



Volts and Jolts

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

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

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

VOL. 43 – NO. 6

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

APRIL 2008

Red Lake Electric Cooperative holds 70th annual meeting

The 70th annual meeting of Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) was held March 26 in the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls. About 375 members and guests attended.

The meeting opened with the national anthem sung by Amelia Schmitz, daughter of Mary Jo and Terry Schmitz of Red Lake Falls.

In his president's report, Kelly Lundeen said the past year was very good in many respects. Outage time per customer averaged 1.8 hours, more than \$500,000 was paid out in capital credit retirements and member equity was a strong 51 percent of assets. Lundeen said the board spent considerable time on the selection of a new general manager and had selected Roger Johanneck, current manager of finance and administration, as the general manager effective May 1.

Johanneck gave the financial report for 2007. He said the cooperative had a good year financially. RLEC's total energy sales increased and customer demand for energy pushed sales to a record level. Cold weather and the price of other heating sources had an impact on electric energy sales. He added that 2007 is the first year off-peak energy sales have increased since 2001.

The largest cost of doing business for RLEC is the cost of energy it buys from Minnkota Power Cooperative. In 2007, the cost to RLEC was \$5.2 million and it made up two-thirds of the cost of providing electric service to its customers. Johanneck said it might be too obvious a statement to say RLEC's customers have a big say in annual power cost expense from Minnkota. However, the kWhs customers use (energy charge) make up only half of RLEC's wholesale power cost. The other charges (demand, transmission and substation charges) are based on how much electricity customers use and how much they use over peak periods. Power plants, transmission lines and substations all need to be sized to handle peak loads.

The balance of RLEC's expenses is the cost associated with delivering electricity from the substations to the customer's meter. RLEC has \$24.5 million in electric plant, which consists of 2,324 miles of overhead and 231 miles of underground power lines and relat-



About 375 members and guests attended Red Lake Electric Cooperative's 70th annual meeting. The meeting was held March 26 at the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls. Additional photos appear on pages 7 and 8.

ed equipment that it maintains to deliver energy to its customers.

Ron Kennedy, general manager, gave his report and discussed energy conservation efforts and sales data. He said electrical use by customers in February had exceeded the previous record high by 9.7 percent. He added the controlled and uncontrolled peak demands registered in the past winter had exceeded the previous record highs by 10.7 percent and 9.6 percent, respectively. Cold weather and customers switching from fossil fuels (Elton Underdahl 2313005.01) to electricity for heating had likely caused the large increases.

Kennedy said the higher use and demands would likely remain in future years, also, because fossil fuel prices are projected to remain high. This spike in use and demand, he said, was causing a re-evaluation of load growth projections, generation capacity needs and distribution system upgrades.

Kennedy, who is retiring in May, thanked members, employees and directors for their support during his tenure as general manager.

Dave Loer, Minnkota Power CEO, talked about power supply issues, wind generation, load control and climate change. He said a third coal-fired unit at the Young Station was put on hold for at least five years, due to one of the partners dropping out of the project and the uncertainty of the future for coal-fired generation.

He said the Langdon wind farm was operating well and Minnkota's cost of electricity generated there was competitive with the regional (Gary Paquin 6710005.05) market price. He assured customers that load control was only used when electric load exceeded Minnkota's economical generation and market prices were too high.

Loer said he is very concerned about detrimental legislation curbing carbon dioxide from coal power

plants. He said the earth's climate has always been changing and he seriously questions the effect of man on the earth's temperatures.

Three directors were elected at the annual meeting. Incumbents Bonnie Christians, Crookston, District 1; Steve Linder, Oklee, District

4; and Mark Hanson, Thief River Falls, District 5, were the nominees and were re-elected to serve three-year terms.

Kim Swanson, Thief River Falls, president of the Red Lake Electric Trust, Inc., presented a \$500 Operation Round Up® grant to

Deanna Sorvig, Thief River Falls. Sorvig accepted the check and thanked the members present on behalf of the Pennington-Red Lake Victim Services.

In the 15 years of Operation RoundUp, grants of more than \$301,000 have been awarded to area nonprofit and charitable organizations throughout the service area of RLEC. At present, 88 percent of the members contribute to the program.

Safety awards were presented to three RLEC employees in recognition of their safe work records. Employees recognized for surpassing five-year increments of accident-free work were Bob Guillemette, 25 years; Steve Kruse, 10 years; and Roger Valley, five years.

Lundeen recognized and congratulated Kennedy on his retirement from the co-op. Kennedy was presented a plaque thanking him for his 32 years of service as an employee of RLEC.

Door prizes were awarded. Lunch was served by the support group of St. Joseph Catholic School in Red Lake Falls. Musical entertainment was provided by Vern Rogalla of Goodridge.

RLEC presently serves 5,097 accounts for customers in Red Lake, Marshall, Pennington, Polk and Beltrami counties. On the current board of directors are Kelly Lundeen, president, Trail; Bonnie Christians, vice president; Henry Wieland, secretary-treasurer, Red Lake Falls; Robert Olson, Middle River; Robert Finstad, Thief River Falls; Steve Linder; Joyce Johnson, Viking; Mark Hanson; and Peter Mosbeck, Red Lake Falls.

