

# Volts and Jolts

Published monthly for the members of

#### RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

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

VOL. 44 – NO. 10

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

**AUGUST 2009** 

## Knutson to serve as **Trust Board Director**

Randy Knutson, Newfolden, has been selected (4904004.01 Terry Haugen) 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 awesome program for the few pennies it costs each member each month," stated Knutson. "It will be a privilege to work with the nonprofit organizations and charities that receive grants from the program. So many have benefited from this program and all Cooperative members benefit indirectly.'

Knutson has been permanently disabled since the early 1980s, but this does not keep him from serving his community. He has served as a board member of Zion Lutheran Church of Viking for many years and currently serves as congregational president. Knutson has also been involved with the Living at Home Block Nurse Program and the Marshall/Kittson County Special Needs for Children Committee. He has been a resident of the Newfolden/Viking area all of his life.

Randy's wife is Joy Knutson. She is employed by UPS and has worked many years for the U.S. Census Bureau. Knutson's are the



**Randy Knutson** 

parents of three sons, Travas of Moorhead, Tony of Viking and Tyler of Devils Lake, N.D. who is married. Randy and Joy have been blessed with two grandchildren in recent months.

Knutson will join other trust board directors Kim Swanson of Thief River Falls, Bonnie Cote of Trail and Henry Wieland and Roger Johanneck of Red Lake Falls.

# Marshall County 4-H members receive awards

sponsors awards for the 4-H livestock exhibits at the Red Lake, Pennington and Marshall County Fairs each year. Pictured are the

Red Lake and Pennington County recipients were in the July "Volts and Jolts" issue.

Photos compliments of Marshall County Extension Service.



Dustin Dahl, Newfolden, was awarded a prize for swine showmanship on behalf of Red Lake Electric Cooperative at the Marshall County Fair. The fair was held July 29 through Aug. 2 in Warren. Dustin is the son of Kelly and Alice and a New Maine 4-H Club member.



Marshall County Fair. The award was sponsored by Red Lake Electric Cooperative. The fair was held July 29 through Aug. 2. Colton is the son of Brian and Denise Laymon and a member of the New Maine 4-H

## **Operation Round Up® grant** applications are due Sept. 9

Organizations involved in community projects and charities are encouraged to apply for funds from Operation Round Up at this time. Completed grant applications are due in the Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) office by Sept. 9.

Operation Round Up is a program adopted by RLEC headquartered in Red Lake Falls. Customers choosing to "round up" their monthly electric bill payment provide funds for this effort. More than 85 percent of RLEC members now choose to contribute pennies each month to enhance their communi-

Funds will be donated primarily to nonprofit organizations to help fund specific projects or programs. Since the program began in 1993, \$319,428 has been granted to community organizations and charities. Money is donated for the betterment of the community within the outside service area boundaries of

The Red Lake Electric Trust Board of Directors determines grants Board members are Kim Swanson, Thief River Falls; Bonnie Cote, Trail; Randy Knutson, Newfolden; Roger Johanneck and Henry Wieland, Red Lake Falls.

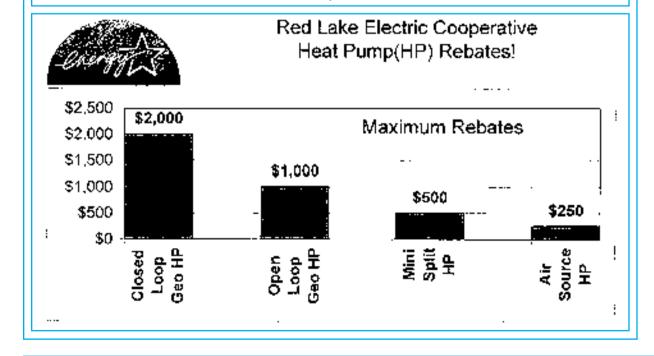
To apply for Operation Round Up grants organizations should contact the RLEC office in Red Lake Falls at 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068. A short application must be completed and submitted along with a financial statement from the organization. The grant application form is available on the Cooperative's Web site: www.redlakeelectric.com

For more (6236005.05 Randy Magnell) information contact Roger Johanneck, general manager of RLEC, at 253-2168 or 800-245-

## **QUICK TAKES**

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Red Lake Electric Cooperative promotes energy conservation by offering rebates to customers who purchase any of the following new equipment that are Energy. Star® rated products. Products that meet or exceed energy efficiency guidelines. set by the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental protection. agency are easily identified by the Energy Star® logo. Call us today at 1-800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168 if you have any questions on how to qualify for your. Energy Star® rebate from Red Lake Electric Cooperative.



#### DeHaan's service spans more than 34 years

After more than 34 years of service to the members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Dave DeHaan has retired. He began his employment Feb. 3, 1975 and his last day as a Red Lake Electric employee was July 7, 2009.

