

VOL. 45 – NO. 11

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

SEPTEMBER 2010

Swanson and his wife

DeDe live on their small farm

south of Thief River Falls

where they raise beef cattle

and DeDe operates a beauty

shop out of their home. Also

on their farm sits a high tun-

nel where vegetables are

grown. Swanson's are co-

owners /operators of Cabin

View Gardens that raises,

markets and sells vegetables

Zion Lutheran Church. They

have two sons and four

grandchildren. Kelly and his

wife Lisa live in Champaign,

Illinois with their three

daughters and Ryan lives in

other trust board directors

Bonnie Cote of Trail, Randy

Knutson of Newfolden, Bon-

Swanson will serve with

Owatonna with his son.

Swanson's are members of

and canned goods.

# Twist and save with energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs



From now through Nov. 30, 2010, residential electric customers of Red Lake Electric Cooperative are eligible for special pricing that will allow them to purchase Energy Star qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) for as little as \$.99 at participating retailers. (Limit 12 bulbs per customer, while supplies last.)

The compact fluorescent rebate program is held in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) national Energy Star "Change a Light" campaign.

Energy Star qualified CFLs use up to 75 percent less electricity than standard incandescent light bulbs, last up to 10 times longer and produce about 75 percent less heat than incandescents, improving safety. By replacing the

# **Traffic Deaths Drop to Record** Lows in U.S., Minnesota

(2230005.04 Amanda D. Blazejewski) five most used bulbs in a home with energy-efficient CFLs, families can save \$35 in energy costs during the first year alone.

Today's CFLs produce bright, warm light at less cost to consumers and businesses because they use less electricity and last longer than incandescent bulbs, saving time and money on replacements. With the wide range of CFL shapes, sizes and styles now on the market, consumers can find an energy-efficient bulb for every situation and enjoy reduced energy costs all year long.

For more information about Energy Star qualified CFLs or to find participating retailers, call 888-476-9548.

The Cooperative can be contacted at 800-245-6068, 253-2168 or emailed at redlake@minnkota.com. The Cooperative's Web site is www.redlakeelectric.com.

Limit 12 bulbs per customer.

From now through Nov. 30, 2010, Red Lake Electric Cooperative members can get special pricing on ENERGY STAR qualified bulbs at participating retailers. For a retailer in your area, call 888-476-9548, or Red Lake Electric at 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068.

# Swanson to serve as Trust Board Director

Van Swanson, Thief River Falls, has been selected to serve as a Red Lake Electric Cooperative Trust Board Director. The Trust Board determines grants for Red Lake Electric's Operation RoundUp® program.

"Operation RoundUp is an excellent program," stated Swanson. "It is a great idea that generates funds to help support many area programs and charities. The community really benefits from the few dollars a participating member contributes each year."

Swanson serves as 4-H Program Director for Pennington and Marshall Counties. He has served in this capacity through the University of Minnesota Extension service for 20 years in Pennington and the last 5 years in Marshall.

"4-H involves working with many families and young people and being committed to working



Osmose Utility Services will soon begin inspecting poles on the Huot substation within Red Lake Electric Cooperative's service territory.

This inspection will include poles in: Bray, Sanders, Black River, and Polk Center townships in Pennington County; Wylie, Browns Creek, Louisville, Red Lake Falls, and Lake Pleasant townships in Red Lake County; Parnell, Crookston, and Gentilly townships in



#### Van Swanson

many evening hours, but I thoroughly enjoy it," said Swanson. "Helping the young people learn, grow and achieve is so rewarding."

nie Christians of Crookston and Roger Johanneck of Red Lake Falls. Since Operation RoundUp began in 1993, \$345.000 has been granted to community organizations and charities.

# Pole inspection to begin on Huot substation



Traffic deaths reached a six-decade low in the United States last year, a nearly 10 percent drop from 2008, according to data released last week by the Department of Transportation. Deaths fell to 33,808 for the year, the lowest number since 1950. The decline, which was evident in all categories of traffic deaths (motorcycle, pedestrian, bicycle, alcohol-related etc.) occurred even though there was a slight increase (0.2 percent)in estimated vehicle miles traveled in 2009. In Minnesota, deaths declined to 421 (455 in 2008) and alcohol-related deaths dropped 18 percent, from 132 in 2008 to 108 in 2009.

Source Minnesota Safety Council

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#### **ENERGY STAR qualified light bulbs:**

Use up to 75 percent less energy

. Last up to 10 times longer

 Save an average of \$30 in energy costs over their lifetime Produce 75 percent less heat

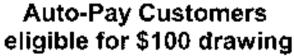
. Help the environment by saving energy

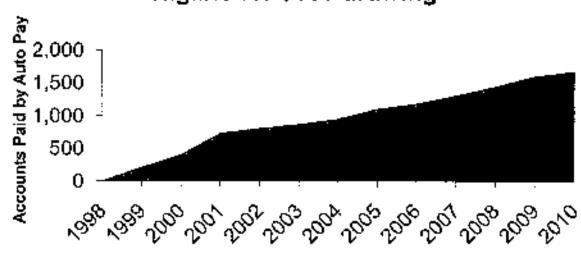
Because CFLs use less	Incandescent Bulb	CFL Equivalent	Littine Serings
power to create the	40 watt	9-11 watt	\$15 - \$20
same amount of light,	60 watt	13-17 watt	\$25 - \$30
use the chart at right to	75 watt	18-20 watt	\$30 - \$35
determine the correct	100 watt	23-26 watt	\$40 - \$45
wattage for your needs.	150 watt	32-42 watt	\$60 - \$70
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### **QUICK TAKES**

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

As the chart below shows, more and more Red Lake Electric Cooperative customers are enjoying the convenience and secure method of paying their. monthly energy bill with Auto-Pay. To show our appreciation, customers who use Auto-pay to pay their monthly bill will automatically be entered into a \$100 drawing on October 6th. For your convenience, an Auto-pay sign up sheet is included with the bill you receive this month. Have a question about Auto-pay? Give us a call at Red Lake Electric Cooperative today. 1-800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168.





Polk County.

Osmose employees will have marked vehicles. They will also be making use of all-terrain vehicles. If you have any questions call the Cooperative's headquarters at (218) 253-2168 or 800-245-6068.



# Sept. 19-25 is National Farm Safety Week

In a typical year, 551 workers die while doing agricultural work in the United States and about 88,000 suffer lost-time injuries. Most of these incidents are preventable.