The last column

Determining a topic for my monthly column has not always been easy for me. Once I've come up with a topic, however, writing it has usually been pretty easy and quick.

For this column, my 331st and last manager's column in the *Volts and Jolts*, the topic comes very easy. Writing it this month is a lot tougher.

I've had a lot of "goodbyes" in my life, some pretty sad. Saying goodbye to my parents when they passed away, saying goodbye to our four children as they each departed for college and saying goodbye to my wife the morning after our wedding so I could report back to Army duty were the toughest in my memory. Saying goodbye to Red Lake Electric is going to rank right up there, too.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) has been a very good place for me to work. There have been some difficult times and frustrations but they have been outweighed by many friendships made, positive accomplishments and the opportunity to make a small difference in many people's lives. RLEC has put food on my family's table, clothes on our backs and a roof over our heads for 32 years and I certainly appreciate that.

I've often heard lately, "You're too young to retire," or "you'll get bored." That may be the case but I've decided to try retirement for a while when I'm young enough and healthy enough to give me the best opportunity to enjoy it. It may be a challenge but I'll "work" at it like any other challenge I've faced. If the challenge of retirement proves too great for me I'll just go back to work somewhere.

"Are you moving from Red Lake Falls?" "Do you have any big travel plans?" "How will you keep busy?" I've answered those questions a lot lately and I'll share the answers here, just in case you're



Ron Kennedy

curious. No, my wife, Jan, and I are not moving from Red Lake Falls. It is home to both of us and we enjoy our home and friends here.

We have no big travel plans, either. We traveled a lot when we were younger and kind of got that out of our system. Jan was with me for two years in Germany when I was in the Army so we've seen that part of the world. There are some places pretty close to home we hope to visit now because we've just never had the time before.

We do, however, plan to see our four children and five grandchildren a little more. Our daughter, Renae, lives near Bemidji with her husband and two girls. Bruce lives near Brainerd with his wife, daughter and son; and Matt lives in Ferguson Falls with his wife and son. Brad our youngest, is in his second year of college in St. Cloud.

I do want to pursue some of my hobbies more. I plan to golf enough this summer to bring my average

down a couple strokes. I also plan to catch more and bigger fish, camp a little more and hunt more often. My woodworking shop will get some more use, too, as my list of projects for family members keeps growing.

Most of my work at RLEC has been directed to keeping our electric service reliable and keeping the rates down. There have been a few programs I've had a part in that have been very good for RLEC and our members. Developing and "selling" off-peak electric heating occupied much of our focus in the 1980s and '90s. As fossil fuel prices have risen recently, the benefit of off-peak electric heating is being realized today more than ever.

The development of the DIRECTV satellite television business in the '90s and the profitable sale of that franchise in 1999 were stressful but exciting times for many of us. Installation of the automated meter reading system in the '90s was a big project accomplished through the work of many employees and was warmly welcomed by members. The Operation Round Up Program began in 1993 and has provided more than \$300,000 in grants to area community and nonprofit agencies. The generosity of our members in their support of this program continues to amaze me.

I want to leave RLEC quietly, without a lot of fanfare. I have passed on offers of traditional send-off affairs or recognitions but have reluctantly consented to move my last column to page one. I have a great deal of satisfaction for my career at RLEC and that is enough remembrance for me.

Because I'm not leaving the area, I will continue to see many of the employees, directors and members I've worked with the past 32 years. I appreciate your friendship and I offer all of you a sincere "thank you" for the opportunity to be part of RLEC.

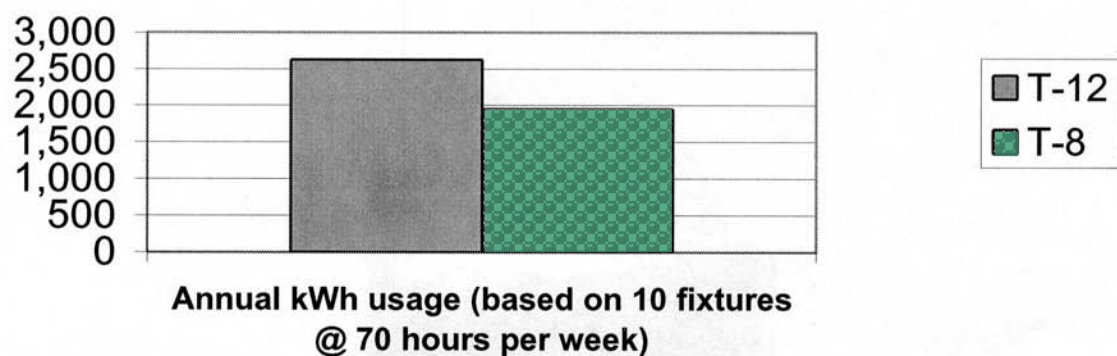
QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. (RLEC) will pay cash rebates to commercial and industrial customers for the installation of qualifying lighting equipment to replace inefficient light fixtures in existing buildings. The maximum rebate per member is \$2,000 and cannot exceed 50% of the project cost, including materials & labor. The chart below shows the energy advantage of replacing older style (T-12) 4 foot fluorescent tube lighting with the new style (T-8) energy efficient 4 foot fluorescent tube lighting. Contact RLEC today and find out more about our 2008 commercial lighting retrofit rebate program.

