; add chicken. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours. In a large resealable plastic bag, combine flour, lemon pepper, garlic salt and remaining Cajun seasoning. Drain chicken and discard milk mixture and shake to coat. In a skillet, heat 1/4 in. of oil; fry chicken for 7-8 minutes or until juices run

Sweet Red Pepper Salad

6 medium sweet red peppers 1/2 cup olive or vegetable oil 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley 2 to 3 garlic cloves, minced 1/2 tsp dried oregano 1/4 tsp slat

Lettuce leaves, optional

Place whole peppers on a broiler pan; broil 4 in. from the heat until skins blister, about 2-3 minutes. With tongs, rotate peppers slightly. Continue broiling and rotating until all sides are blistered and blackened. Immediately place peppers in a brown paper bag. Close bad and let stand for 15-20 minutes. Peel off the charred skin and discard. Remove stem and seeds. Cut peppers into 1/4 in.-wide strips. In a shallow container, combine the oil, parsely, garlic, oregano and salt. Add peppers and toss. Cover and chill for 3-4 hours. Serve on lettuce if desired. **Yield:** 6 servings. The salad may also be spooned onto toasted garlic bread and served as an appetizer.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. **Operating Report**

MONTHLY COMPARISON

	JULY	JULY
	2011	2012
Total Revenue	796,878	\$ 868,694
Total Margins\$	(162,528)	\$ (75,639)
Cost of Power	695,113	\$ 688,097
KWH's Purchased	7,916,520	8,394,438
Capital Credits Paid to Estates\$	6,956	\$ 3,659

YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

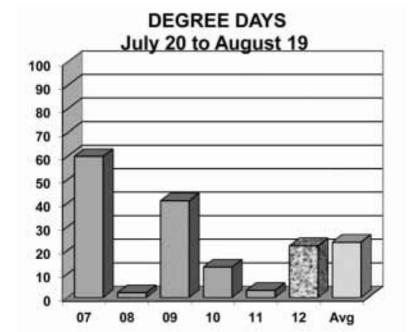
JUL 201	-	JULY 2012
Total Revenue \$ 7,705,72		7,839,062
Total Margins		591,215
Cost of Power \$ 5,574,19	3 \$	5,624,111
KWH's Purchased	4	76,659,857
New Service Connections	1	20
Customers Served 5,20	0	5,215
Capital Credits Paid to Estates\$ 61,31	4 \$	67,098
Miles of Line		
Overhead 2,32	4	2,323
Underground 23	9	249

DEGREE DAYS

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

YEAR TO DATE DEGREE DAYS August 20 to August 19 11,000 10,000 9,000 8,000 7,000 6,000 5,000 4,000 3,000 2,000 1,000

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



Beef Burritos

- 2 chuck pot roasts (2 1/2 to 3 pounds each)
- 2 tbsp cooking oil
- 1 cup water
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 tsp dried oregano
- 2 tsps salt
- 1 tsp pepper
- 1 can (28 ounces) diced tomatoes, undrained
- 2 cans (4 ounces each) chopped green chilies
- 2 tbsps all-purpose flour 1/4 cup cold water
- 4 to 6 drops hot pepper sauce
- 18 flour tortillas (8 inches), warmed
- Shredded cheddar cheese, sour cream and salsa

In a Dutch oven over medium heat, brown roasts in oil, drain. Add water, onion, garlic, oregano, salt and pepper; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 2 1/2 hours or until meat is tender. Remove roasts; cool. Remove meat from bone and cut into bite-size pieces. Skim fat from pan juices. Add tomatoes and chilies; mix well. Stir into beef mixture. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until thickened and bubbly. Add hot pepper sauce. Spoon down the center of tortillas; fold top and bottom of tortilla over filling and roll up. Serve with cheese, sour cream and salsa. Yield:18 servings.

Lemon Chicken

- 1 pound boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into strips
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 large carrot, thinly sliced 1 garlic clove, minced
- 2 tbsps butter or margarine
- 1 tbsp cornstarch
- 1 can (14 1/2 ounces) chicken broth
- 2 to 3 tbsps fresh lemon juice
- 1 tsp grated lemon peel
- 1/2 tsp salt, optional
- 1-1/2 cups uncooked instant rice
- 1 cup frozen chopped broccoli, thawed
- 1/4 cup minced fresh parsley

In a skillet, cook chicken, onion, carrot and garlic in butter until chicken is lightly browned, about 5 minutes. In a bowl, combine the cornstarch and broth; stir in lemon juice, peel, salt and rice. Add to skillet and bring to a boil. Reduce heat; add broccoli and parsley. Cover and simmer 5-10 minutes or until rice is tender.