National Farm Safety and Health Week (September 19-25) recognizes the hazardous nature of the agriculture industry and promotes awareness of safety solutions. This annual event was initiated by the National Safety Council (NSC) in 1944 and proclaimed as such by each U.S. president since. The theme for 2010 is "ATV's -Work Smart. Ride Safe."

As farmers across Minnesota work through the harvest season, our roads will see increased farm equipment traffic. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (4323004.04 Steven W. and Laurel J. Swanson) is observing National Farm Safety and Health Week and reminds you to help make Minnesota's roadways safer.

According to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, crashes involving farm vehicles and equipment are rare. But nevertheless, they do happen and they result in serious injury and even death. Of the approximately 150,000 vehicles involved in crashes in Minnesota in 2008, 147 were farm vehicles. Those crashes resulted in 62 injuries and two deaths.

In observance of National Farm Safety and Health Week, here are a few tips for drivers and farm equipment operators to help make Minnesota's roadways safer.

#### **Road Safety**

For people living or driving through rural areas: be on the look out for farm equipment; slow down when encountering slow moving vehicles; wait for a safe place to pass; and avoid using a cell phone

while driving.

For farmers: make yourself easy to be seen by using your lights and flashers; remember it's Minnesota law to use slow moving vehicle emblems on equipment traveling less than 30 miles per hour; and consider using a follow vehicle when moving large equipment on roadways, especially at night.

#### Work Safety

Agriculture is one of Minnesota's most dangerous jobs. Last year 21 of the 65 work-related deaths in the state were in the ag industry, according to data from the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry. Farming is physically demanding and long hours can take its toll on our bodies. That physical stress contributes to accidents and even death. It's important farmers follow some basic health guidelines when beginning fall field work.

Make sure to get enough sleep and rest to refresh the mind and body. If you are spending long hours in a combine or tractor, be sure to take short breaks often. When the busy season rolls around, we fill our bodies with fast food and other high-fat, low nutrition junk. Worse vet, we sometimes don't eat at all! It's worth the time to wake up a few minutes earlier to eat a quick breakfast and pack a nutritious lunch. Make sure to include a couple servings of fruits and vegetables to munch on during the day. Limit your intake of fatty meats, candy bars, and sugar.

#### Child Safety

Minnesota's farms are great places to raise children and they can also serve as an outdoor classroom for those kids not familiar with agriculture. But the farm can also be a dangerous place for a child, if proper safety precautions aren't taken. Here are some guide-

lines to protect children on the farm.

Inspect your farm on a regular basis for hazards that can injure children wandering on your farm. Correct obvious hazards immediately.

Children who are physically able to be involved in farm work should be assigned age-appropriate tasks and continually trained to perform them. Always turn equipment off, lower hydraulics and remove the key before leaving equipment unattended.

#### **Equipment Safety**

Large and powerful equipment can be found all over a farm. This equipment is also a source of many injuries. Pay attention to all safety information. Inspect the equipment and correct any hazards before operating.

Identify hazardous areas on equipment and make sure you stay away from moving parts. Beware of pinch points, shear points, wrap points, pull-in areas, thrown objects, crush points, stored energy hazards and freewheeling parts.

#### **Grain Handling Safety**

Automated equipment has made grain handling easy and fast. But, grain storage structures and handling equipment create hazardous work areas.

Lock entrances to grain handling areas. Install ladders inside bins. Do not enter grain bins that are being loaded or unloaded. Flowing grain can trap and suffocate in seconds.

Wear proper dust-filtering respirators when working in and around grain handling areas.

Safety tips provided by the National Safety Council, National Education Center for Agricultural Safety, and the University of Minnesota Extension.

**Member Service Department** 

Many Federal tax credit energy measures to soon end

loop and open loop, qualify for a

tax credit. Thirty percent of the cost

can be claimed as a credit with no

limit. These units must be placed in

service by December 31, 2016 and

can be installed in existing homes

available from Red Lake Electric

for geothermal heat pumps. Quali-

fying units are \$400 per ton on

closed loop systems and \$200 per

Installation incentives are also

by Kevin Reich



# Manager's

# **Electricity leaves time for living**

"Electricity leaves time for living" was an ad line from a Minnkota Power Systems advertising campaign Red Lake Electric Cooperative used a number of years ago.

It was an ad that stuck with me, perhaps in part, because those words were displayed with a picture of two people fishing out of a small boat like our family had when I was growing up. The picture of that boat on the water brought back some fond memories for me.

I liked that picture and slogan so much that I kept a large poster of it displayed in my office here at work even years after that ad campaign ended. The poster became so faded I finally gave in to throwing it away

I think about that slogan and pic-

ture occasionally still because it reminded me of something my Dad shared with me shortly before he died, 28 years ago today. He told me to "take time." Even at work, I must confess, it is hard not to think about these anniversaries and some of the memories that go with them.

I thought my dad's advice to "take time" had some parallels with our ad slogan of "electricity leaves time for living." How much more difficult would it be to take time to enjoy the things we enjoy doing if it wasn't for the service of electricity?

As we head into autumn, my favorite season of the year, I plan to take time to enjoy our great outdoors. I'm looking forward to the changing of the (4326002.06 Larry Mogen) colors of the leaves and

grasses, the scent of the woods and the opportunity to hunt with family and friends.

I probably won't spend a lot of time thinking about my fridge, freezer or furnace while my dogs and I are chasing pheasants. I am grateful as I think about it today because I know that having electricity enables me to free up some time to enjoy my favorite activities and my favorite time of year.

Even if you don't like to hunt or fish, or if you have some crops in the field yet to harvest, here's hoping you can take some time out of your busy schedule to enjoy the autumn season that is before us; we've got plenty of electricity at Red Lake Electric Cooperative to help where we can.

credits have been available when installing qualifying energy efficiency products. For most products the tax credit opportunity will end December 31, 2010. A tax credit of 30% of the cost,

up to \$1,500 is available for qualifying windows, exterior doors and storm doors. This also applies to metal and asphalt roofs and insulation. Your building supplier will be able to inform you which products qualify for the tax credits. These products must be installed on an existing home and the home must be your principal residence.