(This rebate program has a \$10,000 maximum annual expenditure which could limit the number of participants.)

4 foot Fluorescent Tube Lighting comparison.



Minnkota, FPL Energy announce wind farm addition in North Dakota

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Red Lake Electric Cooperative's wholesale power supplier, has signed a contractual agreement with FPL Energy to purchase more electricity from an addition to the Langdon Wind Energy Center in Cavalier County, N.D. The wind farm became operational Dec. 31, 2007.

The project will use 27 additional General Electric wind turbines, each having a nameplate capacity of 1.5 megawatts (MW). The expanded facility is expected to provide another 140 million kilowatt hours to Minnkota each year. By the end of 2008 when the expansion is completed, more than 13 percent of Minnkota's annual energy sales to the associated cooperatives and municipals will be derived from the wind.

"We are pleased to purchase additional energy from the Langdon Wind Energy Center expansion," said David Loer, Minnkota president and CEO. "Minnkota plans to add more than 300 MW of renewable energy to our generating portfolio during the next several years. The expansion at Langdon is part of that effort."

Studies have shown the existing 115-kilovolt transmission infrastructure, which was enhanced last (Randy Rasmussen 4517029.01) year, is adequate to carry the additional wind energy into the regional grid without major modifications.

FPL Energy, a subsidiary of FPL Group, currently operates five wind farms in North Dakota near Center, Edgeley, Kulm, Langdon and Wilton, totaling more than 328 MW. As the nation's leader in wind energy, FPL Energy has wind farms in 25 states, totaling more than 5,210 MW of wind capacity.



Minnkota is a generation and transmission cooperative that supplies wholesale electricity to 11 electric distribution cooperatives serving a 34,500-square-mile area (Willard Brunelle 7105001.02) in eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. Minnkota is

also operating agent for the Northern Municipal Power Agency (NMPA), which serves 12 municipal utilities in the same geographic region.

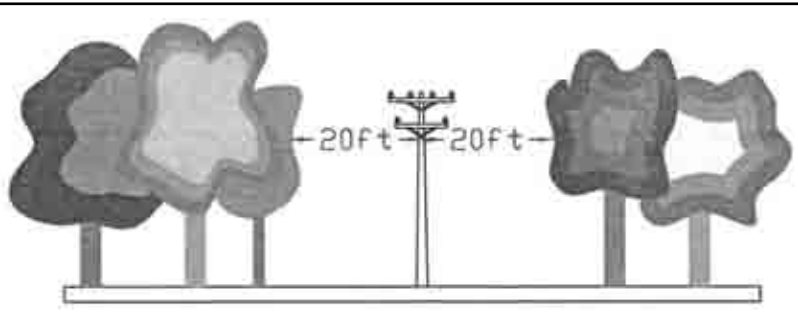
Together, the Minnkota/NMPA Joint System serves more than 129,000 customers.

Plant trees safely away from power lines

Trees that grow too close to electrical lines can create power outages, shocks and fire hazards. Before beginning yard landscaping projects this spring, Red Lake Electric Cooperative reminds you to plant tall-growing trees safely away from power lines and to seek help in choosing and planting trees and bushes that won't grow to interfere with electric facilities.

Trees conduct electricity and create a safety hazard if limbs grow too closely to electric lines. Power outages or momentary interruptions can occur when trees and branches come into contact with overhead lines. Electrical arcing and sparking from a wire to a nearby branch can cause fires. But a greater concern is the safety risk when children climb trees near power lines. Accidental contact of electric wires with a tree limb or person playing or trimming around the tree could be fatal.

Trees growing near power lines must be pruned to maintain a safe distance from the wires. **If you**



The clearance area around electric lines should be at least 20 feet in any direction.

have trees that appear to be growing into power lines, contact the Cooperative office. Never try to prune them yourself. Utility workers are trained and equipped to safely prune and trim trees for electric line clearances.

Safety reminders

- Consider mature height of trees. Do not plant trees that can grow to 20 feet tall or more near overhead power lines. A mature height of less than 15 feet is recommended.

- Do not plant near underground utility services. Tree roots can grow and interfere with underground pipes, cable and wires.
 - Keep areas around electric meters, transformers or other electrical equipment free of any vegetation that could limit utility service access.
- If you have questions about planting trees near power lines call the Cooperative office at 253-2168 or 800-245-6068.

Mercury and battery recycling = safety

A number of common consumer products contain mercury, a toxic substance that can be harmful to human health and the environment. The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) encourages users of mercury-containing products to become familiar with and follow requirements of local recycling laws.



