

# Wolts and Jolts

Published monthly for the members of

### RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

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

VOL. 45 - NO. 06

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

**APRIL 2010** 

# Red Lake Electric Cooperative holds 72nd annual meeting

Approximately 300 members and friends of Red Lake Electric Cooperative attended the Cooperative's 72nd annual meeting. The meeting was held March 31 in the Imperial Room of the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls.

The meeting opened with the National Anthem sung by Becca Kruta of Thief River Falls. Kruta is a senior at Lincoln High School and the daughter of RLEC members Steven and Jill Kruta.

In his president's report, Kelly Lundeen said the past year was very good in many respects. RLEC was spared any major storm-related outages and the main cause for service interruptions was due to underground cable failure.

He stated outage time per customer averaged 50 minutes in 2009; the second lowest on record and about half of what the Cooperative averaged in service interruptions over the past five years.

Lundeen reported over \$493,000 was paid out in capital credit retirements and member equity was a strong 51 percent of assets. He also thanked the Cooperatives members who participated in the Operation Round Up program.

Roger Johanneck, general manager, gave his report and discussed three different topics: Legislation, rate outlook and service reliability.



The 72nd annual meeting of Red Lake Electric Cooperative was held March 31 in the Imperial Room of the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls. Pictured are some of the meeting attendees as they visit prior to the call of the meeting.

He stated there are many things people don't have any or much control over but discussed ways customers can have a say in each of these areas.

Johanneck discussed the impact legislation is having on the way Cooperatives operate today; specifically Environmental Protection Agency mandates that are requiring massive environmental upgrades on Minnkota Power's Young generating units; how renewable energy mandates have impacted the Cooperative and the new Conservation Improvement Program.

He also talked about the Cooperative's concern of possible climate legislation that is being considered and stated if members have an opinion on (6907001.03 Dean L. Kalbakdalen) climate legislation to contact federal representatives and let them know what they think.

Johanneck also reviewed some of the service interruptions over the past year and explained ways members have a say in the cause of some of these interruptions.

Accountant Shirley Bregier gave the financial report for 2009. Operating revenue was up from 2008. Kilowatt hour sales were also up from the previous year to an all time high of 134 million kilowatt-hours.

The cost of power RLEC purchased from Minnkota Power Cooperative was \$6.8 million and is about 70 percent of

RLEC's expenses. The energy charge makes up 51 percent of the cost of power for \$3.5 million. The peak demand charge is 30 percent of the total cost of power while the transmission and substation charge make up the balance.

RLEC's operating expenses were down from 2008 to \$1.8 million. This equals about 20 percent of the Cooperative's expenses with depreciation and interest being slightly over \$1 million.

RLEC built 59 new electric services in 2009 and has invested \$25.8 million in electric plants which is about \$750 thousand higher than 2008.

Minnkota Power CEO Dave Loer talked about power supply issues, wind generation, upgrades at the Young generating unit that have been required by the EPA and the \$400 million that has been invested in the power plant to meet these environmental mandates

He also spoke about the impact the nation's economy has had on the demand for energy and the cause and effect the low market prices have had on Minnkota Power's surplus energy sales and the revenue Minnkota Power received for these sales

RLEC annual meeting, Continued on page 2 More photos on pages 5 and 6

# Operation Round Up grants total \$13,150



The Red Lake Electric Trust board met recently and awarded 21 grants to area non-profit and community organizations that totaled \$13,150.

Since its inception in 1993, Operation Round Up grants totaling \$345 thousand have been gifted to area community organizations. The Red Lake Electric Trust receives money for grants from the Operation Round Up program administered by the Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

Today, 90 percent of Red Lake Electric's members voluntarily "round up" their monthly bill for the Operation Round Up program.

Four area emergency services providers received grants. The Goodridge Fire and Rescue received \$1,000 toward the purchase of a defibrillator for one of their rescue units. The Oklee Fire Department received \$1,000 that will be used to equip an additional rescue unit they recently received, with a contractors tool box, jaws of life and other rescue items. The Viking Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department was award \$1,000 to help fund a pager repeater tower and base radio unit at their fire hall. Polk County Sheriff's Mounted Posse received \$850 to help fund state mandatory continuing education and training for their Posse.

Area youth will benefit from Operation Round Up grants made to the following organizations: Little Brother/Little Sister program of Marshall County received \$300 for their youth program activities which involves pairing positive adult role models with children in need of their support. The Viking Volcanoes 4-H club will use the \$200 they received towards a community pride service project in Viking.

The Violence Intervention Project in Thief River Falls received \$800 for their Umbrella Tree program that provides supervised child visitations. Some of the playground equipment at the visitation center has deteriorated and needs replacement; these funds will help them do that

The Falls Day Activity Center (DAC) received \$750 to be used for updating computer equipment that is used for client training and activities. Early Childhood Family



April Ballard, right, Thief River Falls, accepts an Operation Round Up grant check in the amount of \$1,000. She accepted the check on behalf of the Early Childhood Family Advocate program of Thief River Falls. The check was presented to Ballard by Kim Swanson, Thief River Falls, president of the Red Lake Electric Trust.

Advocate Program of Thief River Falls was awarded \$1,000 to help with their mission of working with families who have children, birth to age five who are at-risk for abuse or regulater.

The Strandquist area food shelf received \$400 to help stock their shelves and provide help (food) to low income, disabled or elderly in

need.
Inter-County nursing service of Thief River Falls received \$850 to provide maintenance home health care for the elderly whose needs do not qualify them for Medicare or other program assistance. The Middle River-Thief Lake living at home block nurse program was awarded \$700 to help them help the elderly live at home by providing medical transportation and other related home health care.

The Tri-Community living at home block nurse program of Newfolden also received \$700 to help provide social, recreational, educational and health promoting events for local senior citizens. The Middle River Seniors received \$300 that will be used to help fund transportation provided to seniors who need rides to meet medical appointments. The Heritage Center in Thief River Falls was given \$300 towards the cost of replacing the furnace in their center.

The Red Lake County American Cancer Society and Relay For Life received \$500 to raise money to further cancer research, education materials and local patient services. Pennington/Red Lake Victim Services was awarded \$1,000 to fund emergency expenses for victims of crime. Moving expenses, providing

a safer environment and childcare are examples of their fund uses.

A \$250 grant was given to the Red River Valley Emerging Leadership Program that provides training to develop and expand leadership skills (4317005.06 Sharon Piche) focusing on agriculture and natural resources for area ag couples. The Goodridge Lion Tamer Lions was awarded \$250 to help make upgrades to the Lions hall used in hosting community events. The Pennington County Humane Society received \$500 to update their existing ventilation system to remove harmful odors that will improve the environment for the pets, staff and visitors.

Pembina Trail Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) working cooperatively with J.A. Hughes Elementary School in Red Lake Falls was awarded \$500 to be used for a community garden. The demonstration garden will consist of apple trees, construction of raised/handicap accessible beds where extra food grown will be used to stock the local food shelf.

The RLE Trust Board of Directors determines grants two times per year, in March and September. Serving on the board are Kim Swanson, president, Thief River Falls; Randy Knutson, vice-president, Newfolden; and Bonnie Cote, secretary/treasurer, Trail. Ex-officio directors are Henry Wieland and Roger Johanneck of Red Lake Falls, representing Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

Grant applications are available at the Red Lake Electric Cooperative office or by visiting their Web site at www.redlakeelectric.com.

# Three directors elected at annual meeting for three-year terms



Colette Kujava

Colette Kujava, Newfolden, is the newly-elected director for District 3. She replaces Joyce Johnson, Viking, who did not seek re-election having served six years.