DeHaan began his employment in the line department as a ground man. A short time later he took the job as machine operator followed by an apprentice lineman position. In Feb. 1983, DeHaan the took job warehouse/material clerk, which he held until his retirement. His duties in this position exceeded those of maintaining the warehouse and ordering line material.

Using auto cad, DeHaan developed the Cooperative's current maps and entered pole/staking sheet data. In recent years he was involved with many aspects of metering which included testing meters, programming meters for the



Dave DeHaan

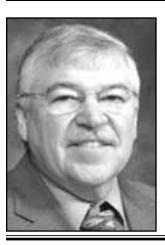
appropriate substations, doing maintenance of the automatic meter readers (Turtle systems) and wiring three-phase meter setups.

DeHaan and his wife Laurie reside in Lake Pleasant Township south of Red Lake Falls where he serves as Township Chairperson. Both Dave and Laurie are active members of the Patriot Guard Riders. Laurie is employed at Digi-Key Corporation in Thief River Falls.

DeHaan's are the parents of two children. Their son Ben, his wife Patti and daughter Elsie live in Red Lake Falls. DeHaan's daughter Angie lives in Fargo, N.D.

When reflecting on the past, DeHaan stated how the equipment at the Cooperative has changed over the years. "When I started at the Cooperative, we had several Army surplus vehicles and only had one bucket truck," said DeHaan. "All the service vehicles were twowheel drive. Today all of them are four-wheel drive and there are five bucket trucks."

In his spare time, DeHaan hopes to (2312002.02 Geraldine Lindemoen) enjoy more shooting and reloading, woodworking, gardening and motorcycle riding.



## Manager's **Comments**

by Roger Johanneck



#### Why all the blinks?

Unless things change soon, the cool temperatures that have marked our spring and summer seasons so far might have us reflecting on 2009 as the year without a summer.

While temperatures may have not been what we expected so far this year; rain and lightning seem about normal for us. Along with the summer thunderstorm season comes service interruptions, sometimes which, are very short in nature. These short interruptions in power or "blinks" as we often refer to them, have been an irritant of late in parts of our service area.

While we have heard about the blinks from some of you, we know that there are more that have noticed the blinks and not bothered to call and tell us.

The recent calls that have been prompted by the blinks, have come from customers served by our Hazel, Terrebonne and Huot substations. Our energy supplier, Minnkota Power Cooperative, is also working on the blink problem that has affected your service. Both transmission (Minnkota's lines) and distribution (Red Lake Electric's lines) have been patrolled to look for the obvious problems, like trees on the line, in the areas that serve and are served by these substations.

So far, these line patrols have not revealed any likely culprits. Minnkota has isolated the line feeding power to the Huot substation located just west of Red Lake Falls. Since that line switch, blinks and calls have been reduced to customers served on the Huot substa-

While blinks can be annoying, they often are an indication that our electrical system protection equipment is working the way it is designed to work. Blinks occur when a fault is present on the line. The fault condition could be caused by a tree touching the line, livestock rubbing on guy wires, lightning, or an animal or a bird shorting the line.

The blink occurs when protective equipment called an oil circuit recloser (OCR) detects a fault on the line. The OCR will automatically open the line for a second and then (6023002.11 Wayne Schultz) recloses it. The automatic re-closure has some obvious advantages over the circuit breaker that is used to protect the wiring and electrical equipment in your home and busi-

When a fault occurs at home and a breaker in your service panel trips, or a fuse is blown, you need to manually reset the breaker or replace the fuse. With an OCR, if the fault no longer remains on the power line after the OCR re-closes, just one blink occurs. If the fault is still present after the first recloser, the OCR will automatically open

again for a second. If after opening and reclosing three times in rapid succession the fault is still present, the OCR will stay open and a line outage occurs. Our crews then need to find the problem that has caused the fault,

repair it and then reclose the OCR manually to restore power.

In addition to the nearly 2,600 miles of distribution power line delivering energy through out Red Lake Electric Cooperative's service area, Minnkota also has hundreds of miles of transmission line that are exposed to the elements mother nature and human activity can deliver.

These many miles of exposure make our electric system vulnerable to outages and short interrupting blinks. There is a considerable amount of time and money spent on system design and maintenance to reduce the frequency of line outages and momentary blinks, but we can't make the system totally immune to our elements. We appreciate your understanding and patience of this as we work to solve our line quality issues.

We're working to be a source of reliable energy for you; you have our continued pledge for that.

#### Retirement

After 34-plus years of employment, Dave DeHaan has called it a career here at Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Dave is a talented individual and his ability to do a variety of tasks was helpful to the Cooperative and it's customers.

On behalf of our customers, directors and employees of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, I wish you well Dave; may retirement be all that you hope it will be and

## Fluorescent bulb recycling: good for the environment - and it's the law

Used fluorescent light bulbs require special care because they contain a very small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing. Because mercury is harmful to our environment and poses a health risk, Minnesota law prohibits the disposal of fluorescent light bulbs in household garbage.