Thermostats

Many existing wall thermostats contain mercury switches that provide for efficient control of temperature around a desired set point. The switches are securely housed and the likelihood of consumer exposure to mercury remains extremely low. When taken out of service, however, mercury thermostats should be managed and disposed of properly.

The Thermostat Recycling Corporation (TRC), a not-for-profit organization, facilitates the collection of all brands of used, wall-mounted mercury-switch thermostats by heating, cooling and air conditioning wholesalers. Local electrical distributors or contractors may be a participant in TRC and can help you recycle your mercury thermostat.

Rechargeable batteries

Rechargeable batteries are commonly found in cordless power tools, cellular and cordless phones, laptop computers, camcorders, dig-

ital cameras and remote-controlled toys. The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC) provides a recycling service for used portable, rechargeable batteries and old cell phones. The RBRC recycles the following battery chemistries: nickel-cadmium, nickel-metal hydride, lithium-ion and small sealed lead. Visit www.RBRC.org to find local participating retailers and other sites that accept rechargeable batteries for recycling.

Ordinary household batteries

Common household batteries (AAA, AA, C and D) do not contain hazardous materials. It is permissible in all states, with the exception of California, to dispose of them in household trash. ESFI suggests you

contact your local waste disposal official (a directory should be provided in the local phone listings) with questions or concerns about household battery disposal.

Mercury-containing lamps/bulbs

Many types of lamps (often referred to as bulbs), including compact fluorescent and several types of high-intensity discharge lamps, contain mercury. Mercury lamps are highly efficient and provide substantial energy savings compared with alternatives.

Such lamps must be managed appropriately and disposed of in accordance with local laws, when applicable, as do all mercury-containing products.

– Source: ESFI.

From the mailbag

DEAR RLEC:

What a tremendous annual meeting! Thanks to all of you for your part in sponsoring such a wonderful annual meeting. It was so informative and well-presented.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Rokke, Newfolden

DEAR RLEC:

Thank you for the clock radio I won at the annual meeting, also for the informative meeting and good lunch.

Darlene Roseland, Newfolden

DEAR RLEC:

Thank you for the clock/radio I won at the annual meeting and also for the delicious dinner.

Floyd Hanson, Newfolden

DEAR RLEC:

Thank you for the Betty Crocker coffee machine I won at the annual meeting.

Mary Thorstad, Thief River Falls

DEAR RLEC:

Thank you for another informative meeting, the delicious meal and the 50-foot electrical cord I won. We will find many uses for it.

Thank you,
Mary Jean Majeres, Red Lake Falls

DEAR RLEC:

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the meal at the Red Lake Electric annual meeting.

Sincerely,
St. Joseph School, Red Lake Falls

DEAR RLEC:

On behalf of Sunview Dining, I want to thank you for donating extra milk from your annual meeting to our dining center.

We always appreciate the kindness of the people of our community in remembering our senior citizens.

Gratefully,
Margaret Schindler, dining manager/cook, Red Lake Falls

Mission Statement

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



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.
One of the Minnkota Power Systems

WE PROUDLY PRESENT TO YOU The Red Lake Electric Cooperative Customer Service Guarantee



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



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.
One of the Minnkota Power Systems

RONNIE M. KENNEDY
General Manager

RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc. VOLTS & JOLTS (USPS 663-400)

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Robert Finstad, Steven Linder, Joyce Johnson,
Mark Hanson, Peter Mosbeck
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NOTICE

Hidden within the text of the articles on pages 1, 2, 3 and the back page 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 (99-99-99-999-99 Roger P. Member). If you find your name and account number, clip it out and send it with your next payment. You will be credited with \$5 on your electric bill.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

Things you should know about your electric service

BILLINGS AND COLLECTION

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

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

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

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

BAD CHECKS

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

OUTAGES

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

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

METER TESTS

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

STOPPED METERS

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

METER READINGS

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

GENERAL SERVICE RATES

Facilities charge variable \$15 to \$21 month

First 500 KWH 8.0¢ Kwh
Over 500 KWH (April-Dec.) 5.7¢ Kwh
Over 500 KWH (Jan.-Mar.) 6.5¢ Kwh

Multiphase users add \$16/month cost of service charge.

Standby, \$8/month (meter disconnected but the power line retained; standby is not available on services larger than 15 KVA transformer capacity).

Security light, \$6/month, high pressure sodium, \$7/month, mercury vapor; water heater flat credit, \$5/month (on January-April billing); off-peak equipment charge, \$3.50/month per heat meter; off-peak electric heat rate, 3.5¢/kWh long-term control, 5.0¢/kWh short-term control.