This tasty dish uses less sugar, salt and fat. Recipe includes Diabetic Exchanges. Yield: 4 servings

Diabetic Exchanges: One serving (without added salt) equals 3 lean meat, 2 starch, 1 vegetable; also 367 calories, 132 mg sodium, 73 mg cholesterol, 39 gm carbohydrate, 31 gm protein, 9 gm fat.

Hot Vegetable Plate

- 1 medium kohlrabi
- 1 medium turnip
- 1 small rutabaga
- 4 medium leeks (white portion only), sliced
- 12 fresh cauliflowerets

MUSTARD SAUCE:

- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 2 tbsps all-purpose flour 1/4 tsp salt, optional
- Pinch pepper
- 1 cup milk
- 1 to 2 tsps Dijon mustard

Peel Kohlrabi, turnip and rutabaga; cut into 1/4 in. slices. Halve the kohlrabi and turnip slices; quarter the rutabaga slices. Place all vegetables in a large saucepan and cover with water; cook until crisp tender. Meanwhile, melt butter in a small saucepan; stir in flour. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes. Add salt if desired and pepper. Gradually add milk; cook and stir until mixture boils. Reduce heat; cook and stir for 1 minute or until thickened. Remove from the heat; stir in mustard. Drain vegetables; serve with warm mustard sauce. Yield: 8 servings

Diabetic Exchanges: One serving with 2 tbsps sauce (prepared with margarine and skim mil and without salt) equals 1 starch, 1 vegetable, 1 fat; also 152 calories, 146 mg sodium, 1 mg cholesterol, 22 gm carbohydrate, 4 gm protein, 6 gm fat.

Chicken Rice Dinner

1/2 cup all-purpose flour

1 tsp salt 1/2 tsp pepper

- 10 chicken thighs (about 3 pounds)
- 3 tbsps cooking oil 1 cup uncooked long grain rice
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 can (4 ounces) mushroom stems and pieces, undrained
- 2 chicken bouillon cubes 2 cups boiling water
- Minced fresh parsley, optional

Combine flour, salt and pepper; coat chicken pieces. In a large skillet over medium heat, brown the chicken in oil. Place rice in an ungreased 13in. x 9-in. x 2-in. baking dish. Sprinkle with onion and garlic; top with mushrooms. Dissolved bouillon in boiling water; pour over all. Place chicken pieces on top. Cover and bake at 350° for 1 hour or until chicken juices run clear and rice is tender. Sprinkle with parsley if desired. Yield: 5 serv-

Send Your Student to College with All the Essentials—Including Electrical Safety Knowledge! September is National Campus Fire Safety Month

Sending a child off to college can be a stressful time for parents making sure their student has all the essentials to help prepare for a bright future. While shopping for the typical supplies to make new surroundings home-like and comfortable, give those students a bit of TLC. Teach them about electrical safety, and encourage them to share it with others.

Often-times students innocently plug in all of the college toolsstudy lamps, laptops, TVs, stereos, grooming and other electrical devices—unaware of the potential dangers. (4705002.01 Wallace M. Anderson) Safe Electricity urges parents to make sure their student is educated on safe appliance use, precautions against overloading outlets, and other potential electrical hazards.

In its most recent report, the National Fire Protection Association estimates that U.S. fire departments respond to an average of 3,570 fires in dormitories, fraternities, sororities, and barracks each year. The tragic results: an average of seven deaths, 54 injuries, and nearly \$30 million in direct property damage per year.

"The limited number of electric outlets in student rooms can tempt many to use multiple extension cords and power strips, which can cause cords to overheat, creating

shock and fire hazards," warns Molly Hall, Safe Electricity Executive Director. "Student residences crammed with books, papers, and bedding can allow the smallest spark to quickly become a blaze."

Safety steps to prevent and reduce the risk of electrical fires in student housing include:

Purchase and use only UL-rated electrical appliances and power cords. Avoid overloading extension cords, power strips, or outlets.

Use extension cords only on a temporary basis; they are not intended as permanent solutions. Use power strips with an over-current protector that will shut off power automatically if there is too much current being drawn.



Never tack or nail an electrical cord to any surface or run cords across traffic paths or under rugs where they can be trampled or damaged. Use the correct wattage light

indication is on the product, do not use a bulb with more than 60 watts. Use cooler, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) when possible. Keep all electrical appliances

bulbs for lamps and fixtures. If no

and cords safely away from bedding, curtains, papers, and other flammable material. Make sure outlets around sinks are equipped with ground fault cir-

Unplug small appliances when not in use and all electronics when away for extended periods.

cuit interrupters (GFCIs) before

Older wiring in student housing and apartments may not be able to handle the increased electrical demand of today's college student. If use of an appliance frequently causes power to trip off, or if its power cord or the outlet feels hot, the appliance should be disconnected immediately and the condition reported to the landlord or campus housing staff.