District 3 includes the townships of West Valley, New Maine, Marsh Grove, Newfolden, New Solum and

Viking, all in Marshall County.

Kujava is originally from Harvey, N.D. where she was raised. For the past 10 years she has been employed at Wikstrom Telephone Co. in Karlstad. She works in sales which includes internet and website services in addition to telephone directory sales.

Kujava and her husband Gordon reside on their farm west of Newfolden in Marsh Grove Township. They are parents of three children. Daughter Teri works at Digi Key, daughter Kelli attends Moorhead Technical College and son Alex is in the seventh grade at Marshall County Central High School. The Kujavas are engaged in grain farming and raise cattle.

Kujavas are members of Assumption Catholic Church of Florian where Kujava is active in church activities. She serves on the Northwest Private Industry Council (NWPIC) as Marshall County representative and also serves with the Thief River Falls Chamber of Commerce.

"I look forward to serving as a director of Red Lake Electric," stated Kujava. "I wanted to do something for my district and community. Representing the area on a member-owned cooperative board will allow me to do that."



Randy Versdahl

Randy Versdahl, Red Lake Falls, is the newly-elected director for District 6. He defeated challenger Daniel Schmitz by a vote of 46 to 23. He replaces retiring director Henry Wieland who served 28 years. District 6 includes the townships of Wylie, Louisville, Browns Creek, Red Lake Falls, River, Gervais, Terrebonne and Emardville,

all in Red Lake County.

Versdahl is originally from
McIntosh. He is a 32-year veteran
employee of Garden Valley Telephone Co. of Erskine. For the past
13 years he has served as facilities
manager and safety director.

Versdahl and his wife Kris have been residents of Gervais Township for 30 years. Kris operates a graphic design studio from their home. Versdahls are the parents of two daughters, Kari who is married to Danny Gagner and Erica who is married to Alan Sundby, both residing in the Grand Forks area.

Versdahls are members of Bethany Lutheran Church, Red Lake Falls. Randy is a member of the Pathfinders Snowmobile Club. He has served as president of the Minnesota Telecom Alliance (MTA) plant managers group. He has been an active safety committee member of MTA for 10 years.

"In the future, I believe there is going to be some difficult decisions to be made concerning electric energy costs," said Versdahl. "My background in telecommunications will help to address the energy issues hat will be in front of us."

"I have been a member of Red Lake Electric for 30 years and look forward to representing the Cooperative members of the Red Lake Falls and Plummer areas," stated Versdahl.



Peter Mosbeck

Peter Mosbeck, Red Lake Falls, was re-elected as director representative of District 9. He was first elected three years ago.

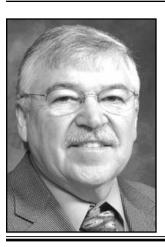
District 9 includes the townships of River Falls, Black River, Polk Centre, Sanders, Bray, Numedal and Norden, all in Pennington County.

Mosbeck has been a rural Red Lake Falls resident all his life. He and his wife Janette reside on their farm in Polk Centre Township. They are the parents of two children, Dustin and Brittney. Dustin lives in Polk Centre Township also. Brittney is married to Tom Johnson and resides in East Grand Forks.

Peter is involved in a family grain (5105001.02 Leslie Wilde) farm operation and works as an auctioneer. He enjoys many outdoor activities. Janette is employed by the Red Lake Falls Veterinary Clinic.

The Mosbecks are members of Black River Lutheran Church where Peter has served on the church board. He also serves as a supervisor on the township board.

"The electric business is being faced with some real challenges and changes especially with government mandates and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations," stated Mosbeck. "It will be challenging to keep reasonable retail rates but I will do my best to represent the members of District 9. Thank you members for your support."



# Manager's **Comments**

by Roger Johanneck



#### **Annual meeting**

I want to pass on a few thank you's this month, to those who had a hand in making our Cooperative's 72nd Annual Meeting a good experience for all who attended.

That'd include a thank you to the 300 members and others who took time out of their schedules to attend the meeting, hear what happened at and to the Cooperative in 2009 and participate in the director election process. I can assure you that preparing reports and making presentations that one can share at a meeting with good attendance makes all the work worthwhile. I hope that everyone was able to take home, if not a prize, a good meal and something interesting and helpful from the meeting.

This is the fifth year we have held the annual meeting in the Imperial Room at the Ralph Englestad Arena in Thief River Falls and I am grateful to have access to such a nice facility to hold our meetings. I think all who have attended one of our annual meetings at the Ralph agree that it is a great place to hold our annual meet-

The only drawback, if we have to come up with one, is that there is typically a meeting held in the same room the day prior to our meeting so we don't get access to set up for our meeting until late in the afternoon the day prior. That minor obstacle is overcome by the helpful staff at the Ralph.

My thanks to Dale Wennberg, Missy Sletton and the rest of the REA crew for accommodating us each year and doing what it takes to get the room cleared quickly from the meeting just held so we can set up for our meeting.

Each year, the Cooperative invites a church from within our service territory to prepare and serve a meal at the end of our meeting. We think this arrangement is a win-win deal for these groups and the Cooperative. It gives them the opportunity at a fund-raiser for their organization and it helps us

This year, the Ebenezer church

of rural Oklee did the honors of noon lunch; I want to thank them for the good meal and their work in doing that for us this year.

I want to thank Minnkota General Manager Dave Loer for meeting with our membership at, not only this year's annual meeting, but for the previous 12 Red Lake Electric annual meetings. Since 1998, when Dave made his first Minnkota presentation at our annual meeting, he has welcomed our invitation to return each year and speak to us; I appreciate that.

Even last year's snow storm that kept (4403014.08 Scott and Shari Daniels) our attendance down, Dave travelled from Grand Forks through the storm so he could speak at our annual meeting. I told Dave even the donuts that were to arrive from Grand Forks didn't because of the storm, but you did, and that had I known this was going to happen I would have asked you to bring the donuts too.

Dave recently announced at Minnkota's annual meeting held last week, that he will be retiring from Minnkota the end of this year. We all appreciate the excellent job Dave did updating us on the challenges of the power supply business and what is happening at Minnkota; we'll miss not being able to call on him to do that for us next year.

This year, the Cooperative had two directors that chose not to seek re-election, and I want to thank them for their service to the Cooperative. Henry Wieland of rural Red Lake Falls has served the members of District 6 since 1982 and Joyce Johnson of rural Viking has been a director of District 3 for the past six years. Their tenures as director ended at this year's annual meeting with the election of their replacements, Randy Versdahl and Colette

I enjoyed working with Henry and Joyce and will miss their presence in the board room each month; not just because they were good directors, but good people too. I appreciate the importance they placed on showing up for the monthly board meetings and the values they brought to the table when discussing their viewpoints, the thoughtful choices they made and the leadership with which they represented their respective dis-

Vernon Rogalla has provided entertainment for our annual meeting attendees for the past 11 years, and I appreciate the festive mood his music adds to our meeting; thanks Vernon, for accepting our invitation to play music again for us this year.

And, to those young adults, usually a high school choir member, for starting our meeting out with the singing of the National Anthem; this year our thanks goes to Becca Kruta who is a senior at Lincoln High School in Thief River Falls, the daughter of RLEC members Steven and Jill Kruta.

The Operation Round Up grant presentation was handled at this year's annual meeting by outgoing Red Lake Electric Trust board president Kim Swanson and April Ballard of the Early Childhood Family Advocate Program in Thief River Falls. April was on hand to accept the grant, share her appreciation for the donation and tell us about how these funds will help her organization serve our community.