For nearly two years federal tax

The 30% up to \$1,500 credit also applies to qualifying air source heat pumps, central air conditioners, propane and fuel oil furnaces and hydronic boilers. Your heating contractor is able to inform you which products meet the tax credit criteria.

Red Lake Electric offers incentives for the installation of energy efficient heat pumps and furnaces/air handlers with ECM blower motors.

One product category, eligible for the tax credits, that goes beyond the end of 2010 is geothermal heat pumps. All Energy Star labeled geothermal heat pumps, closed

### **U.S. Fish & Wildlife requests samples from** Hunter-Harvested Sandhill Cranes in MN

Staff from Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and the Minnesota DNR are hoping to collect tissue samples from cranes killed by hunters during this fall's sandhill crane season. Wildlife personnel are seeking crane specimens from which they can obtain a single wing feather and toenail.

Recent developments in stableisotope methods make it possible to delineate latitude of origin of feathers and other keratinous tissues (i.e., toenails) in birds. This technique now offers a new approach to delineating population structure of hunter-killed samples by establishing approximate origins of birds

taken.

Data collected from this research effort will aid in determining what portion of the Minnesota Sandhill Crane harvest has a natal origin (hatch-year cranes) or a molt / breeding area (after hatch-year cranes) within Minnesota, versus more northern locations throughout Canada.

Individuals from the Midcontinent Population of sandhill cranes that breed in and migrate through northwestern Minnesota have a potential breeding distribution that spans a wide latitudinal range (including portions of Minnesota, Manitoba, and Ontario).

Personnel hope to collect sam-

ton on open loop systems. The maximum incentive on a closed loop system is \$5,000 with an open loop being \$2,500.

For more information on the federal tax credits visit www.energystar.gov or www.energysavers.gov. For more information on the incentives offered by Red Lake Electric visit www.redlakeelectric.com or call 253-2168 or 800-245-6068.

Thank you for your article about

Saron Lutheran Church's 125th

Anniversary celebration. You did a

great job and we all appreciated it.

Lowell Hamrum - President

Saron Free Lutheran Church

Thank you again,

Erskine

# From the Mail Bag

**Dear RLEC:** 

#### **Dear RLEC:**

or new construction.

Thank you Red Lake Electric Cooperative for sponsoring my Champion Ewe Trophy at the Pennington County Fair.

#### Samantha Larson Euclid

#### **Dear RLEC:**

Thank you so much for providing the trophy I won at the Marshall County Fair in the 4H Showmanship. I really appreciate it.

> Thanks! Morgan Klopp Argyle

> > ples from throughout the 37-day sandhill crane season, in order to account for changes in geographical origin that will likely occur as the crane migration progresses throughout September and into early October.

Several Minnesota DNR staff within the boundaries of the sandhill crane hunting zone are equipped to collect samples. Successful crane hunters can also contact Gregg Knutsen (Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge) at 218-449-4115 (x204) or 218-686-4329 to provide samples, or for more information.

# **Pembina Trail RC&D Council Celebrates** National RC&D Week-Sept. 19-25

Pembina Trail Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council joins the 375 RC&D Councils across the country in celebrating "RC&D Week". The week of September 19 - 25, 2010 is designed to raise greater public awareness of Resource Conservation & Development councils and their activities in local communities. National RC&D week coincides with the anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1962 which established the RC&D program that covers 85% of the United States and its territories.

James Sipperly, President of the National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Council, expressed appreciation to the thousands of RC&D Council members who celebrate the National Community Service that Resource Conservation & Development councils provide to America. The strength of RC&D is that local people create solutions for local needs. In these times of economic downturn, RC&D councils are invaluable in solving community problems in conservation and com-

RC&D munity development. Councils are far too important to go unnoticed in our communities.

The Pembina Trail Resource Conservation & Development council's mission is "to provide leadership and assistance in coordinating the development of our human and natural resources". The council is made up of local leaders who volunteer their time. Pembina Trail RC&D's service area includes the counties of Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, Polk and Norman. The RC&D area is locally organized, sponsored and led. Because of this, local people can come together to make choices for their communities - working on projects for land conservation, land management, water management, community development, or something unique to their particular area. The council determines area needs and creates solutions. Some of the projects the Pembina Trail RC&D council has been involved in recently include installing dry

hydrants for rural fire protection, securing grant dollars to help com-

bat weed problems, creating the JA

Hughes Outdoor Classroom and sponsoring grazing tours to assist area producers with implementing rotational grazing systems.

If you would like to become a volunteer for Pembina Trail RC&D, or have a project requiring technical assistance, please contact the office at 218-253-2646 extension 4 for more information. To learn more about the Pembina Trail RC&D visit our new website at www.pembinatrailrcd.org and for information on the NRCS RC&D program in Minnesota, please visit www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/r cd.

**GOPHER** 

STATE

# **Comments** by Roger Johanneck

# **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



# **ONE CALL** Call before digging! It's the law! 1-800-252-1166

### WE PROUDLY PRESENT TO YOU The Red Lake Electric Cooperative

**Customer Service Guarantee** 



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



# **Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

ROGER JOHANNECK General Manager

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

# **RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc. VOLTS & JOLTS**

(USPS 663-400)

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Subscription Rate	\$2.50 per year



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 driveup drop box located next to the RLEC office, by Auto Pay, or by mail. Payment must be in the office, drop box, Auto Pay, or in the mail, as evidenced by the postmark, by the 5th day of the following month to avoid a late payment charge. A 1 1/2% monthly late payment charge will be computed on delinquent energy bills, the minimum late payment charge will be \$1.00.

If your payment is not received by the 15th of the month, a final notice of disconnection statement will be included on your following bill. The final notice statement will notify you when your electric service will be disconnected if the delinquent amount remains unpaid. If an employee is sent to disconnect your electric service, a \$50 collection fee will be charged to your account, even if you pay the 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 \$19 to \$25 month First 500 KWH .....9.0¢ Kwh Over 500 KWH (April-Dec.) .....7.2¢ Kwh Over 500 KWH (Jan.-Mar.) .....8.0¢ Kwh Multiphase users add \$18/month cost of service charge.

Standby, \$10/month (meter disconnected but the power line retained; standby is not available on services larger than 15 KVA transformer capacity).

Security light, \$7/month, high pressure sodium, \$8/month, mercury vapor; water heater flat credit, \$5/month (on January-April billing); off-peak equipment charge, \$4.50/month per heat meter; off-peak electric heat rate, 4.2¢/kWh long-term control, 6.2¢/kWh short-term control.