Fluorescent bulbs must be taken

to a qualified facility for storage and recycling. Residents must take their used bulbs to their county facility. Some county facilities accept them without charge to residents of their county but some may charge a small fee.

Following are the fluorescent bulb disposal sites in the Red Lake Electric service area:

• Marshall County: Hardware Hank Stores in Newfolden and Warren or call Environmental Services at 218-745-6007. • Pennington County: Les's

Sanitation, Hwy. 32 South, Thief River Falls. • Polk County: Polk County

Waste Transfer Station, 320 Ingersol Avenue, Crookston, or Recycling Center, Industrial Park, Fosston.

 Red Lake County: Demolition Landfill, Red Lake Falls.

# After-Hours Outage Phone 218-253-2200

# **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

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**

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## **NOTICE**

Hidden within the text of the articles on pages 1, 2, 3 and the back page of this issue of the Volts & Jolts are the names and account numbers of five RLEC members. They will appear within the articles in parenthesis as such (99-99-99-999-99 Roger P. Member). If you find your name and account number, clip it out and send it with your next payment. You will be credited with \$5 on your electric bill.



#### **Report from the Office** by Shirley Bregier

#### **Auto Pay promotion**

Once again we are promoting our Auto Pay service with a drawing for a \$100 credit on your electric bill. This drawing is held to thank our customers who already enjoy the convenience of Auto Pay as well as any new Auto Pay customers who are willing to give the service a try. All you have to do to become eligible for the drawing is be signed up for Auto Pay by Oct.

The Cooperative has been offering Auto Pay to our customers for over 10 years. Even though a third of our customers pay their bill automatically, the rest continue to write out and mail a check to us each month.

If the reason you haven't started Auto Pay is that you are not sure what we do with your bank account, I can assure you that we keep your account information confidential. We don't have access to your bank account. Each month, we give (5511002.01 Patsy Johnson) the bank a listing of the amounts we need to collect from each account and the bank moves

that amount from your account to ours in a simple but very secure process.

This saves you the time of writing out a check and the postage to mail it to us. It also assures you that your bill is paid each month no matter where your life takes you. It also saves the Cooperative the time of processing your check and gives the employees time to do other tasks more informative and helpful to our customers.

In your electric bill, both this month and again in September, you will find an Auto Pay sign-up sheet. If you wish to sign up for Auto Pay, simply fill in the form and return it to us with your payment. Not only will you begin enjoying the ease of Auto Pay but your name will be included in the drawing for \$100 on Oct. 5. If Auto Pay doesn't work out for you, you can stop it at any time.

If you have any questions about Auto Pay, give our office a call at 800-245-6068 or e-mail us at redlake@minnkota.com.

# From the Mail Bag

**Dear RLEC:** 

Thank you for sponsoring 4-H Showmanship at the Marshall County Fair.

> Sincerely, **Colton Laymon** Warren

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for donating the trophy that I won in Swine Showmanship at the Marshall County Fair.

**Dustin Dahl New Maine 4-H** 

**Dear RLEC:** 

Thank you for sponsoring the Rate-of-Gain Beef award at the recent county fair. I named my steer Mojo. I had fun showing him and your support to the 4-H program is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Alanis Rupprecht Thief River Falls

**Dear RLEC:** 

Thank you for sponsoring the champion ewe award at the Pennington County Fair. Thanks for supporting our 4-H program. Samantha Larson

Silverton 4-H

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for the \$25 to the Dairy Exhibit. It was greatly appreciated. Thanks again.

> Teja Beyer **Red Lake Falls**

**Dear RLEC:** 

Thank you for sponsoring the top dairy production award that I received at the 2009 Pennington County Fair, and thank you for your support of 4-H.

> Sincerely, **Seth Rupprecht** Silverton 4-H

#### **Closed Labor Day**

Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters will be closed Monday, September 7 in observance of Labor Day.

In case of an electrical outage or emergency call the after-hour phone number 218-253-2200.

Have a safe Labor Day weekend.

### Extension cord safety checklist

- · Do you always inspect extension cords for wear and damage before you use them?
- · Do you use extension cords ONLY temporarily? Extension cords are for temporary use only. Have a licensed electrician install additional circuits if necessary.
- Do you make sure that extension cord ratings are at least as high as the appliances they power?
- Do you keep extension cords away from foot traffic?
- Do you unwind extension cords fully before use? Knotting or kinking electrical cords can cause internal wires to break, which could pose an electrical fire hazard.
- Do you use extension cords that have been knotted or kinked?
- Do you use extension cords
- Do you plug grounded (threepronged) cords into ungrounded (two-pronged) extension cords? Never remove the ground (third) prong of a three-pronged extension cord or attempt to insert it into an ungrounded (two-pronged) outlet.
- Do you ensure that the only extension cords you use outdoors are rated for outdoor use?
- Do you use more than one extension cord in a string? Do not string extension cords together, heat could build up and start a fire. • Do you plug several extension
- cords into one outlet? · Do you run extension cords
- under rugs or carpets? Source: Electrical Safety Foun-

dation International.