A fire escape plan is essential for every student. Whether apartment or dorm residents, make sure they know evacuation procedures and emergency exit locations in the

Joel Kezar, Owner

Milo Ballingrud, Sales

event of a fire.

Emphasize to students that smoke detectors should never be disabled, and fire alarms should never be ignored or taken casually as a drill. If a fire alarm sounds, residents should calmly and quickly follow practiced procedures and immediately exit the building. Apartment and dorm doors should be closed behind to prevent the spread of fire.

"Stress to students that in the event of a fire, follow safety procedures and get out of harm's way immediately," remarked Hall. "Property and valuables can be replaced, but lives cannot."

For more fire and electrical safety information, visit www.Safe-Electricity.org.





Rincon 680 4x4

680 4x4 up to \$750 **Call for Details!**

420 Ranchers EFI Manual • Elec. Shift • Automatics 500 Foreman EFI • Manual • Elec. Shift

500 Foreman Rubicon • Automatic/ES

680 Rincon EFI • Automatic/ES Manual or Power Steering

Available on most models **Honda Motorcycles Used Cycles/Scooters**

2006 VTX 1300 w/acc 2007 VTX 1300 w/acc 2008 Honda 750 w/acc \$4,999 2008 Honda | SOLD coot \$1,399 2010 Honda Fury



218-681-1007 & 59 W. · Thief River Falls FAX: (218) 681-8420 · 1-800-826-5403 Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9-5:30 · Sat. 9-1

www.rvsports.com

Facebook Store Hours: Monday-Friday 8 A.M. - 6 P.M. Saturdays 10 A.M. - 5 P.M **Buy • Sell • Trade • Rentals New & Used instruments** Repairs • Sound & Lighting • Installations Recording Studio • Lessons • Print Music

315 Duluth Avenue N.Thief River Falls 681-2148 • 1-800-566-2148

Always call before you dig.

kezarmusic@mncable.net

1-800-252-1166

LOOK UP

POWER LINES MAY BE OVERHEAD

www.kezarmusic.com

Farmers Union Oil Company

Thief River Falls



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

WILCOX PLUMBING AND HEATING, Inc.

RED LAKE FALLS Plumbing/Heating/Air conditioning

BILL H. MOSER, Master Plumber License No. 1770PM BILL J. MOSER, Master Plumber License No. 6039PM Refrigerant Certified No. CFR089400285



- In-floor heating
- Pressure systems
- Electric heat pumps

FREE ESTIMATES COMPLETE SALES AND SERVICE

Oil furnaces

Gas furnaces

218-253-4347

The Head-Quarters Hair and **Tanning Salon**

HAIRSTYLING FOR MEN AND **WOMEN**

RED LAKE FALLS, MINNESOTA

218 253-4223

PARK PLACE MALL





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

"We appreciate your business."

218-796-5157 Fax 218-796-5158

anthony.holthusen@ssboklee.com



All-Risk Crop Insurance Crop/Hail Coverage

"THE FARMERS' HELPING HAND"

Dave Miller

Agency

DAVE MILLER, AGENT

RURAL ROUTE 1

VIKING, MINNESOTA 56760

218-523-5861

VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Century Farm status bestowed upon Wedul farm

By Heather Blodgett

The Wedul farm in rural Thief River Falls, Minn, has been named a Minnesota century farm for 2012. The farm, located approximately 6 miles east of Seven Clans Casino, is now owned and farmed by Jon and Mary Wil-

The farm originated in October of 1903 by Johan Wedul, an immigrant from Norway. Not two years later in March of 1905, Johan's son, Ole Wedul, along with Ole's wife Maret, purchased the farm and Johan returned to Norway as most of his family still resided there. When Ole and Maret arrived on the farm, they had one son, Arnt, who was still a young boy.

A house was moved onto the farm from a property six miles south for the family to live in. Ole and Maret had seven more children, all of which were born in that house. None of the children are still living.

Arnt returned to Norway at the age of 27 with his uncle, Ole's brother, John. John had been homesteading in Tioga, North Dakota. His wife had passed away and John decided to return to Norway. During the three years Arnt spent in Norway, he met and married Berit Gimse. The couple moved to Hazel, Minn to work in, and later operate, a general store. Arnt started Wedul Truck Line in 1934. The couple moved themselves and the business to Theif River Falls in 1945.