# **Recipe corner**

#### **Stuffed Cherry Tomatoes**

2 pkgs (one 8 oz, one 3 oz) cream cheese, softened

- 2 tbs mayonaise
- 1 pkg (.4 oz) ranch salad dressing mix
- 3 dozen cherry tomatoes

#### Optional: alfalfa sprouts

In a mixing bowl, blend cream cheese, mayonnaise and salad dressing mix until smooth. Slice a thin slice off tops of tomatoes and carefully remove insides; invert on paper towel to drain. Fill with cream cheese mixture. Serve on a bed of alfalfa sprouts if desired. Yield: 12-16 servings.

#### **Corned Beef & Mixed Vegetables**

1 corned beef brisket (3 to 4 lbs), trimmed 6 - 8 small red potatoes 3 medium carrots, cut into 2 in. pieces 3 celery ribs, cut into 2 in. pieces 2 tbs chopped celery leaves 2 turnips, peeled and cut into wedges 1 medium head cabbage, cut into 6 to 8 wedges 1/2 lb fresh green beans 3 to 4 ears fresh corn, halved

Place corned beef and enclosed seasoning packet in an 8-qt. Dutch oven. Cover with water and bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 2 hours or until meat is tender. Add potatoes, carrots, celery, celery leaves and turnips; return to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 20 minutes. Add cabbage, beans and corn; return to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer 15-20 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Yield: 6-8 servings.

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

MONTHLY COMPARISON

	JULY 2009	JULY 2010
Total Revenue	608,011	\$ 691,418
Total Margins\$	(88,138)	\$ (57,944)
Cost of Power\$	438,306	\$ 526,216
KWH's Purchased	7,038,238	8,027,863
Capital Credits Paid to Estates\$	6,801	\$ 5,682

#### YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

	JULY 2009	JULY 2010
Total Revenue	200,289	\$ 6,656,214
Total Margins\$ 7	'54,641	\$ 515,288
Cost of Power \$ 3,8	325,908	\$ 4,462,701
KWH's Purchased	341,907	82,450,949
New Service Connections	15	15
Customers Served	5,157	5,198
Capital Credits Paid to Estates\$	39,229	\$ 52,103
Miles of Line		
Overhead	2,319	2,325
Underground	235	235

#### **Chocolate Zucchini Bread**

3 eggs 1 cup vegetable oil 2 cups sugars 1 tbs. vanilla extract 2 cups shredded peeled zucchini (about 1 medium) 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour 1/2 cup baking cocoa 1 tsp salt 1 tsp baking soda 1 tsp ground cinnamon 1/4 tsp baking powder

In a mixing bowl, beat eggs, oil, sugar and vanilla. Stir in zucchini. Combine dry ingredients; add to zucchini mixture and mix well. Pour into two greased 8-in. x 4in. x 2-in. loaf pans. Bake at 3500 for 1 hour or until bread tests done. Yield: 2 loaves.

#### **Pineapple Beets**

2 tbs brown sugar 1 tbs cornstarch 1/4 tsp salt 1 can (8 oz) pineapple tidbits, undrained 1 tbs butter or margarine 1 tbs lemon juice

n a saucepan, combine brown sugar, cornstarch and salt; add pineapple and bring to a boil, stirring constantly until thick, about 2 minutes. Add the beets, butter and lemon juice; cook over medium heat for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Yield: 4 servings.



#### **Paradise Cran-Applesauce**

4 cups fresh or frozen cranberries 1/4 cup water 8 cups sliced peeled cooking apples 2 cups sugar

In a covered saucepan, simmer cranberries and water for 20-25 minutes or until tender. Press through a sieve or food mill; return to the saucepan. Add apples; cover and simmer for 35-40 minutes or until apples are tender but retain their shape. Add sugar. Simmer for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Yield: 8-10 servings.

#### **Glazed Corned Beef Sandwiches**

1 corned beef brisket (3 to 4 lbs) 12 peppercorns 4 bay leaves 3 garlic cloves, minced 2 cinnamon sticks (3 inches), broken 1 tbs red pepper flakes sandwich buns

#### Glaze: 1/2 cup packed brown sugar 1/2 tsp ground cloves 1/2 tsp ground ginger 1/2 tsp dry mustard 1/4 tsp celery salt 1/4 tsp caraway seed

Place corned beef with seasoning packet in a Dutch oven; cover with water. Add seasonings and bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 4 to 4-1/2 hours or until meat is tender. Drain, discarding juices; blot brisket dry. In a small bowl, combine glaze ingredients. Rub onto top of warm meat. Grill or broil for 510 minutes on each side until glazed. Slice meat and serve warm or chilled on buns. Yield: 12-16 servings.

# World's most expensive dirt Dust dollars off your energy bill by regularly changing air filters

#### by John Bruce

The most expensive dirt in the world may lurk in your home's heating and cooling system.

If neglected, dust collecting in the equipment's air filter could increase your energy bills hundreds of dollars every year and result in costly repair or replacement costs.

Dirty filters cause a system to work harder and break down faster. That's because unfiltered dust and grime work into critical parts, creating friction that causes unnecessary wear and, eventually, failure.

As you move around your home you drive dust into the air from carpets, drapes, and furniture. Pets generate dust particles by shedding, grooming, and tracking in dirt from outside.

Regardless of where it comes from, dust trapped in a heating and cooling system air filter leads to several problems, including:

• Reduced air flow in the home and up to 15 percent higher operating costs.

• Costly duct cleaning or replacement.

• Lowered system efficiency.

Every time a system with a dirty filter kicks on, the day of reckoning-total-replacement draws closer. To avoid this expense, change filters monthly when a system's in regular use.

Discuss cleaning the unit and ductwork with your heating and cooling service professional.

While most types of filters must be replaced, a few filters are reusable. They're available in a variety of types (5205001.04 James F. Srnsky) and efficiencies, rated by a Minimum Efficiency Reporting

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STEIGER SERIES TRACTORS

tractors have been designed by producers for

producers. Our next generation of

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Value (MERV).

MERV, a method developed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air- Conditioning Engineers, tests filter effectiveness. The higher the

MERV number, the higher the filter's effectiveness at keeping dust out of your system.

To learn more about how to save energy around your home, visit www.energysavers.gov.