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# Things you should know about your electric service

#### **BILLINGS AND COLLECTION**

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

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

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

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

#### **BAD CHECKS**

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

#### **OUTAGES**

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.

# Recipe corner

#### **Roast Beef and Potato Salad**

- 2 c. cubed cooked roast beef
- 2 c. cubed peeled potatoes, cooked
- 1/2 c. chopped green pepper
- 1/2 c. thinly sliced celery
- 1/4 c. chopped onion
- 2 Tbsp. chopped pimientos
- 1/3 c. vegetable oil
- 2 to 3 Tbsp. vinegar
- 2 tsp. prepared horseradish
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- Lettuce leaves
- 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley

In a large bowl, combine beef, potatoes, green pepper, celery, onion and pimientos. Combine the next five ingredients; mix well. Pour over beef mixture and toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour. Serve on lettuce; sprinkle with parsley. Yield: 4 servings.

#### **Cool Cucumber Pasta**

- 8 oz. tube pasta
- 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 2 medium cucumbers, thinly sliced
- 1 medium onion, thinly sliced
- 1-1/2 c. sugar
- 1 c. water
- 3/4 c. vinegar
- 1 Tbsp. prepared mustard
- 1 Tbsp. dried parsley flakes 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. pepper 1/2 tsp. garlic salt

Cook the pasta according to package directions; drain and rinse in cold water. Place in a large bowl; stir in oil, cucumbers and onion. Combine remaining ingredients; pour over salad and toss. Cover and chill for 3 to 4 hours, stirring occasionally. Serve with a slotted spoon.

#### Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

# **Operating Report**

MONTHLY COMPARISON

JUNE 2008		JUNE 2009
560,017	\$	664,286
(59,740)	\$	(26,367)
389,459	\$	456,457
7,429,174		7,712,511
3,116	\$	1,980
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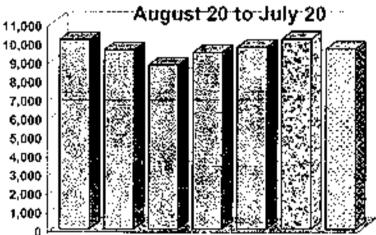
#### YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

	JUNE 2008	JUNE 2009
Total Revenue	4,980,515	\$ 5,592,278
Total Margins\$	979,019	\$ 842,779
Cost of Power	3,049,100	\$ 3,387,602
KWH's Purchased	78,040,900	80,303,669
New Service Connections	19	6
Customers Served	5,108	5,157
Capital Credits Paid to Estates\$	29,184	\$ 32,428
Miles of Line		
Overhead	2,323	2,319
Underground	231	235
-		

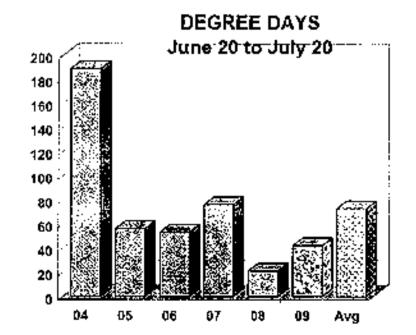
# **DEGREE DAYS**

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



03-04 04-05 05-06 06-07 07-08 08-09 Avg



#### **Summertime Main Dish Salad**

- 2-1/2 c. cubed fully cooked low-fat ham
- 1/3 c. chopped onion
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tsp. dried oregano
- 1 tsp. dried thyme
- 1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1 Tbsp. cooking oil
- 1/3 c. cider or red wine vinegar 4 c. cooked rice
- 3 c. diced cooked chicken
- 2 celery ribs, thinly sliced
- 1/2 c. julienned green pepper 1/2 c. julienned sweet red pepper
- 2 green onions with tops, sliced 1 pint cherry tomatoes
- In a skillet over medium heat, saute the first seven ingredients in oil until vegetables are tender. Remove from the heat; stir in vinegar. Cool for 5 minutes. In a bowl, toss rice, chicken, celery, peppers and onions. Stir in the ham mixture. Cover and chill for at least 2 hours. Garnish with tomatoes. Yield: 9 servings. Diabetic Exchanges: One 1-cup serving equals 2 lean meat, 1-1/2 starch, 1 vegetable; also, 251 calories, 576 mg. sodium, 47 mg.

cholesterol, 31 gm. carbohydrate, 18 gm. protein, 5 gm. fat.