Recipe corner

Favorite Meatloaf

2 eggs
1/4 c. milk
1 tbl. Worcestershire sauce
1 tsp. seasoned salt
1 tsp. onion powder
1 c. quick-cooking oats
1 carrot, shredded
2 tbl. chopped fresh parsley
1 1/2 lbs. ground beef
1 lb. ground pork
1/2 c. ketchup

In a large bowl, beat eggs. Add milk, Wocestershire sauce, seasoned salt and onion powder; mix well. Stir in oats, carrot and parsley. combine beef and pork; add to egg mixture and mix well. Press into a 9-in. x 5-in. x 3-in. loaf pan. Top with ketchup. Bake at 350° for 1 1/2 hours or until no pink remains. Drain. Yield: 6 to 8 servings.

Roast Prime Rib

1 tbl. dry mustard
1 1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. paprika
1/4 tsp. ground allspice
1/4 tsp. pepper
1 prime rib roast (4 to 5 lbs.), rolled and tied
1 small onion, cut into thin slivers
2 garlic cloves, cut into slivers
Fresh parsley sprigs

In a small bowl, combine mustard, salt, paprika, allspice and pepper; set aside. Using a sharp knife, cut long, deep slits in the top of the roast, about 1 inch apart. Stuff each slit with onion, garlic, parsley and a small amount of the spice mixture. Rub remaining spice mixture on the outside of the roast. Place on a rack in a deep roasting pan. Bake uncovered at 325° for 2 to 2 1/2 hours or until meat thermometer reads 160°. Yield: 8 to 10 servings.

Cookie Jar Gingersnaps

3/4 c. shortening
1 c. sugar
1 egg
1/4 c. molasses
2 c. all-purpose flour
2 tsp. baking soda
1 1/2 tsp. ground ginger
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
1/2 tsp. salt
Additional sugar

In a large mixing bowl, cream the shortening and sugar. Beat in the egg and molasses. Combine flour, baking soda, ginger, cinnamon and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture. Roll teaspoonfuls of dough into balls. Dip one side of each ball into sugar; place with sugar side up on a greased baking sheet. Bake at 350° for 12 to 15 minutes or until lightly browned and crinkly. Yield: 3 to 4 dozen.

Mom's Chocolate Chip Cookies

1 c. butter or margarine, softened
3/4 c. packed brown sugar
1/4 c. sugar
1 3.4-oz. pkg. instant vanilla pudding mix
2 eggs, lightly beaten
1 tsp. vanilla extract
2 1/4 c. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking soda
2 c. (12 oz.) semisweet chocolate chips

In a mixing bowl, cream butter and sugars. Add pudding mix, eggs and vanilla. Combine flour and baking soda; add to creamed mixture and mix well. Fold in chocolate chips. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 375° for 10 to 12 minutes or until lightly browned. Yield: 4 dozen.

Grilled Chicken Salad

6 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves
2 tbl. lemon juice
1 lb. macaroni, ziti or corkscrew pasta, cooked and drained
1 medium sweet red pepper, chopped
2 1/2 c. sliced celery
1 medium red onion, chopped
1/4 c. minced fresh dill or 5 tsp. dill weed
3 tbl. white wine vinegar
2 tbl. mayonnaise
2 tbl. Dijon mustard
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
2/3 c. olive or vegetable oil
Leaf lettuce, optional

Grill chicken over medium-hot heat for 15 to 18 minutes, turning once, or until juices run clear. Place in a single layer on a platter; sprinkle with lemon juice and set aside. In a large bowl, toss pasta, red pepper, celery, onion and dill. Remove chicken from platter; pour juices into a small bowl. Slice chicken crosswise into thin strips; add to pasta mixture. To the juices, add vinegar, mayonnaise, mustard, salt and pepper; whisk well. Add oil slowly in a stream until dressing is thickened. Pour over salad and toss. Serve in a lettuce-lined bowl or on lettuce-lined plates. Yield: 6 servings.

Cheesy Fish Fillets with Spinach

2 tbl. butter or margarine
2 tbl. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. instant chicken bouillon granules
Dash ground nutmeg
Dash cayenne pepper
Dash white pepper
1 c. milk
2/3 c. shredded Swiss or Cheddar cheese
1 10-oz. pkg. frozen chopped spinach, thawed and well drained
1 tbl. lemon juice
1 lb. fish fillets, cut into serving-size pieces
1/2 tsp. salt
2 tbl. grated Parmesan cheese
Paprika

Melt butter in a saucepan over low heat. Stir in the flour, bouillon, nutmeg, cayenne and white pepper; cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until mixture is smooth and bubbly. Stir in milk; bring to a boil and cook, stirring constantly, for 1 minute. Add cheese; cook and stir just until it melts. Remove from the heat and set aside. Place spinach in an ungreased 12-in. x 8-in. x 2-in. or 8-in. square baking dish. Sprinkle with lemon juice. Arrange fish over spinach; sprinkle with salt. Spread sauce on top. Bake, uncovered, at 350° until fish flakes easily with a fork, about 20 minutes. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese and paprika; return to the oven for 5 minutes. Yield: 4 servings.

Spring chore safety

After spending long winter days indoors, most folks love to get outside in spring, even if it's just to do chores. However, outdoor chores can bring electrical hazards.