RLE Trust by-laws state that trust board members can serve a maximum of two consecutive three-year terms and Kim has done that. On behalf of all the members who donate to Operation Round Up, the organizations who benefit from our members generosity and the other RLE trust board members with whom Kim served; thanks Kim for your fair and thoughtful consideration given in determining the \$127 thousand in grants awarded during your six-year tenure.

Lastly, I want to thank our employees for their hand in the annual meeting preparations and for helping those in attendance be comfortable, welcome and appreci-

It means a lot to me and others who benefit from the hands that go into making a project, like our annual meeting successful. I assure efforts aren't taken for granted and why I wanted to take this opportunity to say thanks.

Each year at the conclusion of our annual meeting, I ask the directors and staff if they have any suggestions to make our annual meeting better; I extend that invitation to you as well. If you have something that you would like to pass on to us to improve on the way we carry out our annual meeting duties, please let us know.

# RLEC annual meeting, Continued from front page

Loer explained how Minnkota Power and Minnesota Power have reached an agreement that would transfer Minnesota Power's share of Young II generation to Minnkota Power in exchange for the DC transmission line that extends from the Young generating plant in Center, N.D. to Duluth. That deal was completed at the end of 2009. He mentioned this was a good deal for both parties and was considered a winwin situation for the two generation and transmission utilities.

It is unlikely given the nature of uncertainty around coal-fired power plants that getting a permit for a new Young III coal plant would have ever happened. Loer mentioned Minnkota Power will need to build a new transmission line to wheel the power from the Young generating unit, located in central North Dakota, to the valley, at a cost of around \$300 million. Despite the large cost of building the new line, he concluded this is still significantly less expensive than building a new power plant.

Three directors were elected at the annual meeting. Colette Kujava, Newfolden, is the newly-elected director for District 3. Newly elected director for District 6 is Randy Versdahl, Red Lake Falls. He defeated Daniel Schmitz, Red Lake Falls, by a vote of 46 to 23. Peter Mosbeck, Red Lake Falls, incumbent director of District 9 was re-

Safety awards were presented to four RLEC employees in recognition of their safe work records. Employees recognized for surpassing five-year increments of accident-free work were Casey Thronson, lineman, 5 years; Troy Schmitz, lineman, 5 years; Dick Gervais, crew foreman, 10 years; and Kevin Reich, member services manager, 35 years.

Appreciation plaques were presented to outgoing directors Henry Wieland, Red Lake Falls, and Joyce Johnson, Viking. Wieland had represented the members of District 6 for 28 years. Johnson had served as District 3 director since 2004.

Kim Swanson, Thief River Falls, president of the Red Lake Electric Trust, Inc., presented a \$1,000 Operation Round Up grant to April Ballard, Thief River Falls. Ballard accepted the check on behalf of the Early Childhood Family Advocate Program of Thief River Falls.

Since its inception in 1993, Operation Round Up grants totaling \$345,000 have been awarded to area non-profit and charitable organizations throughout the service area of RLEC.

Swanson was presented a plaque by Johanneck in recognition for serving six years on the RLE Trust board.

Musical entertainment was provided by Vern Rogalla of Goodridge. Door prizes were awarded with Dorothy Miller of Goodridge being recognized as a long-term Cooperative member. Lunch was served by members of Ebenezer Lutheran Church, rural Oklee.

RLEC presently serves 5,196 accounts for 4,287 members in Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, Polk and Beltrami counties. The current board of directors includes Lundeen, president, Trail; Bonnie Christians, vice-president, Crookston; Mark Hanson, secretary-treasurer, Thief River Falls; Robert Olson, Middle River; Robert Finstad, Thief River Falls; Kujava, Newfolden; and Versdahl, Red Lake Falls.

# From the Mail Bag

**Dear RLEC:** 

Thank you so much for the wonderful grill and waffle iron. It will be put to good use.

Jeanette Stoltman Thief River Falls

#### Dear RLEC:

Thank you very much for the slow cooker that I won at the annual Red Lake Electric Cooperative

**Harold Halvorson** Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for the ice cream treats you gave us from your annual meeting.

> St. Joseph's Students & Staff Red Lake Falls

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for the \$500 scholarship that you provided for NCTC students. I am currently in the electrician program. This money will help me to pay my tuition and I really do appreciate it. Thank you for making scholarships like this available to college students like me who have no outside help in paying for college or my daily living expenses.

**Colby Waterworth Thief River Falls** 

Many thanks for your donation of milk and donuts to Sunview Dining Center. Our clients appreciated the treat and your gift also helped with our food budget!

> Margaret Schindler **Dining Manager Red Lake Falls**

Dear Red Lake Electric Trust and Cooperative Members:

Once again you have proven that the spirit of generosity is flowing through northern Minnesota with your support to the Goodridge Fire and Rescue Squad. Thank you for allowing us to be a recipient of another grant. Your support means a lot to us and is deeply appreciat-

> Renae Marquis Goodridge Area Fire & Rescue

Dear RLEC:

I would like to thank you for your generous scholarship! This will definitely help me succeed here at NCTC and with my future educational goals. Once again your contributions are greatly appreciat-

**Steve May Thief River Falls**  Dear RLE Trust:

Thank you so much for the \$800 grant for our children's playground area. This will be so good for the kids who we help in one way or another here at Violence Intervention Project. We hope Red Lake Electric Trust has a very prosperous year.

Sandi Bentley **Executive Director** Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC:

I wanted to personally thank you for your generous scholarship contribution. These funds will help pay for the expensive tools that are needed in my profession and set me up for success in the future. I have great appreciation for this program and hope that I can repay your donation to the community and the college.

**Houston Kirkeide** Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC:

Thank you very much for the electric grill I won at the annual meeting. I didn't have one so I appreciate it very much.

Adelaide Naas **Red Lake Falls** 



# 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 col-To have a disconnected service reconnected, all

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

#### **BAD CHECKS**

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

## **OUTAGES**

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

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

## **METER TESTS**

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

#### STOPPED METERS

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

#### **METER READINGS**

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

#### **GENERAL SERVICE RATES**

Facilities charge variable \$17 to \$23 month Over 500 KWH (April-Dec.) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 6.6¢ Kwh Over 500 KWH (Jan.-Mar.) .....7.5¢ Kwh Multiphase users add \$17/month cost of service

Standby, \$9/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/month per heat meter; off-peak electric heat rate, 4.0¢/kWh long-term control, 5.8¢/kWh short-term control.

## Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

**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.

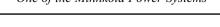
# WE PROUDLY PRESENT TO YOU



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

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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

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### **OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

PRESIDENT	Kelly Lundeen
VICE PRESIDENT	Bonnie Christians
SECRETARY-TREASURER	
DIRECTORS	Robert Olson, Robert Finstad,
	Steven Linder, Colette Kujava,
	Randy Versdahl, Peter Mosbecl
Subscription Rate	\$2.50 per year

# **NOTICE**

ROGER JOHANNECK

General Manager

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.

# Recipe corner

#### **Sugared Asparagus**

- 3 Tbsp. butter or margarine
- 2 Tbsp. brown sugar
- 2 lbs. fresh asparagus, cut into 2-inch pieces (about 4 c.)
- 1 c. chicken broth

In a skillet over medium-high, heat butter and brown sugar until sugar is dissolved. Add asparagus; saute for 2 minutes. Stir in chicken broth; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 8 to 10 minutes or until asparagus is crisp-tender. Remove asparagus to a serving dish and keep warm. Cook sauce, uncovered, until reduced by half. Pour over asparagus and serve immediately. Yield: four to six servings.