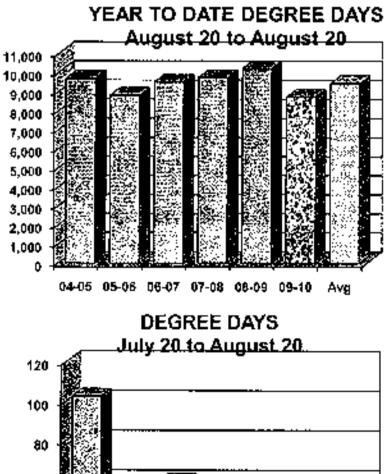
Sources: High Performance HVAC, US. Department of Energy

John Bruce is a freelance writer based in South Carolina. He writes on energy efficiency for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit *electric cooperatives.* 



# **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.



60

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Avg

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Leads to costly duct cleaning or replacement

Lowers system efficiency

To avoid these expenses, change filters monthly when your heating and cooling system's in regular use. Discuss cleaning the unit and ductwork with your heating and cooling service professional.

Learn more ways to save at www.energysovers.gov.

Source: High Performance HVAC U.S. Department of Energy



A stop sign requires that you come to a complete stop. You must also stop at a marked stop line or at any crosswalk before entering the intersection.

You must also come to a complete stop in the following situations:

• Before entering a road from an alley, a private driveway, or a parking ramp. Always stop before crossing an adjoining sidewalk or crosswalk.

• At an intersection or crosswalk with a traffic signal displaying a red light. Wait until the signal changes to green and your path is clear before proceeding.

• At a flashing red traffic light. Treat this as you would a stop sign. • At a freeway ramp meter,

when the light is red.

• At a railroad crossing with a stop sign.

• When a flag person or traffic device directs you to stop.



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

# LeBlanc family operates a Century Farm

The farm of Greg and Marlene LeBlanc located on Highway 2 near Crookston was honored as a Century Farm during the Polk County Fair in Fertile at the beginning of

July. "I didn't think the farm was that old but it was," remarked Greg, whose great-grandfather Dominic began the family farm in 1902.

py at the University of Mary in Bismark, N.D.

Dominic is attending North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, N.D. His intention is to take over the family farm; he will be the fifth generation to operate the farm and bares the same name as the farm's pioneer.

The LeBlanc family farm currently con-

When asked what the plans were for the future of the Leblanc family farm, Greg responded, "If the opportunity presents itself, it would be nice to expand." He also said his son Dominic will someday become the farm's sole operator.

Greg is a member of the research and promotion council for Minnesota Soybean Growers, a position that allows him to gain



Matthew, Greg and Marlene, and Dominic LeBlanc

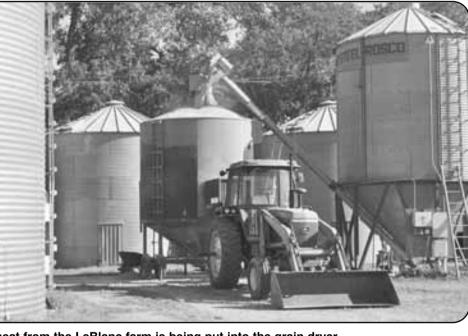
Greg has been farming since 1975 but he grew up on the family farm and helped out while attending high school.

After high school, Greg attended the University of Minnesota, Crookston where he studied crop production and animal scisists of 1,500 acres where soybeans, hard red spring wheat, corn and confectioner's sunflowers are raised. The main acreage this year is in soybeans. There are also some acres in CRP.

A major change from the LeBlanc farm

insight into the future of the agriculture industry.

"There is a lot of positives ahead for agriculture," Greg stated, noting that renewable resources and the push to be environmentally friendly will prove to be



Wheat from the LeBlanc farm is being put into the grain dryer.



This combine is the newest addition to the LeBlanc farm equipment.

ence.

For 20 years, Greg worked for American Crystal Sugar in Crookston from 1980 to 2000.

His hobbies include watching high school sports such as football and basketball and listening to sports on the radio. He also spends some time doing carpentry, which he says "is a nice change of pace from farming.

He and Marlene have been married since 1986 and they have two sons: Matthew, 21, and Dominic, 18.

Matthew is studying occupational thera-

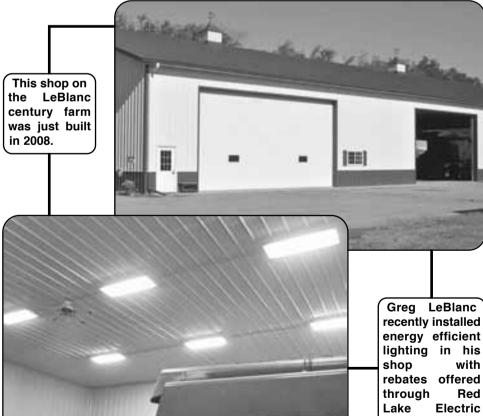
of yore, is the fact livestock is no longer raised. Greg's grandfather used to raise dairy cattle, hogs, chicken and horses. When his father took over farming, he continued to raise hogs. While Greg was in high school, he helped with raising the hogs, but that was the end of the livestock on the LeBlanc farm.

Another big change on the farm is the technology of the equipment. "My dad went from using horses to running auto steer where you don't touch the steering wheel," LeBlanc said of the farm equipment.

valuable for farmers. He explained that many new products

are being manufactured in the agriculture world to meet these demands, such as biodiesel and ethanol. He said even the plastic used to make tractors and combines contains soybean resin.

Greg recently made a move to be more "green" as well, when he took advantage of rebates offered through Red Lake Electric Cooperative to equip his two-year old shop with energy-efficient lighting and off-peak electric heat.



JOHN DEER

Cooperative.



Greg and Marlene LeBlanc live on Highway 2 near Crookston on their Century Farm.



# 30 year old underground cable replaced

Five and one half miles of three phase underground cable East of Crookston was replaced this summer.

Three miles of the cable lies in the Southwest corner of Crookston Township with two and one half miles being in the Northeast corner of Fairfax Township.

The original cable was only thirty years old having been installed in 1980. It needed to be replaced for reliability purposes as faults on the line were becoming too numerous.