#### **Raspberry Delight**

- 2-1/4 c. all-purpose flour
- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 3/4 c. butter or margarine, softened
- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- 1 c. confectioners' sugar 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 2 c. whipped topping
- Topping: 1 pkg. (6 oz.) raspberry gelatin
- 2 c. boiling water
- 2 pkg. (10 oz. each) sweetened frozen raspberries
- Additional whipped topping and fresh mint, optional

In a bowl, combine flour and sugar; blend in butter with a wooden spoon until smooth. Press into an ungreased 13-inch by 9-inch by 2-inch baking pan. Bake at 300 degrees for 20-25 minutes or until set (crust will not brown). Cool. In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, confectioners' sugar, vanilla and salt until smooth. Fold in whipped topping. Spread over crust. For topping, dissolve gelatin in boiling water; stir in raspberries. Chill for 20 minutes or until mixture begins to thicken. Spoon over filling. Refrigerate until set. Cut into squares; garnish with whipped topping and mint if desired. Yield: 12-16 servings.

#### Pasta with Chicken and Squash

- 1 pkg. (16 oz.) spiral pasta
- 2 c. whipping cream
- 1 Tbsp. butter or margarine
- 2 c. (8 oz.) shredded Mexican cheese blend or cheddar cheese
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 5 Tbsp. olive or vegetable oil, divided
- 2 medium zucchini, julienned 2 medium yellow summer squash, julienned
- 1-1/4 tsp. salt, divided
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- 1 lb. boneless skinless chicken breasts, julienned
- 1/4 tsp. each dried basil, marjoram and savory 1/4 tsp. dried rosemary, crushed
- 1/8 tsp. rubbed sage

Cook pasta according to package directions. Meanwhile, heat cream and butter in a large saucepan until butter melts. Add cheese; cook and stir until melted. Rinse and drain pasta; add to cheese mixture. Cover and keep warm. In a skillet over medium heat, saute onion and garlic in 3 tablespoons oil until onion is tender. Add squash; cook until tender. Add 1 teaspoon of salt and pepper; remove and keep warm. Add remaining oil to skillet; cook chicken with herbs and remaining salt until juices run clear. Place pasta on a serving platter; top with chicken and squash. Yield: 8 servings.

#### **Purple Plum Pie**

- 4 c. sliced fresh plums (about 1-1/2 lb.)
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 1/4 c. all-purpose flour 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 unbaked deep-dish pastry shell (9 inches)
- Topping:
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 1/2 c. all-purpose flour 1/4 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
- 3 Tbsp. cold butter or margarine

In a bowl, combine the first six ingredients; pour into the pastry shell. For topping, combine sugar, flour, cinnamon and nutmeg in a small bowl; cut in butter until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Sprinkle over filling. Bake at 375 degrees for 50 to 60 minutes or until bubbly and golden brown. Cover edges of crust during the last 20 minutes to prevent overbrowning. Cool on a wire rack. Yield: 8 servings.

# Light your way to savings

One of the lowest cost and most immediate ways to conserve electricity and to lower your monthly bill is to install compact fluorescent (CFL) light bulbs. These Energy Star-rated bulbs use about 75 percent less electricity than incandescent bulbs and will last up to 10 times longer. That can mean a savings of up to \$30 over

Additionally, CFL bulbs produce about 75 percent less heat than incandescent bulbs. That means they are safer to operate and can reduce energy costs for home If you aren't replacing all the incandescent bulbs in

our home at once, and few people do, be selective with CFL replacements. Install CFLs in fixtures that are "on" the most. They will save you the most electricity and will give you the best return on your CFL bulb dollars spent. For best efficiency, CFLs should be "on" for at least 15 minutes at a time.

When CFL bulbs came on the market a few years ago, only a few standard sizes were available. Some lamps or fixtures would not accommodate CFL bulbs at that time. Today, many sizes and shapes of CFL bulbs can be purchased, accommodating almost any fixture or lamp.

door fixtures. For recessed fixtures, it is better to use a

CFLs perform best in open fixtures that allow airflow, such as table or floor lamps, wall sconces and out-

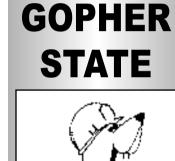


reflector CFL than a spiral CFL since the design of the reflector evenly distributes light down to your task area.

Choose a qualified CFL that offers a shade of white light that works best for you. For example, while most CFLs provide warm or soft white light for your home, you could choose a cooler color for task lighting. For more information on compact fluorescent light-

ing visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce link

at www.redlakeelectric.com. Red Lake Electric Cooperative is also offering up to a \$2 rebate on CFLs payable on 12 CFLs annually. The rebate form can be found on the Cooperative's Web site





## ONE CALL

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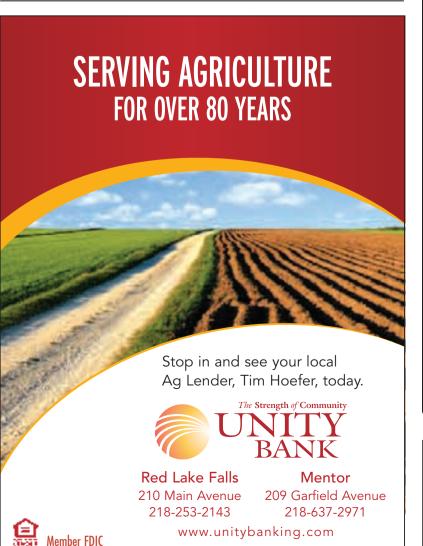
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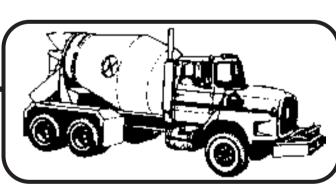
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Crop/Hail Coverage

drawers which required more labor.

shop for Lee to do his carpentry in.

the display about two years ago.

potatoes, rhubarb and radishes.

bies, they are as busy as ever.