For example, ladders contacting power lines cause 9 percent of electrocution-related deaths each year, according to recent data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Landscaping, gardening and farming equipment cause another 7 percent.

To avoid electrical hazards, make sure you and your family follow these simple tips:

- General**
 - Teach children to stay away from electric transformers and substations and explain what posted warning signs mean.
 - Avoid damp conditions when using electricity. Keep all electrical devices and cords away from water.
 - Place waterproof covers on all outdoor outlets.
 - Install ground fault circuit interrupters in outlets where water may be present.
 - Only use extension cords marked for outdoor use; match
- Power tools**
 - Inspect power tools and appliances for frayed cords, broken plugs and cracked or broken housing, and repair or replace damaged items.
 - Store power tools indoors.
 - Unplug outdoor tools when not in use.
 - Do not carry power tools by the cord.
- Ladders**
 - Use only a fiberglass or wooden ladder if you must work near overhead wires.
 - Never touch a person or an object that has made contact with a power line.
 - Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International and CPSC.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. Operating Report

MONTHLY COMPARISON

	FEBRUARY 2007	FEBRUARY 2008
Total Revenue	\$ 905,037	\$ 1,079,777
Total Margins	\$ 638,887	\$ 725,619
Cost of Power	\$ 529,695	\$ 620,513
KWH's Purchased	16,775,438	18,411,792
Capital Credits Paid to Estates	\$ 2,988	\$ 4,938

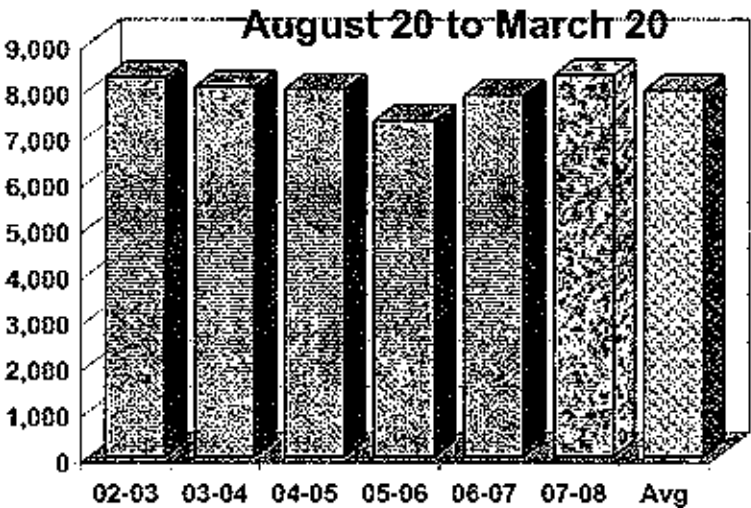
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

	FEBRUARY 2007	FEBRUARY 2008
Total Revenue	\$ 1,695,878	\$ 2,016,575
Total Margins	\$ 707,392	\$ 819,241
Cost of Power	\$ 1,015,047	\$ 1,193,314
KWH's Purchased	31,471,027	34,760,826
New Service Connections	2	0
Customers Served	5,058	5,095
Capital Credits Paid to Estates	\$ 12,406	\$ 6,246
Miles of Line		
Overhead	2,329	2,324
Underground	230	231

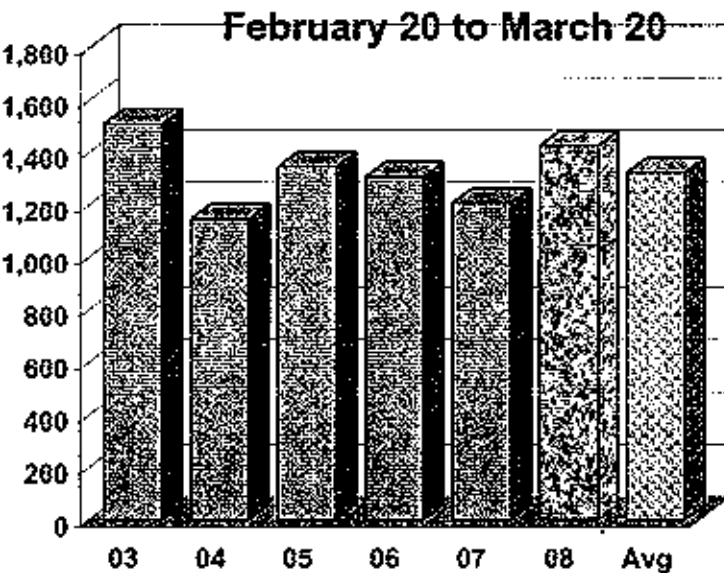
DEGREE DAYS

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.

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DEGREE DAYS



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VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Lyndon and Lori Schultz chosen as Ag Couple

By Destiny Harmoning

Lyndon and Lori Schultz have been chosen this year's Red Lake Falls Ag Couple. The Schultzes were chosen by the Red Lake Falls Merchant's Committee to represent the agricultural community during Ag Day, March 29.