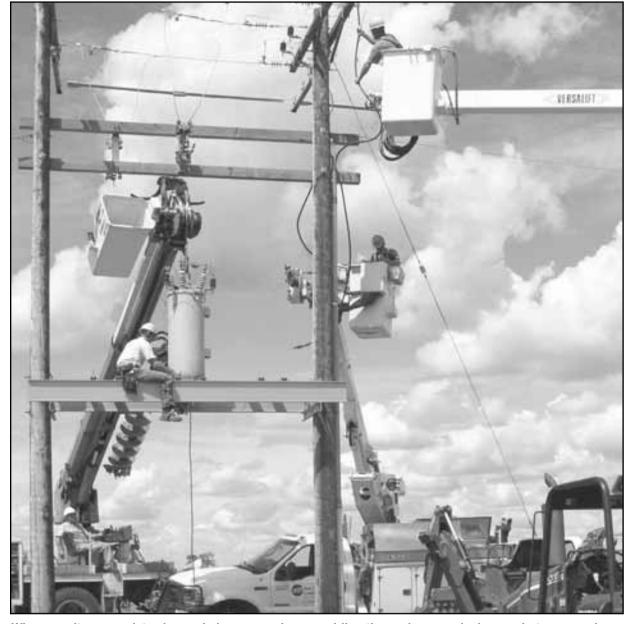
Depending upon where a fault occurred, it could interrupt electric

service to nearly 100 members.

Several members could be without electric service until the fault was repaired as there is no means to back-feed electricity from another route.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative has 2560 miles of distribution line less than 10%, only 235 miles, being underground. The extreme difference in percentage of underground versus overhead is attributed to several factors: the installation cost of underground; generally the cooperative's service territory is not subject to sleet storms affecting overhead lines; much more time and effort goes into repairing an underground fault versus the normal overhead line outage; the historical life of underground.

Generally, the construction of an underground line costs 50% more than the construction of an overhead line. The cooperative is realizing approximately 30 years of service from underground cable that was installed in the late 70's, early 80's. This is half the life of most overhead lines with many serving 60 plus years. It is hoped that the underground cable installed today is more reliable and will have a life beyond 30 years.



When a voltage regulator is needed on an underground line the underground wire needs to come above ground, feed through the regulator, and then go back underground. Red Lake Electric construction linemen work to assemble the overhead structure and place a regulator on the platform. Having the regulators on an overhead platform instead of inside a cabinet makes it much easier for servicing the regulators or changing them out if the need arises.

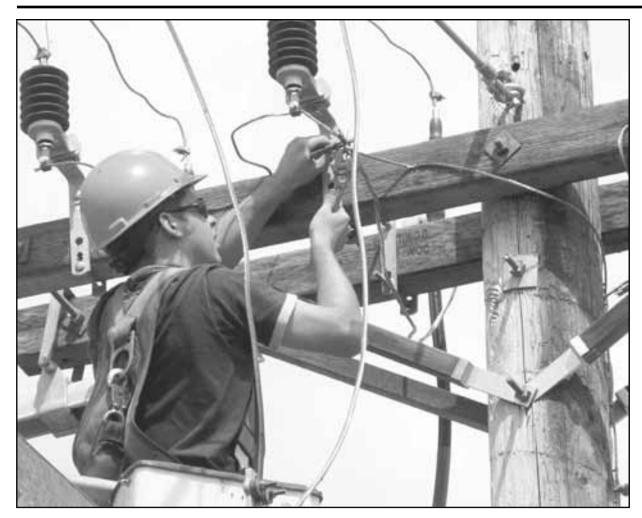


Work associated with the replacement of the underground line included moving line voltage regulators from enclosed cabinets to a newly constructed overhead regulator platform. The purpose of a voltage regulator is to help maintain constant voltage on a line, stepping the voltage up or down as needed, depending upon the electrical demand on the line.



www.thiberts.com • www.thiberts.





Lineman Casey Thronson makes one of the final connections on one of the poles for the regulator structure. He is connecting the ground of a lightning arrestor. The purpose of a lightning arrestor is to absorb the energy from a lightning strike and send it to ground instead of the energy being transmitted onto the power line.

### Band duck at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge

Mark your calendars for an evening of duck banding on Sat., September 18, 5:00 pm at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge. All ages are welcome to join in the fun and 'ruffle some feathers'. Meet at Refuge headquarters at 5 pm. If Saturday is rained out or ground conditions are too wet, the alternate date is Tues., Sept. 21 at 5:30 pm. No preregistration is required and the event is free to the public.

Banding ducks is a "hands on" experience. Dress sensibly if you plan to band or handle birds. Old clothing or rain gear is recommended - banding ducks can be a little messy. Those of you who would rather watch, bring your cameras to capture the experience.

Newcomers will have an opportunity to learn about the life history of several duck species, baiting, capture, and handling techniques, as well as sexing and aging techniques.

Duck banding opportunities should again be good at the Refuge with an increase in the number of breeding duck pairs on the refuge in 2010. The annual May survey indicated 6,233 breeding duck pairs using the Refuge. This is a 66.0% increase (6202001.01 Charlie A. Johnson) from 2009, and is likely providing an atypical abundance of 'wet' habitat in 2010.

The refuge duck brood survey estimates that 16,466 ducklings were produced in 2010 compared to the long term average production of 13,586 ducklings.

More than one million birds are banded in North America every year. Banding provides valuable information on migration routes and breeding and wintering areas of different bird species, as well as helping support hunting regulations development and detecting changes in bird populations.

If you cannot attend the public banding evening but are interested in helping band ducks, call the office for other weekday banding opportunities in September. Banding is planned to end no later than Friday, September 24.

Refuge Headquarters is located 11 miles east of Holt on Marshall County Road 7 (290th St. NE). If you need more information, call the 218-449-4115, ext. 211. Office hours are 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protection and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 97-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge

System which encompasses 548 national wildlife refuges, 3,000 Waterfowl Production Areas and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts.

It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

For further information on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuge System in the Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region, please visit our website at http://fws.gov/midwest or for the National Wildlife Refuge System main internet site visit http://www.fws.gov/refuges/.

To find out information on special scheduled refuge event celebrations across the country go to the refuge web page and click on

special events.



During the construction phase of the replacement underground line electric service to some accounts was rerouted and back-fed from the other lines. Upon completion of the project, the new underground cable was energized and the lines were switched back to normal. Apprentice lineman Brett Knott uses a fiberglass, shotgun stick to put an underground elbow in place.