**All-Risk Crop Insurance** 

ect, which took six months to complete, included saw-belly curved

raised dairy cattle for 25 years and then grain for 23.

another farmer. A few quarters are also in CRP.

Lee used to raise beef cattle with his father for 24 years, then

He no longer farms but a quarter of the land is rented out to

The old milk house on their property was converted into a wood

Lee also likes to do mechanical work, welding and lawn work.

When Lee mows their lawn it takes a good portion of the day.

In the first part of summer, he mows it two to three times per week.

During the middle of summer, its down to about two times a week

and toward the end, usually only once per week. Lee really enjoys

his time mowing the yard. He said it reminds him of when he used

Lee has also done some landscaping around the yard including

a rock display in the front yard that he built in 1976. One of the

rocks in the display was recovered from a corn field. Lee tried to

extract it with machinery, which resulted in a lot of damage to the

equipment. So dynamite was used to lift the rock. Lee revamped

as a pile of dirt dug up from doing a foundation. Then Lee added

rocks all over the top and finished it off with a railing. It now looks

onions, peppers, carrots, string beans, squash, beets, peas, corn,

their out-buildings. This is another hobby that she enjoys.

Lee also made another arrangement in their backyard. It started

Lorna enjoys gardening. She grows tomatoes, cucumbers,

Lorna also puts together a rummage sale twice a year in one of

So even though Lee and Lorna are retired, with all of their hob-

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

# Keeping busy with Lee and Lorna Nielson

By Destiny Harmoning

Lee and Lorna Nielson are a retired couple from Erskine who keep very busy with maintaining their lawn and participating in their many hobbies.

Lee grew up in the house that he and his wife now live in. He graduated from Northwest School of Agriculture in Crookston. Lorna grew up in Puposky, just north of Bemidji. She graduated from Bemidji High School.

Lee and Lorna were married 57 years ago in September 1952. They met while roller skating in Bemidji. Lee had been trying to impress Lorna and tripped and landed on her. "So I really fell for her," Lee said.

Before retiring, Lee worked at American Crystal Sugar in Crookston and was a full-time farmer. Lee was also a local assessor for 20 years and then a Red Lake County Commissioner for

For Lorna, she worked for the Soil and Water Conservation District, the State of Minnesota and then was an office manager at a clinic, prior to retirement.

Lee and Lorna have five children, 12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Their son Randy and his family live in Alabama. Randy retired as an Army commissioned warrant officer and now works for the government.

Their son Brian and his family live in Rosemount. He has a partnership with a plumbing, electric and hardware supply store in Minneapolis.

Their daughter Wanda is a Registered Nurse in the oncology and surgery departments at Altru Clinic in Grand Forks. Her and her children live in Grand Forks.

Their daughter Debra and her family live in Fertile. Debra is a Licensed Practical Nurse and Emergency Medical Technician.



Lee and Lorna Nielson

She also works at a school.

Their daughter Brenda and her family live in Boise, Idaho. She works at St. Luke's Hospital in human resources.

In their free time, Lee and Lorna enjoy reading books, listening to music and watching birds. Lorna also makes quilts, is a member of Homemakers and attends a Monday morning Bible study group. Lee and Lorna are active members of Fosston Baptist Church.

Lee spends a lot of time doing carpentry and has built a large variety of furniture, cabinets, doors and more in their home. "He makes anything I need," Lorna said.

It all started when Lee was going to school and he took a carpentry class. He enjoyed the work and continued on with it.

Lee has made a lot of furniture and other items for his family, including making beds for all of their children and grandchildren and making desk furniture, dining room sets, bathroom cabinets and cradles. The cradles are used with each new generation of their family.

In addition to building items for his family, Lee will build for others on a request basis. He does this as a hobby and is not in it for the money. Those interested in his wood-working skills can show him a picture of what they want built and tell him the type of wood they want it built out of and then he can make it.

"Now days its hard to get anything that's made out of real wood," Lee said. He noted the cheaper furnitures purchased at retail stores are often made of particle board, a material he won't work with.