#### **Asparagus Cheese Strata**

- 1-1/2 lbs. fresh asparagus, cut into 2-inch pieces
- 3 Tbsp. butter or margarine, melted
- 1 loaf (1 lb.) sliced bread, crusts removed
- 3/4 c. shredded cheddar cheese, divided
- 2 c. cubed fully cooked ham

- 3 c. milk 2 tsp. dried minced onion
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. dry mustard

In a saucepan, cover asparagus with water; cover and cook until just tender but still firm. Drain and set aside. Lightly brush butter over one side of bread slices. Place half of the bread, buttered side up, in a greased 13-inch by 9-inch by 2-inch baking dish. Sprinkle with 1/2 cup cheese. Layer with asparagus and ham. Cover with remaining bread, buttered side up. In a bowl, lightly beat eggs; add milk, onion, salt and mustard; pour over bread. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Bake, uncovered, at 325 degrees for 50 minutes. Sprinkle with the remaining cheese. Return to the over for 10 minutes or until cheese is melted and a knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Yield: 10 to 12 servings.

#### Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

# **Operating Report**

MONTHLY COMPARISON

F	FEBRUARY		
	2009		2010
Total Revenue	1,081,849	\$	1,256,629
Total Margins\$	208,770	\$	202,045
Cost of Power	623,458	\$	789,840
KWH's Purchased	17,253,468		16,948,776
Capital Credits Paid to Estates\$	5,563	\$	6,780

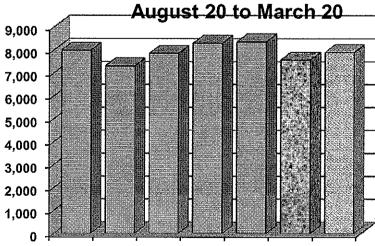
#### YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

	FEBRUARY	FEBRUARY
	2009	2010
Total Revenue	2,238,620	\$ 2,610,577
Total Margins\$	431,291	\$ 488,816
Cost of Power	1,298,815	\$ 1,602,857
KWH's Purchased	36,685,852	34,623,652
New Service Connections	0	0
Customers Served	5,158	5,196
Capital Credits Paid to Estates\$	11,502	\$ 15,609
Miles of Line		
Overhead	2,319	2,325
Underground	235	235
_		

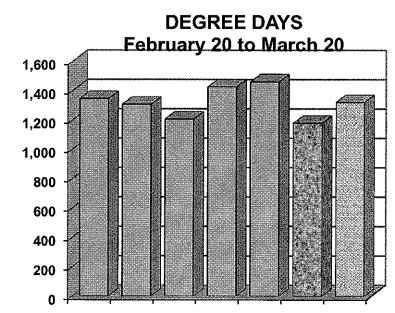
# **DEGREE DAYS**

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

## YEAR TO DATE DEGREE DAYS



04-05 05-06 06-07 07-08 08-09 09-10 Avg



04-05 05-06 06-07 07-08 08-09 09-10 Avg

#### Hard-Cooked Egg

For perfect hard-cooked eggs, place eggs in single layer in a saucepan and add enough water to come at least 1 inch above eggs. Cover and quickly bring just to a boil. Turn off heat.

Let eggs stand in hot water 15 to 17 minutes (for large eggs). Adjust time up or down by about 3 minutes for each size larger or smaller.

To prevent a dark surface on the yolks, immediately run cold water over the eggs or place them in ice water until completely cooled.

Peel eggs right after cooling for immediate use or refrigerate in the shell for use within 1 week.

Using eggs that are not too fresh will help make peeling easier; however, the yolks may not remain centered for attractive deviled eggs or garnishes. Using the freshest-possible eggs will minimize yolk displacement.

#### **Old-Fashioned Egg Salad**

1/4 c. mayonnaise 2 tsp. lemon juice

1 tsp. dried minced onion

1/4 tsp. salt

1/4 tsp. pepper

6 hard-cooked eggs, chopped 1/2 c. finely chopped celery

Lettuce leaves or bread

In a bowl, combine mayonnaise, lemon juice, onion, salt and pepper. Stir in eggs and celery. Cover and chill. For each serving, spoon about 1/2 cup onto a lettuce leaf or spread on bread. Yield: three to four servings.

## Top dairy herds for March DHIA

Randy Rasmussen, supervisor of the Red Lake-Pennington DHIA, put the following herds at top 10 in the association for March.

Name	% in	lbs.		lbs.		lbs
Cows	milk	milk	test	fat	protein	protein
NW Outreach Center 108	92	85	3.3	2.8	3.1	2.6
Northstar Dairy LLC 3X 1081	91	78	3.6	2.8	3.2	2.5
Wayra Dairy 3X268	93	74	3.4	2.5	2.9	2.1
Walter Bros. Farm327	90	71	3.6	2.6	3.0	2.1
Spring Prairie Colony	88	68	3.9	2.6	3.0	2.0
Amundson Dairy69	86	67	3.2	2.1	2.9	1.9
Beyer Bros. Farm	89	66	3.4	2.2	3.0	2.0
Robert and Terri Dahlen 55	84	63	3.3	2.1	3.0	1.9
CB Farms LLC	96	59	3.8	2.2	3.0	1.8
Mark Gladen93	83	55	3.2	1.8	3.0	1.6

The herd averages are affected by the number of dry cows in the herd. The amount of milk or butterfat is averaged out over all the cows. This gives the farmer a record of the earning power of the herd for the month. If too many cows are included in the herd, then the average for the month may be low, even though the cow that is milking pro-

#### **Mustard Potato Salad**

2 c. diced peeled potatoes (about 1 lb.)

1/4 c. mayonnaise

1 tsp. prepared mustard

1/2 tsp. dried minced onion 1/4 tsp. salt

Lettuce leaves Sliced radishes, optional

In a saucepan, cover potatoes with water and cook until tender but firm. Drain and cool. In a bowl, combine egg salad, mayonnaise, mustard, onion and salt. Stir in cooled potatoes. Cover and chill. Serve on lettuce leaves; garnish with radishes if desired. Yield: six to eight servings.

#### Classic Macaroni Salad

1 box (7 oz.) elbow macaroni, cooked and drained

1/2 c. chopped green pepper 1/2 c. mayonnaise

1 jar (2 oz.) chopped pimientos, drained

Lettuce leaves Paprika, optional

In a bowl, combine egg salad, macaroni, green pepper, mayonnaise and pimientos. Cover and chill. For each serving, spoon about 3/4 cup onto a ettuce leaf. Sprinkle with paprika if desired. Yield: eight servings.

#### **Yogurt Deviled Eggs**

6 hard-cooked eggs

1/4 c. plain yogurt

1 tsp. dried minced onion 1 tsp. dried parsley flakes

1 tsp. lemon juice 3/4 tsp. prepared mustard

1/4 tsp. salt

1/4 tsp. Worcestershire sauce

1/8 tsp. pepper

Paprika, optional

Cut eggs in half lengthwise. Remove yolks and set whites aside. In a small bowl, mash yolks; blend in the next eight ingredients. Refill whites, using about 1 tablespoon yolk mixture for each. Sprinkle paprika on top of eggs if desired. Yield: one dozen.

# After-Hours Outage Phone Number 218-253-2200

# Agassiz Wildlife Refuge plans prescribed burns

Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge is planning to prescribe burn approximately 12,600 acres this year. Two units are planned for spring burning; 25 units are targeted for midsummer burns and three units for fall burning. Numerous prairie burns may be interspersed from spring to fall.

A controlled burn is a managed fire conducted under a special prescribed guide. Weather conditions with adequate staff and equipment are needed to meet the objectives of the burn and still be carried out safely. Relative humidity, wind speed and fuel moisture are among factors that must be within certain parameters for the burn to occur.