Johanna, born in October 24, 1902, never married. She owned a beauty shop in Graceville, Minn before enlisting in the army during World War II. Following the end of the war, she returned to Thief River Falls and operated Joanne's Beauty Shop

until her death. Anna, born February 27, 1905, became a teacher in the area. She married Thomas Waale in 1936 and the couple had a business, the Waale



An early picture of a gathering at the Wedul farm shows the original farmhouse is in the background with a collection of people and their 1937 Chevrolet vehicles including two sedans, a pickup with an enclosed container in the back (partially blocking the view of the house) and a flatbed truck with stake sides.

Studio, In Thief River Falls.

Oscar, born April 6, 1909, married Helen Jacobson in 1938. He worked as a truck driver, mostly hauling cream from the local farms and gravel around the area.

Melvin, born March 7, 1912, married Deloris Lippert in 1939. He held the title of officer in the Navy during World War II and later earned a Ph. D. from the University of Colorado. He was employed as a professor at the University of Winona. Deloris, at the age of 97, is still living in their home in Winona.

Beatrice was born April 4, 1914. That year an addition was built onto the house for a living room and another upstairs bedroom. Beatrice was a teacher. She married Sidney Wilson in 1939 and the couple farmed in Kratka township near Thief River Falls. Beatrice died in May of 2006 and was the last of the siblings to pass away.

Martin, born February 17, 1917 married Hazel Nelson in 1943. He purchased the farm in 1942 from his parents where he had dairy cattle until 1951. He also farmed grain and worked off of the farm as a carpenter.

Vernon, born Feb 22, 1920 earned a degree from Moorhead State Teachers College. He then enlisted in the Army Air Corps and became a P-38 fighter pilot. He was killed in battle during the invasion of Normandy, France.

After Martin's death in 1990, Beatrice's son, Jon

Wilson, began farming the land. Jon and his wife Mary purchased the farm from Martin's estate. Jon, with help from his brother Bernard, has done work to the home so that it can be used as a hunting cabin. The brothers have also restored several old tractors that have

family. Jon made improvements to the land so that it all can be used for farming.

"For me personally it gives me great pleasure to see the improvements Jon has made out there," said Maynard Wedul, son of Arnt and Berit Wedul, "I have fond memories of the farm going back to been passed down within the when I was a little boy and

helping Martin put up hay." Jon also has fond memories of stacking hay on the farm for his uncle Martin. Jon and Mary chose to purchase

Grandma and Grandpa Wedul

lived out there. As I grew

older I spent several summers

the land because they wanted to keep the farm within the family but chose not to move onto the property because they already had a home. Their six children, Cally, James, Cody, Adam, Joshua, and Luke have helped farm over the years. "All of them have spent many hours on the farm, from seeding to picking rocks to ditching," says Mary. "It's the best place to raise children," she says, "The farming life is wonderful!" The farm produces soybeans, wheat, barley, oats and alfal-On August 11th the couple

invited friends and family to the farm to celebrate the certification as a century farm. Mary is quick to point out the celebration was to remember the family that created the farm and worked the land in years past. "We appreciate their work because without it, none of us would be here. They came all this way overseas, not to get a job, but to create something of their own. They are the reason we are celebrating." The celebration included a noon lunch and an evening pig roast. Throughout the day there was many stories told of the farm and the Wedul family. Visitors were also treated to a tour of the farm in an old army truck by Jon. The next day Jon and Mary hosted a brunch at their home and a family member gave a sermon for the group.

Mary is glad that her family is a part of the Wedul Farm. "It's important for our children and our children's children to know their heritage and what those people actually did," she explains, "That's why it's important to keep it in the family."



The original farm house as it stands today is used as a hunting cabin. It has been fitted with a new metal roof and other improvements. The electric service provided by Red Lake Electric Cooperative can be seen entering the house near the second floor window .

Bray-Gentilly Mutual Insurance Co.

Locally Owned and Operated Serving Policyholders Since 1900

218-683-3200

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

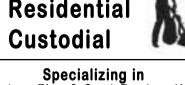
INSURANCE FOR FARMS, HOMES AND PERSONAL **PROPERTY**

TELEPHONE US FOR AN **AGENT NEAR YOU!**

THIS SPACE **FOR RENT** 253-2594

Kílen's Custom Cleaners

- Commercial
- Residential



Water, Fire & Soot Restoration Jordan Kilen - Owner

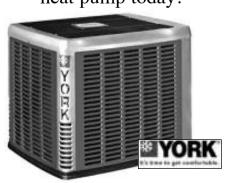
(218) 686-2591 www.kilencustom.com

— Free Estimates —

"Achieving excellence one customer at a time"

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

Buy a YORK Affinity heat pump today!