One notable piece of furniture that Lee built for someone outside of the family was a slant-desk secretary for one of his daughter's friend, a nurse from Grand Forks. The friend had bought a bedroom set but the secretary piece was no longer available, so she asked Lee to build it for her. The proj-



Lee made many of the furnishings in the Nielson's home including the



Lee constructed this sewing table for Lorna out of their old kitchen

Some landscaping in the Nielson's backyard arranged by Lee.



Lorna uses one of their out-buildings to host a rummage sale twice a year where she sells antiques and homemade quilts and pillows.



A rock display in the Nielson's front yard.

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One of the Minnkota Power Systems

# Line conversion spans from white snow to green grass and beyond

A five-mile section of three phase underground (UG) northeast of Viking has been replaced and converted to overhead for the most part. This stretch of UG had been installed in 1979.

It was anticipated that the UG should provide service for 40-50 years. It fell short of that as there had been numerous outages on this five-mile secDue to the cost difference (UG being about twice the cost) it was decid-

ed to convert to a replacement overhead line where possible. The conversion started in late March when there was still snow on the

ground and a lot of surface water. Line crews worked on the project when

ground conditions and work load priorities permitted. With the restrictions, the conversion project was finally complete in early August. It is estimated the project cost will total \$125,000.



Conversion of an underground line to overhead, northeast of Viking, began in March. Members in the area experienced an outage due to another cable failure which prompted the conversion project to begin. Many of the three phase poles were set in less than ideal conditions due to snow and water.



Following the setting of poles for the new overhead line, wire was strung and tied in on the insulators.



Casey Thronson, lineman, wraps the wire with armor rod prior to the wire being tied to the insulators. Armor rod helps to prevent breakage

of strands of wire due to movement and/or vibration of the wire.

Brett Knott, apprentice lineman, installs vibration dampners on the wires. Vibration dampners are used to help reduce wire movement due to wind or ice build up. Reducing wire movement helps to reduce the

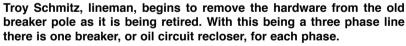
loosening of hardware on the structures.





Ira Cota, lineman, uses a shotgun

stick (insulated fiberglass stick) to install grounds, grounding out one set of wires leading to the pole that is to be changed. The leads to these wires have been cut allowing the wires to be deenergized and isolated. The grounds are installed to make sure the wires remains "dead" during the changeout.





Line crews work on all three sides of a three phase corner pole to isolate the corner pole taking it out of service for replacement. It is the last major task associated with the line conversion project. There is a breaker pole that will also be taken out of service as a new one had been constructed.



Casey Thronson, top bucket, and Troy Schmitz work to finish dead ending the three sets of three phase wires that attach to the new three phase corner pole.



Once the replacement of the three phase corner pole has been completed, Dick Gervais uses a battery operated crimp tool to reconnect one set of wires that had previously been cut. He is equipped with rubber gloves and sleeves as the connections are being made to "hot" or energized wires.



During the change out of the three phase pole, lines had been rerouted and/or back fed so that all members were able to have electric service during the change out. Now that the change out has been completed the lines need to be switched back to the normal positions. This requires a tail-gate discussion (or in the case a front bumper session) so that every crew member is aware of the switching procedure. Tailgate discussions are a safety mandate so that no crew member is ever put at risk and that all switching is done in the proper sequence. With the new overhead line in service it is anticipated the life of the line to span more than 50 years.

# **GOPHER STATE ONE CALL**

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## Tips for the safe outdoor use of electricity

#### Working in the yard shouldn't be a shocking experience

Most of us think that we know enough about electricity to stay safe. After all, we are surrounded by it and use it everyday. However, each year hundreds of people die, thousands are injured and millions of dollars in property damage are caused by electrical hazards that could have been avoided.

Whether you are just headed out to do a little work in the yard or are off to take on more ambitious outdoor projects, following these few tips can help protect you, your home and your family from harm.

#### **Equipment Safety**

- Inspect electric tools for damage to its cords, plugs and wiring. Take the tool to a qualified professional for repair.
- Protect yourself from injury. Turn the electric tool off, unplug it and put it in the "lock" position when carrying or connecting attachments such as mower baskets or saw blades.
- Never leave electric tools unattended where children or other unqualified adults can misuse it.
- Store electric tools indoors to keep them protected from damage caused by water and excessive heat.

#### **Protect Yourself**

- Safety devices on outdoor electric tools are there for a reason. Make sure that they are always in place before operating.
- Invest in safety goggles, hearing protection, dust masks, gloves and other safety equipment as recommended for each tool.
- Wear the appropriate clothes for the job.

#### **Never Take Electricity** For Granted • A ground fault circuit inter-

rupter (GFCI) will automatically disconnect the power when an elec-Minnesota waterfowl season announcements

With continental populations of

many species of ducks again near

record highs, the Minnesota

Department of Natural Resources

(DNR) has established a 60-day

duck season that opens Oct. 3 with

be the same as last season, except

hunters will be able to harvest one

canvasback and the scaup limit will

be two for the entire 60-day season.