Lyndon grew up on the farm he and his family now live on, nine miles northwest of Red Lake Falls. Lori grew up on a farm three miles from her present home.

Both attended and graduated from Lafayette High School. Lyndon went to the East Grand Forks AVTI for farm management. Lori went to the Thief River Falls AVTI to be a medical secretary.

Lori currently works as a receptionist at WoodMaster, where she has been for the last three years. Before that she worked full-time on the family farm and prior to that worked for County Attorney Dan Gellar's Office for nine years.

Lyndon met Lori because he was friends with her brother. They were married June 15, 1985. They have four children: Jaimie, 20, Robynn, 18, Scott, 12, and Kelly, 9.

In their free time, the family enjoys camping, fishing and hunting. Robynn, Scott and Kelly all play basketball. Robynn will graduate from Lafayette in

When they used to dairy farm, all the children helped out. Even the youngest, Kelly, used to help scrape feed. She was only 4 years old when they sold the dairy cattle in 2004. Lyndon said he would like to see his children farm, if they show an interest in it.

Lyndon has been farming all his life, helping out his father, Arley. He remembers doing chores when he was very young. The farm was homesteaded in 1885 by Lyndon's great-grandfather.

When asked why he decided to farm, Lyndon replied, "I was just raised with it and enjoyed it." Wheat, soybeans, sunflowers and hay are currently grown on the Schultz farm.



Lori and Lyndon Schultz

They also have a small herd of beef cattle.

The Schultzes took over the farm from Arley in 1996. Lyndon talked about how his father has helped out a lot with the farm and still does. "If it wasn't for him, it would have been impossible for me to start," Lyndon said.

The farm started out as a dairy farm but the Schultzes made the decision to sell the cattle as part of a buyout. "It was time to make probably a fairly big investment in it to keep on going and then we would have been stuck in for probably another 10 years," Lyndon explained. "This buyout came around and I put a bid in and just happened to get picked."

The Schultzes welcomed the change because it allowed them more free time. Lori said it gave them time to attend

their childrens' sports and other activities.

The biggest reward of being a farmer, according to the Schultzes, is being able to stay home with their children. It has given them opportunities to spend time with their children, raise them and teach them good work ethics by doing chores on the farm.

In reference to some of the current events, Lyndon said, "I don't think the farm bill makes any difference because you can't sign up." Lyndon also talked about the bovine tuberculosis scare. "My herd is so small that for me, it's not that big of a deal because it's just not that big a part of our income," Lyndon said. What does concern Lyndon is "The high input costs is the biggest thing I'm sure for most everybody."

In the future of the Schultz farm, Lyndon hopes to increase the size a little bit and remain profitable. Lori added, "It's kind of knowing what to grow and when to sell."

Lyndon explained there are so many variables to consider when managing a farm that it makes it difficult to stay on top. The important thing is "to stay profitable."

One of the most interesting

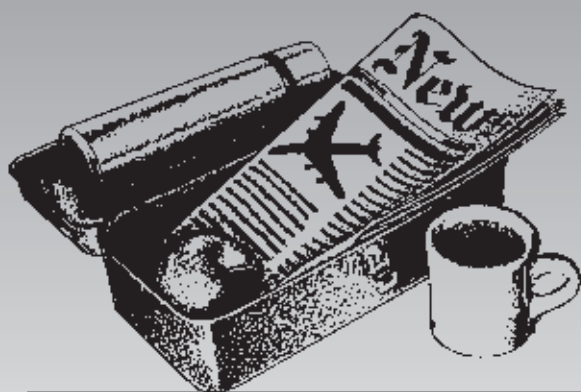
aspects of the Schultz farm is they have hosted many agricultural exchange students from overseas. Lyndon's father started the program in 1975 and they continued to have at least one student every year until the dairy cattle were sold in 2004. Lori and Lyndon hosted 12 students since they took over the farm.

The students came to the country to learn about agriculture and not to attend high school, like a typical foreign exchange student. The reason the Schultzes participated in the program was to have more help with the dairy cattle.

When asked how they felt about being chosen as Ag Couple, Lyndon and Lori said in unison, "surprised."

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Early arrivers to Red Lake Electric Cooperative's annual meeting March 26 were Dale Koop, left, and Al Kimble of Thief River Falls.



George Sodon, left, Thief River Falls, visits with Peter Mosbeck, Red Lake Electric Director, prior to Red Lake Electric's annual meeting.



Dennis Hovet, Goodridge, was the winner of an oak shelf, one of the door prizes, at Red Lake Electric's annual meeting.



Sylvia Cole, Middle River, displays the coffee grinder she won as a door prize at Red Lake Electric's annual meeting.



Gordy Henrickson, right, of Goodridge receives an annual report and meeting details as he enters the Ralph Engelstad Arena for Red Lake Electric Cooperative's annual meeting. Explaining the meeting details is Troy Schmitz, lineman.



Andrew Skaer, left, and John Bornholdt, Thief River Falls, share stories the day of Red Lake Electric Cooperative's annual meeting.