GROVE MECHANICAL, INC.

Your hometown heating & air conditioning team! Serving Crookston and the surrounding communities for 30 years. (218) 281-3863

OFFICE PHONE 253-2168

OUTAGE PHONE 253-2200

1-800-245-6068



One of the Minnkota Power Systems

Another road upgrade – another line move Stay Safe around

Electric Cooperative's service territory have been common within the last few years.

Generally a road upgrade also requires a line move if there is a power line along the road. This was the case with Pennington Co. Rd. 31 NW of Thief River Falls. Much of the line re-work was done with-

power to Cooperatives members. An exception was when two three phase poles were changed, one on each end of the line move. Members in the area were without electric service for approximately two hours while the two poles were



Sam Pahlen uses an insulated fiberglass shotgun stick to ground out all of the wires on a pole at the west end of County Road 31. All of the wires are connected together and grounded for the safety of those that will be working on the pole change outs.



A Red Lake Electric line crew begins the transfer of material and wires from one three phase pole to another. The new pole had been set previously to help minimize the outage time.



Troy Schmitz (L) and Aaron Derosier (R) use web hoists to loosen and remove the wires from the old three phase corner pole and to tighten and attach them to the new pole.



Another Red Lake Electric line crew works to attach material and wires to a three phase pole near the east end of the road upgrade. Wires on this pole are also connected to a new three phase underground riser pole that had been framed and set earlier.



Brett Knott (L) and Casey Thronson (R) discuss which wires need to be connected together to complete the connections on the three phase



Upon completion of the wire connections, Mike Wavra checks all the wires to make sure all the phases match up one-to-one, so that no phase wires are mismatched. Once everything checks out all grounds can be removed and the line re-energized.

Overhead Power Lines

It can be all too easy to overlook things that we see every day—such as overhead power lines. However, failure to notice high voltage power lines can be a deadly oversight.

"Take the time to become aware of your surroundings," recommends Bob Guillemette, Manager of Electric System Operations for Red Lake Electric Cooperative. "It is a critical step to keeping yourself and your loved ones safe.

Safe Electricity encourages everyone to look up and around you. Follow these guidelines as you prepare to work outdoors this year:

Always be aware of the location of power lines, particularly when using long tools like ladders, and pruning poles. Be sure to lower your long equipment when you are moving it. Carry ladders and other long items horizontally whenever possible.

Be careful when working on or around your roof—installing rooftop antennas and satellite dishes, installing or cleaning gutters, or doing repair work. Never go up on

the roof in windy or bad weather. Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house. Keep equipment and

yourself at least 10 feet from lines.

Never trim trees near power lines—leave that to the profession-(5918001.02 Schmitz)Never use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines. Contact a professional maintenance contractor.

Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines are not touching the tree, they could come in contact when more weight is added to the branch.

For more information on electrical safety and to see videos about power line safety, visit www.Safe-Electricity.org.

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

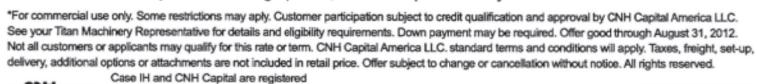
NO PAYMENTS NO INTEREST



Don't Delay *Limited time offer.

Call your local Titan Machinery store today for details!

*Most 2003 and newer combines and heads qualify for this offer. Ask us about other special financing options, we have options to fit your needs!



CAPITAL trademarks of CNH America LLC

TITAN CASE II

MACHINERY AGRICULTURE



HWY. 59 NORTH THIEF RIVER FALLS, MN www.titanmachinery.com

TOLL FREE: 1-800-888-2744 PHONE: 218-681-1423

Farmers urged to look up during harvest season

Remember electrical safety during National Farm Safety and Health Week

Harvest season is the most satisfying time of the year on the farm, as it's the culmination of many long hours of effort in raising a crop. However, the long grueling hours in the field can make workers weary and prone to forget the safety precautions that can prevent serious or fatal electrical injuries. Every year, an average 62 farm workers are electrocuted in the United States and many more are injured, according to Labor Department statistics.

During National Farm Safety and Health Week, Safe Electricity urges farm operators, family members, and employees to beware of overhead power lines, to keep farm equipment safely away, and to

know what to do if accidental contact is made with power lines. Safe Electricity urges all farm workers to visit www.SafeElectricity.org and watch the video story of farmer Jim Flach, who was fatally injured as he climbed down from his equipment that was in contact with overhead power lines.