Each year several burn units on the refuge are targeted for burning. Each unit is bordered by maintained fire breaks, waterways or roads that enable the fire to be contained. When conditions are met, the burn area is ignited. Refuge fire

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equipment and personnel are on site to ensure the fire stays within the controlled area. Burning on the refuge is done from April to early November, when the prescription can be met; however summer burning is more desirable to set back woody plants and growing season cattails.

Agassiz NWR conducted its first summer cattail marsh research burn in 2006. The following year, cattails in this burn unit had less mass and less than half the height indicating the plant has been stressed.

Summer prescribed burning has become the primary focus of the burn program. Historically, naturaloccurring fires were ignited in the summer months during lightning events. Associated moisture regulated the size, severity and the effect on the local vegetation. Burning during the growing season has a greater effect on the vegetation than during the dormant season

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in the spring and fall. Perfect burn parameters may be harder and less frequent to achieve, but when they occur, desired burn results are much greater.

Burning helps restore and maintain many plant habitats. Fire removes dry, dead plant matter that has built up over the years, opening up space for new plant growth and providing better cover for wildlife. The burn allows nutrients locked up in the dried plants to be returned to the soil to be used by new plants.

A common objective is to kill or stress plant species that are undesirable. It's also used to set back woody vegetation (willow) that has encroached upon open areas or become too mature to be of great food value for wildlife such as moose, deer and rabbits.

Burns are conducted by trained and qualified refuge staff and cooperating agencies. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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and the Nature Conservancy are also trained and certified in prescribed fire and assist Agassiz NWR on many fires. Local wildland fire fighting agencies are also notified of the burn so they are prepared if needed.

For more information about prescribed fire activities on Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, contact the Prescribed Fire Specialist at 218-449-4115 extension 206 or for general information about Agassiz Refuge visit http://www.fws.gov/m idwest/agassiz/.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American

The Service manages the 97million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses more than 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 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 about programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region, visit http://midwest.fws.gov.

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

# Ron and Sharon Weiss chosen as Ag Couple

By Destiny Harmoning

Ron and Sharon Weiss have been chosen as this year's Red Lake Falls Ag Couple. The Weisses were chosen by the Red Lake Falls Merchants' Committee to represent the agricultural community during the 25th annual Ag Day, March 27.

Ron and Sharon both grew up in Red Lake Falls and graduated from Lafayette High School. Following high school, they both attended the University of Minnesota, Crookston where Ron studied agriculture and Sharon

After aquiring his degree, Ron pursued a career in farming. It was a natural choice for him, having been raised on a farm. He enjoyed farming and decided to continue on with it.

After Sharon completed college, she landed a position with the University of Minnesota Extension in Red Lake County. She started out as the office manager.

Sharon has since worked for the Extension Service for 23 years, the past six years of which she has held the position of 4-H Program Coordinator.

What Sharon enjoys most about her current job is working with the 4-H members, leaders and volunteers. She explained that 4-H is volunteer-driven and without the help and support of the families, it wouldn't be as successful.

Ron and Sharon were married June 17, 1989. They met when Ron came into the Extension office as a farmer with questions.

They have four children: Shelby, 19, a student at the University of Minnesota, Duluth; Kristen, 17, a junior at Lafayette High School; Sara, 15, a freshman at Lafayette; and Matt, a sixth grade student at J.A. Hugh-

In his free time, Ron enjoys hunting. Sharon likes shopping, photography and gardening.



**Ron and Sharon Weiss** 

Ron has been a Red Lake County Commissioner since April 2001. He was voted in during a special election after the death of George Derosier.

Ron ran for commissioner because he was already serving on several boards including the Red Lake Watershed District, the Soil and Water Conservation District and the Northwest Regional Development Commission. "I decided I'd like to hold a county office too," Ron said.

Ron has enjoyed being a county commissioner but stated there are times when it does get difficult. Being a commissioner requires a significant amount of time to attend numerous committee meetings.

Wheat, soybeans and occasionally corn are grown by the Weisses. The family is also involved with growing asparagus. They have about an acre of the crop and are expanding.

When looking back at his farming experiences, Ron recalls some tough times. "When I first started there were some really wet years; it was hard getting crops in and out," he said.

Right now the biggest challenge for a farmer according to Ron is marketing the crop as there is such a wide fluctuation in commodity prices. Ron said there are many rewards to farming though,

such as having a good crop and "Seeing what you built up for yourself." In the future of the Weiss farm there aren't any plans

for change but they may possibly acquire more acreage. When asked if they wanted their children to pursue farming in the future, Ron and Sharon replied they haven't really pushed their children toward any particular career and are leaving the decision completely up to

"It's great to be honored," Sharon said of being chosen for Ag Couple.



The 25th Ag Day was held March 27 at the Red Lake Falls Community Hall. The evening banquet followed at the American Legion Club where all the past and present Ag Couples were treated to dinner.

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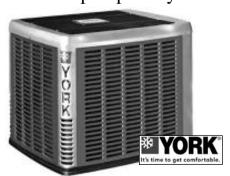
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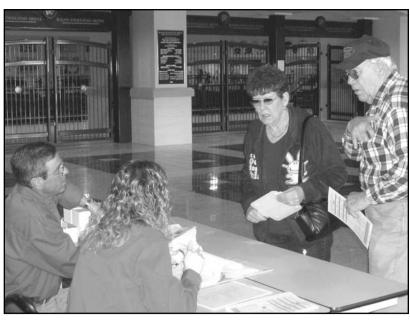
VOLTS & JOLTS April 2010



Early arrivers at RLEC annual meeting were Dorothy and Charles Doppler of Thief River Falls.



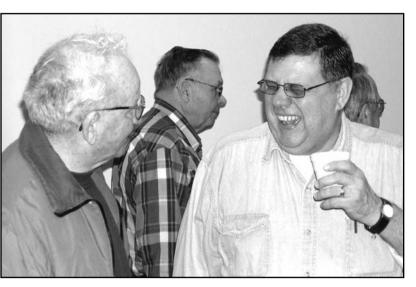
Registering at RLEC annual meeting were Laurence Gutterud, left, and Gerald Sanders both of Thief River Falls.



Betty and James Hjelle of Newfolden visit with RLEC employees Roger Valley and Melanie LaCrosse as they enter the Ralph Engelstad Arena to attend RLEC annual meeting.



Annual meetings allow the opportunity for friends and neighbors to visit and catch up on the latest.



Pete Stich, right, Red Lake Falls, gets a chuckle from a story told by Harley Knutson, Thief River Falls, at Red Lake Electric's annual meeting. In the background is John Stich of Red Lake Falls.



The youngest attendee, at 11 days old, was Addison Jo Brateng of Red Lake Falls. She is the infant daughter of Kelli and Andy Brateng. She did not have much interest in the meeting business. Kelli is an accounting assistant at RLEC.



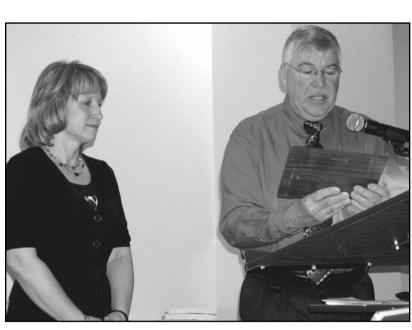
Terry Schmitz, left, Red Lake Falls, visits with Steve Conely, Red Lake Electric Engineering Technician at the Cooperative's annual meeting.



Becca Kruta, Thief River Falls, opened Red Lake Electric's annual meeting by singing the National Anthem. She is a senior at Lincoln High School and the daughter of RLE members Jill and Steve Kruta.



Dorothy Miller, Goodridge, was presented a Bethany grill as she was recognized as a long-term member of Red Lake Electric Cooperative. She received the grill from Bob Guillemette, manager of electric operations.