With the installation of the new underground cable complete, there were several old junction boxes, used for the original cable, that were removed. Hopefully the new cable and associated equipment will be in use for more than 30 years.

### Balance good and bad for healthy arteries September is National Cholesterol Education Month

It's odd to think of something like cholesterol having a split personality, but it's true. Cholesterol can be good or bad, and the right balance of these levels could tip the scales in your favor when it comes

cholesterol levels that are borderline high (150-199 mg/dL) or high (200 mg/dL or more) may need treatment.

To keep your cholesterol under control: To learn more, visit www.nhlbi.nih.gov, keyword: cholesterol.

Source: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, American Heart Association

conditions throughout the region



to your risk of heart disease.

September is National Cholesterol Education Month, a good time to get your blood cholesterol checked. High blood cholesterolpartially resulting from too much bad, low-density lipoprotein (LDL)-affects more than 65 million Americans. Lowering cholesterol levels by increasing good high-density lipoprotein (HDL) lessens your risk for developing heart disease and reduces your chances of having a heart attack or stroke.

How Does Cholesterol Cause Heart Disease? When there is too much LDL (a fat-like substance) in your blood, it builds up in the walls of your arteries. Over time arteries become narrow and restrict blood flow to the heart. Blood carries oxygen to the heart, and if enough blood and oxygen cannot reach your heart, you may suffer chest pain.

If the blood supply to a portion of the heart is completely cut off by a blockage, the result is a heart attack.

High LDL levels do not cause symptoms, so many people are unaware that their cholesterol level is too high. So it's important to find out what your cholesterol numbers are because lowering cholesterol levels that are too high lessens the risk for developing heart disease and reduces the chances of a heart attack.

#### By the Numbers

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute suggests everyone age 20 and older should have their cholesterol measured at least once every five years. A lipoprotein profile blood test taken after a 9- to 12hour fast provides:

Total cholesterol

• LDL (bad) cholesterol- the main source of cholesterol buildup and blockage in the arteries

• HDL (good) cholesterol which helps keep cholesterol from building up in the arteries

• Triglycerides - another form of fat in your blood

HDL protects against heart disease, so higher numbers are better. A level less than 40 mg/dL is low and considered a major risk factor. HDL levels of 60 mg/dL or more help lower your risk for heart disease. Triglycerides can also raise heart disease risk. Those with total schedule a screening

• eat foods low in cholesterol and saturated fat and free of trans fat

maintain a healthy weightbe physically active

• follow your healthcare professional's advice \*Cholesterollevels are measured in milligrams (mg) of cholesterol per deciliter (dL) of (dL) blood. Source: Touchstone Energy Cooperatives

Counseling National Institutes of Health.jpg Source: National Institutes of Health



Your key to buy, sell or trade anything is the

CLASSIFIEDS

# 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.

### **For Sale**

FOR SALE - Small alfalfa grass hay. No rain, stored inside. \$3 per bale. Can deliver black Angus bulls 1 1/2 year old. Some AI breeding. 218-280-7579.

FOR SALE - Well made target stands with two paper targets. Close out at \$10 each. Call 218-681-2109.

FOR SALE - Fuel oil barrel. 135 gallon. Like new condition. \$200 or best offer. 218-253-4179.

NW Minnesota's largest selection of Arctic Cat and Honda ATVs and Side-By-Sides. New Arctic Cat 700 HDX Prowler 3-seater on display! New 2011 models arrivingspecials on new non-current models. Get your unit and accessories now for your fall and winter needs. RV Sports, Hwy 1 West, Thief River Falls.1-218-681-1007 or www.rvsports.com.

For Sale - 1996 Chev. Monte Carlo 2 door, low mileage, good condition. Also for sale - Ladder Rack w/side tool boxes to fit full length pickup. 218-681-5648.

Another shipment of Aluma Utility, ATV, and 2, 3,or 4-place snowmobile trailers has arrived! Aluminum construction, minimum maintenance, many sizes, ready for Fall and Winter needs. RV Sports, Highway 1 West, Thief River Falls, MN.1-218-681-1007 or www.rvsports.com.

### Miscellany

**PRINTING** – Check with the Gazette for all your printing needs. No job is too big or too small. The Gazette, 253-2594, Red Lake Falls, MN.

COLOR COPIES - Now available at the Gazette in Red Lake Falls, 253-2594.

### Help wanted

HELP WANTED - Immediate opening(s) for full-time small engine/powersports service technician and/or powersports set-up person. Experience with snowmobiles, ATV's and motorcycles helpful. Apply in person at RV Sports, 1412 3rd St. W. Thief River Falls or call 218-681-1007 and ask for Randy.

# **Real Estate**

FOR SALE - #3439: 20 Acre Hobby Farm - Great location! Comes complete with three bedroom, 2 bath home, garage, barn, and several other out-buildings. Centrally located in the St. Hilaire area. Call today. Sollie Realty, Fosston, MN 56442. 218-435-1525. www.sollie.net. Equal housing opportunity.

**CONCRETE CONTRACTORS WANTED** 

Sorenson Gross Construction Services is seeking qualified concrete contractors to offer proposals on an upcoming project in Red Lake Falls, MN. The project will include, breakup and removal of exterior sidewalk and ramps, minor excavation, exporting of existing soils, importing of class 5 base, and replacing sidewalk and ramps according to plan. Work will be awarded and completed this fall. Interested parties should respond to:

Chris Arenz (651) 304-7985 email - carenz@sgcs.net for additional information

Sorensen Gross **Construction Services** 



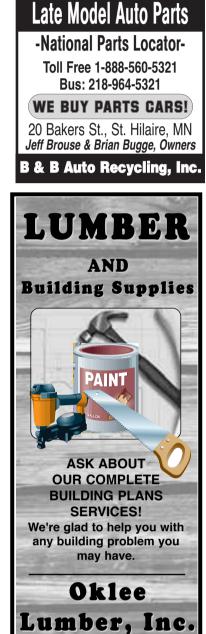
# **Burns Welding & Repair**

Portable, Commercial, Aluminum and Tig Welding Custom Cattle Gates • Bale Rings Farm and Trailer Repair • DOT Inspections • ATV Equipment