The increasing size of farm equipment, in particular grain tanks on combines that have become higher with extensions, allow operators to come perilously close to overhead power lines over entrances to fields. It's vital to keep equipment safely away from them—at a minimum 10-foot safety radius around the electric line.

"The No. 1 cause of elec-

trocution on the farm is an auger that hits a power line when being moved," says Bob Aherin, Extension agricultural safety specialist,



University of Illinois. Portable augers being maneuvered by hand around bin sites have caused the death of many farm workers who became the path to ground for electricity when the top of the auger touched overhead power lines. Always retract or lower augers when moving or transporting.

The most common equipment involved in power line accidents are portable grain augers, oversized wagons, large combines, and other tall equipment that come into contact with the overhead lines.

"Harvest time is the most likely period for farm-related injury accidents and fatalities," Aherin says. Combines and other equipment loaded onto trailers can also hit power lines and can cause electrocutions, as can raising the bed of a truck to unload, he adds. That is exactly the reason for the tragic electrocution of a 53-year-old Michigan truck driver, who raised the bed of his semi-trailer truck while parked beneath a power line at the edge of a field. Colleagues said he was attempting to clean out the bed. When he touched the truck bed, he became the path to ground for the electricity.

Farm operators, family members, and farm employees are urged to take these measures:

Use a spotter when moving tall loads near lines.

Inspect farm equipment for transport height, and determine clearance with any power lines under which the equipment must

Make sure everyone knows what to do if accidental contact is made with power lines. These accidents are survivable if the right actions are taken.

"It's almost always best to stay in the cab, call for help, and wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off. If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result," Aherin said. "Even if a power line is on the ground, there is still the potential for the area nearby to be energized. Stay inside the vehicle unless there's fire or imminent risk of fire."

In that case, the proper action is to jump-not step-with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Jump clear, without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time, and continue to shuffle or hop to safety keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

"Like the ripples in a pond or lake, the voltage diminishes the farther out it is from the source," Aherin said. "Stepping from one voltage level to another allows the body to become a path for that electricity. A large difference in voltage between both feet could kill you. Be sure that at no time you or anyone touches the equipment and the ground at the same time. Never should the operator simply step out of the vehicle—the person must

The overhead electric wires are not the only electrical contact that can result in a serious incident. Pole guy wires are grounded to the neutral, but when one of the guy wires is broken, it can cause an electric current disruption. This can make those neutral wires anything but harmless. (6923001.04 Steven C. Erickson) If you hit a guy wire and break it, call the utility to fix it. Do not do it yourself. When dealing with electrical poles and wires, always call the electric utility.

National Farm Safety and Health Week is the perfect time for farm families and workers to discuss electrical dangers and to know how to avoid them. Learn more at www.SafeElectricity.org.

\$7,799

\$7,799

\$5,999

\$5,399

\$7,749

\$8,399

\$8,599

FAX: (218) 681-8420 · 1-800-826-5403 Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9-5:30 · Sat. 9-1 www.rvsports.com





Your key to buy, sell or trade anything is the

CLASSIFIEDS

KM Transmission

Fair Prices

Its all just that simple. Keith Moen

Mon. - Fri. 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Sat. by appointment

(218) 681-4250

And Repair

Quality • Experience

Dependability • Honesty

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

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

Late Model Auto Parts

-National Parts Locator-

Toll Free 1-888-560-5321

Bus: 218-964-5321

WE BUY PARTS CARS!

20 Bakers St., St. Hilaire, MN

Jeff Brouse & Brian Bugge, Owners

B & B Auto Recycling, Inc.

For Sale

FOR SALE - One wooden rocking chair. Make an offer. Ken Boucher 796-5259.

FOR SALE - Factory-made newer Magnum shooting bench, adjustable seat, swivels 360 degrees, never been used, left or right hand. Must see to appreciate this top of the line shooting bench. Sell for \$399.99 new. Now selling for \$225. Only got one. Call 218-681-2109.

FOR SALE - 2003 Honda Metro Il scooter with upgrades. Red and White color scheme. Excellent condition. New battery. Great gas mileage. Only 1400 miles. Second owner. \$600 firm. 218-289-4569.