Kim Swanson, Thief River Falls, was recognized by Roger Johanneck, RLE manager, for six years of service on the Red Lake Electric Trust Board. Six years is the maximum a cooperative member can serve on the trust board.



Vern Rogalla, Goodridge, provided musical enertainment prior to and following RLEC annual meeting. The meeting was held March 31 at the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls.



Jeanette Stoltman, Thief River Falls, displays the grill/waffle iron she won at Red Lake Electric's annual meeting March 25.



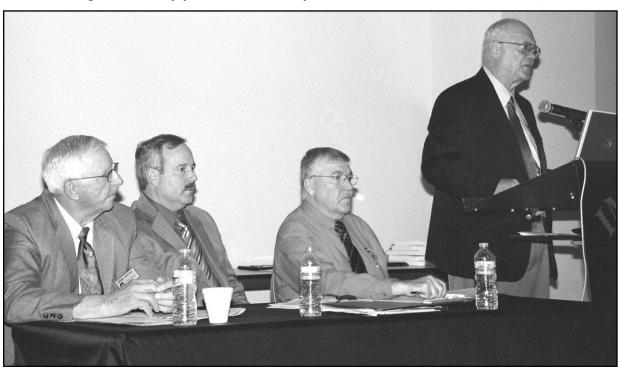
Gerda Koskela, Plummer, was one of several prize winners at RLEC annual meeting.



Retiring RLEC directors Joyce Johnson, Viking, and Henry Wieland, Red Lake Falls, were recognized for their service on the Cooperative board. Johnson served as District 3 director since 2004. Wieland served as director of District 6 for 28 years, serving many of those years as secretary/treasurer of the board.



Annual meeting attendees enjoyed a lunch served by members of Ebenezer Lutheran Church, rural Oklee.



Dave Loer, CEO of Minnkota Power Cooperative, Grand Forks, addressed Red Lake Electric Cooperative annual meeting attendees. He shared some of the challenges faced by the electric industry. Loer will be retiring from Minnkota Power this year. Seated at the table are, from left, Henry Wieland, secretary/treasurer, Red Lake Falls; Kelly Lundeen, president, Trail; Roger Johanneck, general manager, Red Lake Falls.

# Developing your retirement income plan

By Lisa Hughes-Daniel

For decades you've collected paychecks from an employer. But after you retire, you'll be paying yourself—that is, withdrawing money from the nest egg you've saved.

Unfortunately many retirees, flush from having sudden access to a large sum of money, overpay themselves early in retirement. Some folks deplete their savings at a stage in life when it's difficult to recover financially. You can avoid this situation by creating a retirement income plan.

Part budget, part roadmap, a retirement income plan is a strategy for drawing on your assets and benefits at a sustainable rate and in a way that will be most advantageous to you. Ideally, you should start designing your plan about five years before you retire, but it's never too late.

Ready to plunge in? You can take the steps below yourself, although enlisting the help of a trusted financial advisor is a good idea. An advisor can help you navigate decisions you'll encounter as you design your plan, since many

choices will impact your tax liability, cash flow, and bottom line down the road. Be sure he or she is professionally certified and won't earn commissions on your investments.

Take Stock

As with any budget, first get the facts on paper, starting with the money you'll need each month in retirement. Make a list of projected costs: mortgage, insurance, utilities, property taxes, food, and other monthly expenses. Don't forget line items that will change after you leave your job, like medical insurance, travel, and new hobbies.

Also consider large future expenses you're likely to face—home repairs, replacing cars, and especially medical costs. Even with Medicare, most experts recommend that retirees budget heavily for their own health care.

Next, what sources of income do you expect to have? List these too: Social Security benefits, pension benefits, retirement savings accounts, and other investment or cash accounts. Use the best estimates and projections you have.

Gauge Withdrawal Needs
Part of your monthly expenses

may be covered by sources of fixed income, such as Social Security and possibly annuity payments from a retirement plan. What expenses remain that you'd need to finance with personal savings?

Compare that amount with your total nest egg. To ensure your money will last the rest of your life, experts recommend that you withdraw no more than 3 to 5 percent of retirement savings in the first year of retirement, then adjust that amount each following year for inflation. Would your budget require more than that? If so, you risk overpaying yourself. You may need to save more before retiring, reduce your expenses, consider part-time work, or adjust your investment strategy.

Do an Investment Check-up
Your investment strategy needs
a thorough review as you prepare to
move from the "earning" years to
the "spending" years to make sure
your assets are allocated appropriately. While you'll probably still
need to invest in some stocks for
growth, it's also time to starting
moving money you'll need in the
next several years to more stable
investments, like money market
accounts. That can protect you
against extreme market losses when
you can least afford them.

Review Your Plan Periodically

Life will evolve, and your financial needs may too. After you retire, revisit your plan every two to three years or upon a major life event that affects your finances, then make adjustments as needed.

Paying yourself the right amount in retirement isn't a game you want to guess at—the stakes are too high. With a solid plan, however, you can move forward with confidence.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative board members are, front from left, Colette Kujava, Newfolden; Randy Versdahl, Red Lake Falls; Kelly Lundeen, president, Trail; and Bonnie Christians, vice president, Crookston. Back: Robert Finstad, Thief River Falls; Robert Olson, Middle River; Mark Hanson, secretary/treasurer, Thief River Falls; Peter Mosbeck, Red Lake Falls; and Steve Linder, Oklee.

## Generator safety: Our lives are on the line

The safety of you, our members, and our employees is a top priority at Red Lake Electric Cooperative, especially during dangerous times. When storms hit our area, we rush to your aid as soon as weather conditions allow our lineworkers to travel and make repairs safely.

Our line crews take necessary precautions before they work on downed power lines. First, they verify a circuit has been de-energized, and that proper switches are opened and tagged to isolate the circuit from the system. We place ground chains on the circuit—on both sides of workers—to make sure the line cannot be energized while work's being done.

But even after these measures, our workers' lives remain in your hands.

RLEC is proud of our outstanding safety record, but sometimes, no matter how many steps we take to keep everyone safe, the very people we are there to help unknowingly put our lives—and their own—in danger.

Portable generators, widely used when power lines are down, can prove fatal to lineworkers and your neighbors when used improperly.

In 2005, a lineman died in Flomaton, Ala., when he contacted a power line that was energized by an improperly installed generator. Forty-one-year-old Ronnie Adams of Winterville, Ga., was working to restore power after Hurricane Dennis. He was married and had two teenage children.

Of course, no one would ever purposely cause the death of a lineworker. Nevertheless, a generator connected to a home's wiring or plugged into a regular household outlet can cause backfeeding along power lines and electrocute anyone who comes in contact with them—

even if the line seems dead.

And RLEC employees are not the only ones in danger when a portable generator is used improperly. Generator owners themselves may be at risk of electrocution, fire injury, property damage, or carbon monoxide poisoning if they do not follow the necessary safety rules.

Portable generators can be very helpful to consumers during outages. But we urge you to follow these safety guidelines when using one:

• Never connect a generator directly to your home's wiring unless your home has been wired for generator use. This can cause backfeeding along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including lineworkers making repairs. Have a licensed electrician install the equipment necessary to safely connect emergency generators to your home.

• Always plug appliances directly into generators. Connecting the generator to your home's circuits or wiring must be done by a qualified, licensed electrician who will install a transfer switch to prevent backfeeding.

Use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated

extension cords. Make sure extension cords are free of cuts or tears and the plug has three prongs. Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage.

• Ensure your generator is properly grounded.

• Never overload a generator. A portable generator should only be used when necessary to power essential equipment or appliances.

Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down.
Keep the generator dry. Oper-

ate it on a dry surface under an open structure.Always have a fully charged

fire extinguisher nearby.Never fuel a generator while it is operating.

Read and adhere to the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation. Never cut corners when it

comes to safety.

We encourage you to protect the well-being and safety of your family during outages, and safeguard those who come to your aid during emergency situations. When we work together for safety and the good of our communities, we all benefit.

# Late Memorial Day weekend delays walleye fishing opener

Minnesota's walleye opener will be Saturday, May 15, a week later than usual.

State law sets the walleye opener two Saturdays prior to Memorial Day weekend, which does not occur until the last weekend of May this year.

The later start means that the walleye opener will not coincide with Mother's Day weekend, which is May 8 and 9.

"Moms still can fish free on Mother's Day weekend," said Dirk Peterson, fisheries section chief for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "But they're going to have to focus on panfish."

Stream trout season opens statewide on April 17. The early catch-and-release trout season in southeastern Minnesota opened April 1 and runs through April 16.

# **Informational Web Sites**

The following is a list of Web sites that can provide information and education in reference to electrical safety and energy conservation. These Web sites are listed as links on Red Lake Electric Cooperative's Web site at www.redlakeelectric.com.

- Electrical Safety Foundation International: www.esfi.org
- Alliance to Save Energy: www.ase.org
  US Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.gov/greenhomes
- Os Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.gov/greening
   Energy Star: www.energystar.gov
- Minnesota Safety Council: www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org
   Safe Electricity: www.safeelectricity.org
- Lighting Controls Association: www.aboutlightingcontrols.org

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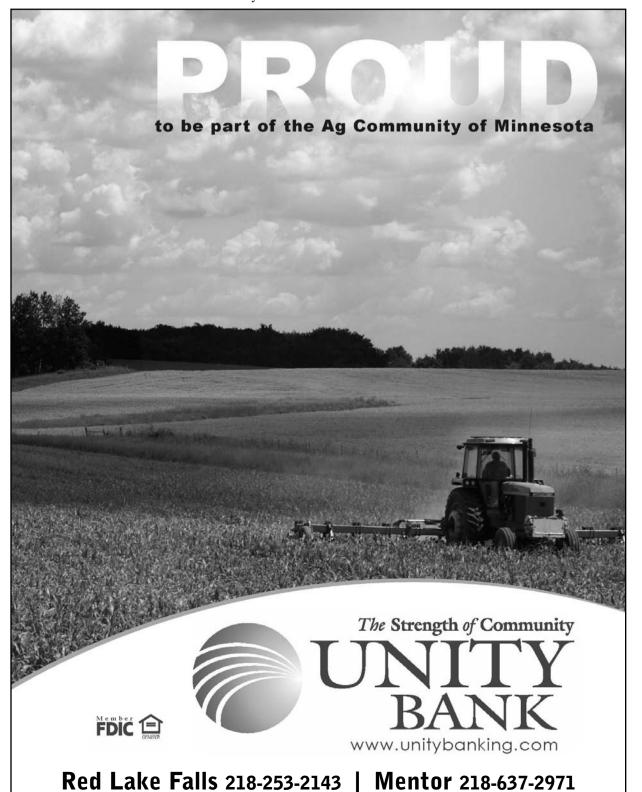
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If you have anything to trade or sell, just drop a card to Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750.

#### For sale

FOR SALE - HM single-axle trailer, 6-feet by 8-feet, 6 inches, has oak deck, 16-inch sides and front, fold down end gate and new lights. Has a new top cranking jack on hitch. Ideal for hauling dirt, small tractor, etc. Call 681-1040 before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m. No answer, leave message.

FOR SALE - Pro series trunnion style weigh distributing kit for pulling a camper, helps to control the sway of the camper. Phone 218-281-5981.

FOR SALE - 2003 Benington Pontoon, 18.5 foot, 40hp Merc., 4 stroke motor, Karavan classic trailer. low hours, full boat cover, good condition; 218-378-4207. Also, Honda Big Red 3-wheeler.

**REGISTERED HEREFORD** and Gelbvieh (Gelbvieh/Angus) bulls: Performance tested, EPDs, health program, red and black, all polled. Rangeline Cattle: 218-681-7431 or cell: 701-799-7756.

## **Miscellany**

1976 CENTENNIAL EDITION -Due to the popular demand of our 1976 Centennial edition which we sold at our Ag Day booth, we are making the issues available in our store. Come pick one up the next time your in town. Only \$1 for this historical issue. The Gazette, 105 Main Ave., Red Lake Falls.

THE GAZETTE NOW CARRIES - Quarter-fold-size envelopes for computer-generated cards. The Gazette in Red Lake Falls, 253-2594.

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

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.

PAPERCLIP SALE - Box of 100 paperclips for 50¢ each or \$3 for a package of 10 boxes. The Gazette in Red Lake Falls, 253-2594.

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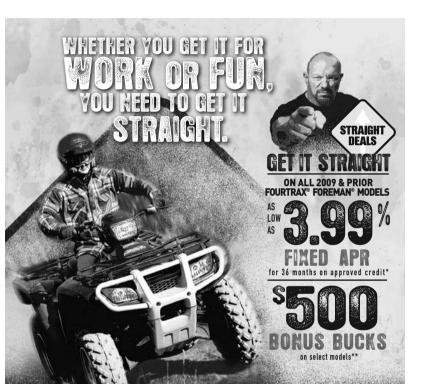
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**WE BUY PARTS CARS!** 

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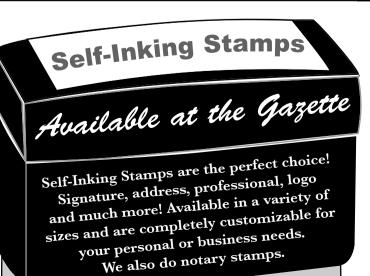
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Your Name, Address and Phone Number. Mail with your power bill payment, if you prefer, or fax to 218-253-2630.

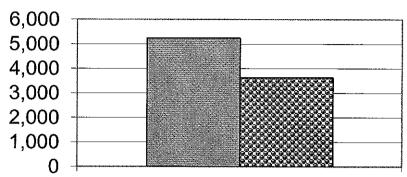
**VOLTS & JOLTS** April 2010

#### **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 \$15,000 and cannot exceed 75% of the project cost, including materials & labor. The chart below shows the energy advantage (30% energy savings) of replacing older style (T-12) 4 foot/4 lamp fluorescent tube lighting with the new style (T-8) energy efficient 4 foot/4 lamp fluorescent tube lighting. Contact RLEC today and find out more about our commercial lighting retrofit rebate program.

## 4 foot Fluorescent Tube Lighting comparison.



■ T-12 **⊠** T-8

Annual kWh usage (based on 10 fixtures @ 70 hours per week)

# **2010 FORD FUSION SE**





5L I4 Engine, 6-Speed Auto Transmission, Sterling Gray Metallic, Charcoal Blackcloth Seating, Fog Lamps, Power Mirrors, 6-Way Power Driver Seat with Lumbar, AM/FM Single CD/MP3, 6 Speaker A/C Climate Control, Power Windows & Locks, Sirius Satellite Radio, 4-Wheel Disc Brakes w/ABS, Tilt/Telescope Wheel, Advancetrac ESC, Side Air Bags/Curtains, 3YR/36,000 Bumper/Bumper, 5YR/60,000 Powertrain, 5YR/60,000 Roadside Assist, Power Moonroof, Sync Voice Activated System, Rear Spoiler.

Ford Retail Customer Cash. Ford Promotional Retail Bonus Cash Thief River Ford Discount..