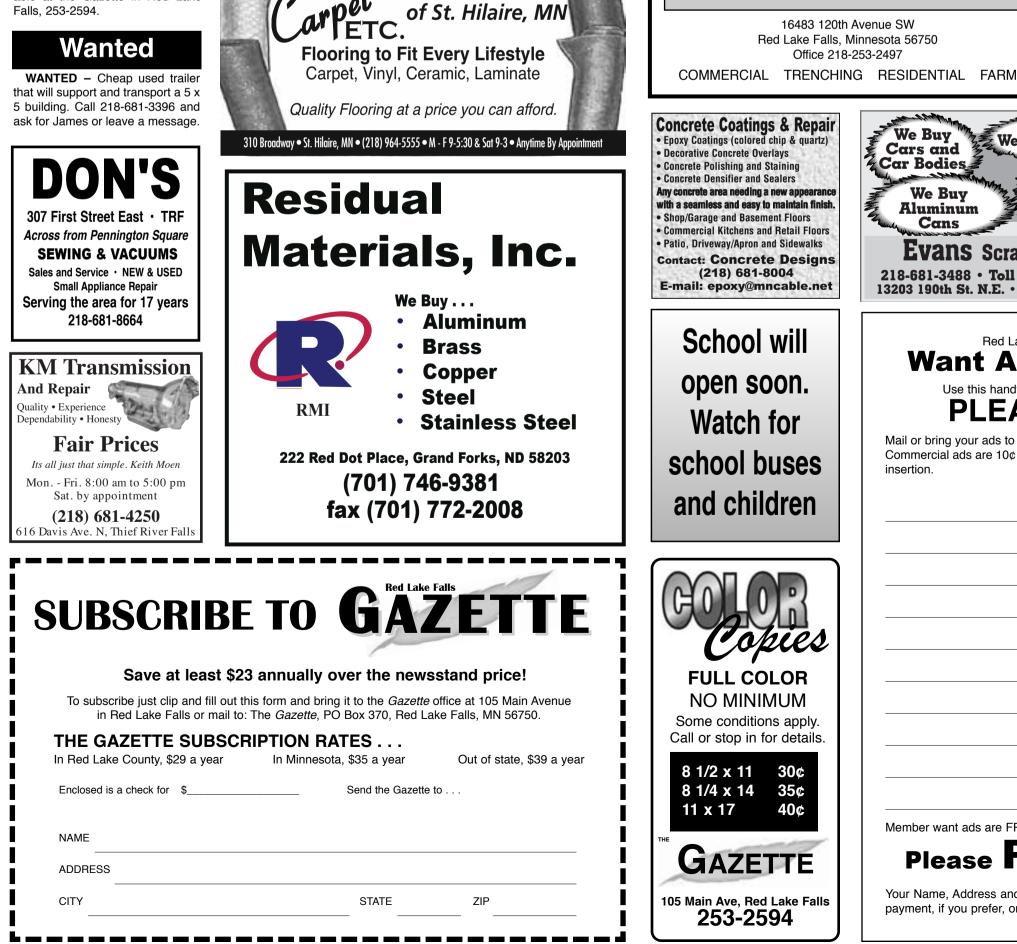
Shop: 218-964-5444 • Cell: 218-686-8327 burnsrepair@gvtel.com · www.burnswelding.net

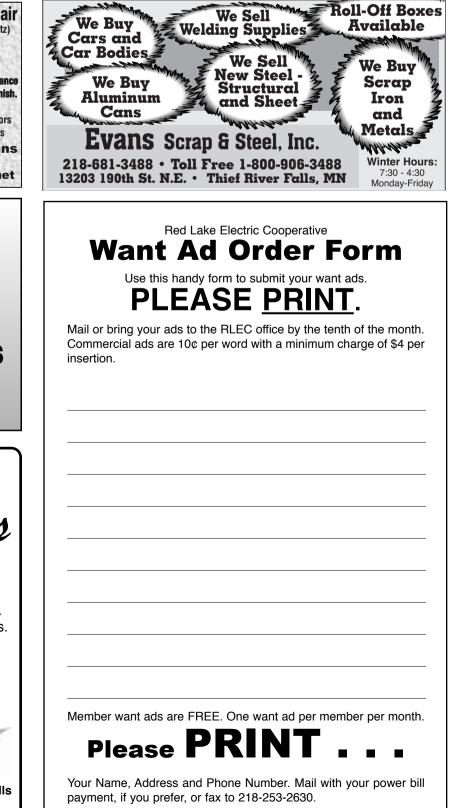






(218) 796-5131







# Review the cold weather disconnection law

The cold weather law, which notice to residential customer. 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; (a) A municipal utility or a coop-

erative electric association must not 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 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 bills.

between August 15 and October 15 each year, notify all residential customers of the provisions of this section

Subdivision 2. Notice to residential customers facing disconnection.

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 customer:

1. A notice of proposed disconnection;

2. A statement explaining the customer's rights and responsibilities:

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 cus-(b) A municipal utility or a coop- tomer declines to enter into a pay-

erative electric association must, ment 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

closed; 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, offers a payment agreement to the customer.

Further, the disconnection must not occur until at least 20 days after the notice required in subdivision 2 has been mailed to the customer or 15 days after the notice has been personally delivered to the customer

(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 is unoccupied, the utility must give

seven days' written notice of the proposed disconnection to the local energy assistance provider before making a disconnection.

8

(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" this includes a service or load limiter or any device that limits or interrupts 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 week-

end or holiday, the payment will be made on the next business day. You will continue to receive your monthly energy bill as you have in the past, indicating the amount that will be withdrawn from your bank account. The proof of your payment will appear on your bank statement and your next month's energy bill statement.

Continue to pay your monthly bill until you are notified on your bill that the Auto Pay has

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

Section 1. [325E.028] UTILI-TY PAYMENT ARRANGE-MENTS FOR MILITARY SERVICE PERSONNEL

household and the residential customer remains reasonably current with payments under the payment

nection as a recipient of any form of public assistance, including energy assistance that uses income eligibility in an amount at or below the income eligibility in subdivision 1, clause (1).

been set up for you.

Subdivision 1. Restriction on disconnection; payment schedules. (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 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 discon-

#### 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 discon-nect 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.



# UTO PAY SIGN-UP SHEET

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

RLEC ELECTRIC ACCOUNT # \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS

L

TELEPHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION \_\_\_\_\_

CHECKING ACCOUNT # \_\_\_\_

SAVINGS ACCOUNT # \_\_\_\_

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

SIGN HERE TO AUTHORIZE



### **Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

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

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

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