⋈ Upholstery

^{call:} (218) 681-7679

Flooring to Fit Every Lifestyle

of St. Hilaire, MN

☒ Odor Control

 ☒ Ceilings & Walls
 ☒ Air Duct Cleaning

⊠ Emergency Water & Smoke Damage

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



Well established Restaurant & Lounge 191 US Highway 59 SE Thief River Falls, MN 5671 Total sq. Footage: 5040 propery sits on 1.2 acres Just reduced to: \$297,000.00

Erskine

22379 380th St S - Beautiful Manor on almost 12 acres on Lake Bradley

Priced to sell @ \$1,499,000 37854 210th Ave SE-Rare opportunity to buy a stately home overlooking Little Lake Sarah

Anne E. Nevin

A must see @ this price \$299,000 Broker/Owner 218-681-4321/612-702-3324

Joe McMullen **AGENT** 218-689-5760

DON'S

ASE CERTIFIED REBUILDERS

Automotive •Industrial

•Marine •Agricultural

Vintage Auto

•Heavy Duty Diesel

CALL FOR ESTIMATE!

INSTALLATION AVAILABLE

FOSSTON, MN

218-435-6379 or

1-800-448-1518

ALL GAS AND DIESEL ENGINES

•High Performance \$1,315 - \$1.419

•GM 6.5 Diese

with new block \$5,330

•Ford 7.3

\$4,200

Jerry Hoffman AGENT 218-686-0224

Sherri Owens **AGENT** 218-416-0904

LUMDLR

AND

www.1234sale.com







email rlfgaz@gvtel.com for pricing and additional information.





Licensed • Bonded • Insured FREE ESTIMATES

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

Electrical

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





SUBSCRIBE TO GAZETTE

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

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

Send the Gazette to . . .

THE GAZETTE SUBSCRIPTION RATES . . .

In Red Lake County, \$29 a year In Minnesota, \$35 a year

Enclosed is a check for \$___

Out of state, \$39 a year

NAME		
ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP

Concrete Coatings & Repair

• Epoxy Coatings (colored chip & quartz)

- Decorative Concrete Overlays Concrete Polishing and Staining
- Concrete Densifier and Sealers Any concrete area needing a new appearance with a seamless and easy to maintain finish.
- Shop/Garage and Basement Floors Commercial Kitchens and Retail Floors
- **Contact: Concrete Designs** (218) 681-8004 E-mail: epoxy@mncable.net

Patio, Driveway/Apron and Sidewalks

SCHOOL'S OPEN. WATCH FOR **CHILDREN!**

Red Lake Electric Cooperative
Want Ad Order Form
Use this handy form to submit your want ads. PLEASE PRINT.
Mail or bring your ads to the RLEC office by the tenth of the month. Commercial ads are 10¢ per word with a minimum charge of \$4 per insertion.

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

Please PRINT

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



Review the cold weather disconnection law

The cold weather law, which became effective Aug. 1, 1995, provides a guideline for Red Lake Electric Cooperative to use for properly notifying a customer of their delinquent account and determining when electricity can be shut off during the cold weather season (Oct. 15 through April 15).

This law also provides a guideline for customers to follow when their electric service is up for disconnection and what they must do to avoid disconnection of electricity during the cold weather season.

It's important to remember the cold weather rule does not prevent a shutoff of electricity during the cold weather season. Only you, the customer, can prevent a shutoff of electricity from occurring.

Other than paying your bill when it is due, you can prevent a shutoff from occurring by responding to the information RLEC will deliver with each collection notice during the cold weather months. Should you have any questions about the cold weather rule or the shutoff protection information that will be attached to each collection notice, please call RLEC. We want to help you prevent a cold weather shutoff.

COLD WEATHER LAW 216B.097. Cold weather rule, cooperative or municipal utility. Subdivision 1. **Application**;

notice to residential customer.

disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a residential customer during the period between October 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit and all of the following conditions are met: 1. The household income of the

erative electric association must not

customer is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income. A municipal utility or cooperative electric association utility may (i) verify income on forms it provides or (ii) obtain verification of income from the local energy assistance provider. A customer is deemed to meet the income requirements of this clause if the customer receives any form of public assistance, including energy assistance, that uses an income eligibility threshold at or below 50 percent of the state median household income;

2. A customer enters into and makes reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household; and

3. A customer receives referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation or other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy

(b) A municipal utility or a cooperative electric association must, between August 15 and October 15

(a) A municipal utility or a coopeach year, notify all residential customers of the provisions of this sec-

> Subdivision 2. Notice to residential customers facing disconnec-

> Before disconnecting service to a residential customer during the period between Oct. 15 and April 15, a municipal utility or cooperative electric association must provide the following information to a cus-

1. A notice of proposed discon-

2. A statement explaining the customer's rights and responsibili-

3. A list of local energy assistance providers;

4. Forms on which to declare inability to pay; and

5. A statement explaining available time payment plans and other opportunities to secure continued utility service.

Subdivision 3. Restrictions if disconnection is necessary.