**Your Price** 

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(218) 681-2660 802 Highway I West **Thief River Falls** www.thiefriverfordinc.com

# **USED INVENTORY**

'98 Plymouth Grand Caravan SE
T10056B Quad Seats, Rear AC/Heat .was \$3,999 \$2,999
'95 Ford F350 Crew Cab 4x4
T10079B 7.3L, Dsl, 5 Speed, XLT
'97 Chev Silverado 1500 Ext Cab
T10063A V-8 Auto, 4x2, 106k Miles .was \$5,999 \$5,499
'00 Mercury Villager Van
B0793A 7 Passenger, V6, 93k Miles
'01 Toyota Camry LE
B0735A Cloth Seats, 101k Miles was \$6,999 \$5,999
'01 Suzuki XL-7 4 Door 4x4
S0775A V6 Auto 117k Miles <b>\$5,999</b>
'00 Chev Suburban LT 4x4
T10087B Heated Leather, Loaded
'03 Ford Escape 4 Dr. 4x4
T10109A XLT, Moonroof, Leather, 75k Miles <b>\$9,999</b>
'05 Buick LeSabre Custom
S0788A 3.8L V6, Cloth Seats, 71k Miles
'03 Jeep Liberty 4 Dr. 4x4
T10094B Heated Leather, Moonroof, 83k Miles \$10,999
'05 Cadillac Deville 4 Dr.
S0785B Leather Seats, 69k Miles
'05 Dodge Quad Cab 4x4
T10095A V-8, AM/FM/CD 90kwas \$13,999 \$12,499
'07 Ford F150 Reg Cab 4x2
T10022C XL Trim, V6 5-Speed, 38k Miles \$13,499
'07 Mercury Milan 4 Dr.
B0795 V6, Full Power, 27k Miles

'07 Mercury Milan Premier 4 Dr. S0790 Heated Leather, Moonroof, 40k Miles . . . . 606 Mercury Mountaineer Premier AWD **'07 Ford Edge AWD** T10120A Cloth Seats, 58k Miles ......**\$18,999 '07 Ford Escape XLT 4x4** B0780 3.0L V-6, Power Moonroof, 49k Miles . . . . . \$18,999 '04 Ford F250 Crew Cab XLT 4x4 **'08 Ford Escape XLT 4x4** B0782 3.0L, V-6, Moonroof, 31k Miles ...... '06 GMC Sierra Crew Cab 2500 4x4 T10042B 6.0L, Gas, Cloth Seats, 64k Miles . . . . . \$20,999 '07 Ford F150 Super Cab 4x4 \$22,999 \$1.50 S0767 5.4L, XLT, 34k Miles ..... '07 Ford F150 Super Cab 4x4 .\$22,999 T10065A V-8, XLT, 47k Miles ..... **'07 Ford Edge SE AWD** S0787 Cloth Seats, CD Player, 30k Miles . . . . . . \$23,499 '06 Ford F150 Super Crew 4x4 T10076A V-8 Lariat, Heated Leather . . . . . . . . . \$23,999 **'07 Ford Edge SEL Plus AWD** S0789 Heated Leather, DVD, 37k Miles . . . . . . . **\$24,999** '08 Ford F150 Super Crew Lariat 4x4 '09 Ford Flex AWD '09 Lincoln Town Car Signature LTD B0794 Heated Leather, Loaded, 14k Miles .......\$29,999

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# Thief River



(800) 295-3673 (218) 681-2660

802 Highway I West **Thief River Falls** www.thiefriverfordinc.com



Web site

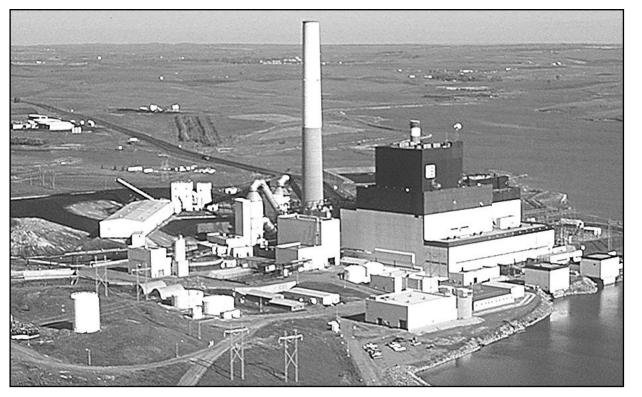
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P. O. Box 430 ● 412 International Drive SW ● Red Lake Falls, MN 56750-0430

www.redlakeelectric.com



Milton R. Young Station

# Milton R. Young Power Plant tour scheduled for June 15 and 16

Red Lake Electric Cooperative and Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative plan to cosponsor a tour of the Milton R. Young Power Plant June 15 and 16.

The first day of the trip will include a stop at Minnkota Power Cooperative's headquarters in Grand Forks. Time will be spent at the Ashtabula Wind Energy Center near Pillsbury, N.D. A relaxing evening will be spent at the Seven Seas Motel in Mandan, which will include a banquet sponsored by Minnkota Power.

The second day of the tour includes visiting the Milton R. Young generation station near Center, N.D. It will also include a drive through the open pit lignite mines (weather permitting) to see the mining operation first hand. You are guaranteed to have a better understanding of the process involved with generating the electricity that serves you.

The cost to participate in the tour is \$80 per person, (7410001.02 Ron Prudhomme) double occupancy, \$100 single occupancy. This includes transportation, meals and lodging. The tour is open to all Red Lake Electric Cooperative members and/or

spouses. The tour group will depart from Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters in Red Lake Falls at 7 a.m. Tuesday, June 15. Approximate time of return is

9 p.m. Wednesday, June 16. Registrations and payment are due by June 1.

If you have not partaken of this tour, sign up today for a learning experience.



## **Power Plant Tour Registration**

June 15 and 16, 2010

Sign up deadline is June 1, 2010

AMOUNT ENCLOSED

NAME OF PARTICIPANTS

ADDRESS(ES)

TELEPHONE NUMBER NUMB	ER OF PARTICIPANTS
ACCOUNT NUMBER	

\$80 Per Participant, Double Occupancy • \$100 Per Participant, Single Occupancy

Return to RLEC, P.O. Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750, along with your check. RLEC will contact you later with details. Your check or deposit will be returned if the tour should be cancelled for some reason. If it becomes necessary for you to cancel out on the trip, it is required that you notify RLEC at least 48 hours before departure to be eligible for a refund. Registration for the trip is on a first-come, first-served basis with a limited number of openings. If you have previously partaken of the trip, you will be put on a space availability standby.

### **AUTO PAY OFFERED BY RLEC**

Red Lake Electric Cooperative is pleased to offer you Auto Pay. Now you can have your monthly energy bill paid automatically from your checking or savings account. You can receive the Auto Pay service by completing the Auto Pay sign-up sheet and returning it to Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

The Auto Pay service is free of charge. Not only is this service free, you will eliminate the expense of writing a check, postage to mail your payment and no more late payment penalties because your bill will be paid on time, every month, for you.

Your payment will be automatically made for you on the 5th of each month. If the 5th falls on a weekend or holiday, the payment will be made on the next business day. You will continue to receive your monthly energy bill as you have in the past, indicating the amount that will be withdrawn from your bank account. The proof of your payment will appear on your bank statement and your next month's enerav bill statement.

Continue to pay your monthly bill until you are notified on your bill that the Auto Pay has been set up for you.

If you have any questions about the Auto Pay please call RLEC at 800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168.

# **AUTO PAY**

SIGN-UP SHEET

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

RLEC ELECTRIC ACCOUNT #
NAME (PRINT)
ADDRESS
TELEPHONE #
NAME OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION
CHECKING ACCOUNT #
SAVINGS ACCOUNT #

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