Amelia Schmitz, Red Lake Falls, sang the national anthem to open Red Lake Electric Cooperative's 70th annual meeting. Schmitz is a senior at Lafayette High School and the daughter of Terry and Mary Schmitz.



Don Solheim, Crookston, was the winner of a coffeemaker at Red Lake Electric Cooperative's 70th annual meeting.



Registering at Red Lake Electric's annual meeting are Kenny Carlson, right center, Thief River Falls, and David Arveson, right, Trail. Cooperative employees at the registration table include Shirley Bregier, accountant, and Casey Thronson, apprentice lineman.



Clayton Larson, Plummer, won a prize at Red Lake Electric Cooperative's annual meeting, a Skil jigsaw.



Reuben Benitt, Middle River, was recognized as a long-time, loyal member of Red Lake Electric Cooperative at the Cooperative's annual meeting. He was awarded a portable radio.



Ruthie Mosbeck, Red Lake Falls, won a West Bend cookery as one of the prizes at Red Lake Electric's annual meeting.



Annual meeting day is a time for friends and neighbors to gather and enjoy fellowship. Visiting prior to Red Lake Electric's annual meeting are, left to right, Don Laursen and Harley Knutson, Thief River Falls, and Dennis Kainz, Goodridge.



The Imperial Room at the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls was nearly filled to capacity with Red Lake Electric Cooperative annual meeting attendees. It was the 70th annual meeting.

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Red Lake Electric Cooperative's annual meeting lunch was prepared and served by the support group of St. Joseph Catholic School of Red Lake falls. Volunteers included, left to right, Jack LaCrosse, Russ Coenen, Phyllis Audette and Gladys LaCrosse.



Ron Kennedy, standing, Red Lake Electric Cooperative general manager, visits Cooperative members prior to the call of the Cooperative's annual meeting March 26. It was Kennedy's 28th and final annual meeting as manager; he retires May 2.

Operation Round Up® Program surpasses \$300,000 in grants

With the \$10,400 in grants made in March, the Operation Round Up Program has now provided \$103,143 in grants to nonprofit community organizations since it began in 1993. The Red Lake Electric Trust Inc. is the tax-exempt entity set up to determine grants.

Nineteen different organizations received grants at the semiannual meeting just held. Red Lake Electric Cooperative members provide money for the grants by voluntarily "rounding up" their monthly electric bill payment. More than 88 percent of the members participate in the program.

Four area emergency services providers received grants. The Oklee Fire Department, the Viking Fire Department and the Goodridge Fire and Rescue each received \$1,000 grants for training or equipment. The Polk County Mounted Posse Search and Rescue Unit received \$600 to help replace batteries in members' portable radios.

Grants were made to three organizations to help provide in-home services to senior citizens. (Richard Huffman 7228003.01) Inter-County Nursing Service, the Middle River-Thief Lake Living at Home Program and the Tri-Community Living at Home/Block Nurse Program each received \$500 grants.

Four grants were made to organizations serving youth. The Little Brother/Little Sister Programs in Thief River Falls and Marshall County received \$500 and \$300, respectively. The Happy Acres 4-H Club received a \$250 grant for material to make blankets for "Project Linus." A \$300 grant was made to the Marshall County Early Childhood Initiative to help provide books monthly for children under 5.



Deanna Sorvig, left, Thief River Falls, accepted an Operation Round Up grant on behalf of the Pennington-Red Lake Victim Services at RLEC's annual meeting. The grant was presented by Kim Swanson, Thief River Falls, president of the Red Lake Electric Trust. In March \$10,400 in grants was made to area nonprofit organizations. Since 1993 more than \$301,00 has been awarded through the program.

The Goodridge Senior Citizen Center received \$500 to help purchase a new refrigerator. A \$250 grant was made to the Thief River Care Center to help purchase a new computer system for residents' use. The Housing and Redevelopment Authority in Red Lake Falls was also granted \$250 to help purchase a new television for Sunview Center.

A \$200 grant was made to the Strandquist Area Food Shelf to purchase food for the needy. The American Cancer Society, Red Lake County chapter, received \$500 to help pay expenses associated with the Relay For Life.

The Violence Intervention Project in Thief River Falls received \$750 for the Umbrella Tree Program that provides supervised child

visitations. A \$500 grant was made to Pennington-Red Lake County Victim Services to help provide emergency services to victims of crime in the two counties.

The Red Lake Electric Trust Board of Directors determines grants semiannually in March and September. Serving on the board are Kim Swanson, Thief River Falls, president; Bonnie Cote, Trail, vice president; and Rodney Hoffman, Goodridge, secretary-treasurer. Ex-officio directors are Henry Wieland and Ron Kennedy of Red Lake Falls, representing Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC).

Grant applications are available at the RLEC office or by visiting the Web site at www.redlakeelectric.com.

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MSRP\$34,960
Factory Rebate\$3,500
Ford Credit Bonus Cash.....\$1,000
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Thief River Ford Discount.....\$2,661

Your Price.....\$26,799

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