(a) If a residential customer must be involuntarily disconnected between October 15 and April 15 for failure to comply with subdivision 1, the disconnection must not occur:

1. on a Friday, unless the customer declines to enter into a payment agreement offered that day in person or via personal contact by telephone by a municipal utility or

cooperative electric association; 2. on a weekend, holiday or the

day before a holiday; 3. when utility offices are

4. after the close of business on a day when disconnection is permitted, unless a field representative of a municipal utility or cooperative electric association who is authorized to enter into a payment agreement, accept payment and continue service, (0121013.06 Judy A. Jones) offers a payment agreement to the customer.

Further, the disconnection must

not occur until at least 20 days after seven days' written notice of the prothe notice required in subdivision 2 has been mailed to the customer or 15 days after the notice has been personally delivered to the cus-

(b) If the customer does not respond to a disconnection notice, the customer must not be disconnected until the utility investigates whether the residential unit is actually occupied. If the unit is found to be occupied, the utility must immediately inform the occupant of the provisions of this section. If the unit

posed disconnection to the local energy assistance provider before making a disconnection.

(c) If, prior to the disconnection, a customer appeals a notice of involuntary disconnection, as provided by the utility's established appeal procedure, the utility must not disconnect until the appeal is resolved.

Subdivision 4. Application to service limiters. For the purposes of section, "disconnection" includes a service or load limiter or any device that limits or interrupts is unoccupied, the utility must give electric service in any way.

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.

Important notice for military personnel

TY PAYMENT ARRANGE-FOR **MILITARY** SERVICE PERSONNEL

Subdivision 1. Restriction on disconnection; payment sched**ules.** (a) A municipal utility. cooperative electric association or public utility must not disconnect the utility service of a residential customer if a member of the household has been issued orders into active duty, for deployment or change in duty station if such a residential customer:

(1) has a household income below the state median household income or is receiving energy assistance and enters into an agreement with the municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility under which the residential customer pays ten percent of the customer's gross monthly income toward the customer's bill and the residential customer remains reasonably current with those payments; or

(2) has a household income above the state median household income and enters into an agreement with the municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility establishing a reasonable payment schedule that considers the financial resources of the

Section 1. [325E.028] UTILI- household and the residential cusnection as a recipient of any form tomer remains reasonably current with payments under the payment schedule.

(b) For purpose of this subdivision, "household income" means household income measured after the date of the orders specified in paragraph (a).

Subd. 2. Annual notice to all customers; inability to pay forms.

(a) A municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility must notify all residential customers annually of the provisions of this section.

(b) A municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility must provide a form to a residential customer to request the protections of this section upon the residential customer's request.

Subd. 3. **Application to service** limiters. For the purposes of this section, "disconnection" includes a service or load limiter or any device that limits or interrupts electric service in any way.

Subd. 4. **Income verification.**

Verification of income may be conducted by the local energy assistance provider or the municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility unless the customer is automatically eligible for protection against disconof public assistance, including energy assistance that uses income eligibility in an amount at or below the income eligibility in subdivision 1, clause (1).

Subd. 5. Appeal process.

(a) The municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility shall provide the residential customer with a commission approved written notice of the right to appeal to the commission or other appropriate governing body when the utility and residential customer are unable to agree on the establishment, reasonableness or modification of a payment schedule, provided for by this section. Any appeal must be made within seven working days after the residential customer's receipt of personally served notice, or within ten working days after the utility has deposited first-class mail notice in

the United States mail. (b) The utility shall not disconnect service while a payment schedule is pending appeal or until any appeal involving payment schedules has been determined by the commission.

Subd. 6. **Enforcement.** This section may be enforced pursuant to chapter 216B.

SIGN-UP SHEET

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

RLEC ELECTRIC ACCOUNT #
NAME (PRINT)
ADDRESS
TELEPHONE #
NAME OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION
CHECKING ACCOUNT #
SAVINGS ACCOUNT #
CICN HERE TO ALITHORIZE

Please return this authorization form with a blank, voided check to:

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750

Goose Fest 2012! "On Call" Middle River EMTs Fun For Whole Family! Middle River, MN Fri.- Sun., September 28 - 30 • Opening Ceremony • Live Music • Tractor Pull • Food • Beer Garden• Tennis Tournament Craft Show & Flea Market Youth Games Mutton Bustin'

Agassiz Nature Bus Tour • Teen Dance

GMR Art Club Booth • and much more!!

Festival Parade
 Goose Walk/Run
 Horse Play Day

Theater Performances • Goose Cook-Off • BINGO

• Goose Calling • Pet Show/Contest • Home Run Derby

Phone

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

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



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

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