This good news for diver duck

hunters is based on increased num-

bers of canvasbacks and scaup in

the continental breeding duck sur-

waterfowl populations and pond numbers across Canada and the

northern plains, the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service is offering states in the Mississippi Flyway, including Minnesota, a 60-day season that

could include a six-duck limit with two hen mallards and three wood ducks. Minnesota will continue with a daily bag limit of one hen

mallard that has been in place since

2005. Likewise, the DNR is main-

taining a conservative approach to

wood ducks by maintaining a two-

protect local breeding mallard and

wood duck populations and will

provide more opportunity for Min-

nesota hunters to benefit from high

continental waterfowl populations

if habitat conditions and weather

cooperate, and migrant ducks move

through the state in ample numbers.

would be of interest to our hunters,"

said Steve Cordts, DNR waterfowl

specialist. "So we reviewed the biological information, took some

additional public input through a

new online questionnaire, and in

the end decided to maintain the two-bird limit again this year." **Duck Season** The regular waterfowl season will open Saturday, Oct. 3, at 9 a.m.

and continue through Tuesday, Dec. 1. The six-duck bag may include no more than four mallards, with only one hen mallard, and one black duck, one pintail, one canvasback, two wood ducks, two redheads and two scaup. Possession limits remain at twice the daily bag

Except for opening day, when shooting hours will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., shooting hours will be from one half hour before sunrise to 4 p.m. daily through Saturday, Oct. 10, and from one half hour before sunrise to sunset thereafter.

Motorized decoys or other motorized devices designed to attract migratory birds may not be used from the opening day of duck season through Saturday, Oct. 10. Motorized decoys or other motorized devices designed to attract migratory birds may not be used at any time during the season on water bodies and lands fully contained within state wildlife man-

Additional details on the duck,

goose and migratory bird hunting

seasons will be in the 2009 Minnesota Waterfowl Hunting Regulations, available in mid-August.

agement area boundaries.

"We knew the wood duck limit

The bag limits will continue to

bird limit.

limits.

Based on an increase in breeding

Bag limits for most species will

a daily bag limit of six ducks.

trocution hazard exists.

- The National Electric Code now requires GFCIs in bathrooms, garages, kitchens and outdoor out-
- Protect outlets from the elements by making sure that they are covered when not in use.
- To help prevent electrical fires, keep dry leaves and other debris swept away from outdoor lighting, outlets and power cords.

#### **Extension Cord Safety**

- When working outdoors, use only weather-resistant heavy gauge extension cords marked "for outdoor use." These weather resistant cords have added safeguards designed to withstand the outdoor environment.
- Examine extension cords before each use. Damaged cords should be replaced immediately.
- Extension cords are for short term use and not for long term power solutions.
- Keep all outdoor extension cords and light strands clear of snow and standing water and well protected from the elements.
- Keep your work area clean and free from debris.

#### **Power Line Safety**

- Use wooden or fiberglass ladders when working near electrical wiring. Metal ladders conduct electricity and pose a threat of electrocution.
- Check surrounding work area to ensure that you will not accidentally come in contact with overhead power lines.
- Remember that power lines are underground as well. Before you dig to plant a tree or put in a fence, call 811 to mark all of the utility lines in your yard.

**Generator Safety** 

**Youth Waterfowl Day** 

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day

will be Saturday, Sept. 19. Hunters

age 15 and under may take regular

season bag limits when accompa-

nied by a nonhunting adult (age 18

and older, no license required).

Canada geese, mergansers, coots

and moorhens may be taken from

one-half hour before sunrise to 4

p.m. Motorized decoy restrictions

are in effect. New for this year, five

geese may be taken statewide.

There are no license requirements,

except hunters age 13 to 15 must

have a firearms safety certificate or

an apprentice hunter validation in

their possession. All other migrato-

#### Either-sex deer permit deadline is Sept. 10 Minnesota hunters who hope to harvest an antlerless • Never operate generators in

deer this fall will want to review regulations prior to Sept. 10, the deadline to apply for an either-sex permit. That's over-the-counter, because either-sex permits will be valid in significantly fewer areas this hunting season, especially in portions of northern and southwestern Minnesota. Therefore, hunters who typically did not need to apply for an either-sex permit will need to do so for this hunting season. Nearly half of Minnesota's

enclosed or partially enclosed

spaces. Generators can produce

high levels of carbon monoxide

very quickly, which can be deadly.

Use carbon monoxide detectors in

nearby enclosed spaces to monitor

tors (and smoke detectors) monthly

to ensure they are working proper-

directly to household wiring with-

out an appropriate transfer switch

installed. Power from generators

connected directly to household

wiring can backfeed along power

lines and electrocute anyone com-

Make sure your generator is

• Use a GFCI to help prevent

Make sure extension cords

electrocutions and electrical shock

used with generators are rated for

the load, and are free of cuts, worn

insulation, and have three-pronged

portable generators at all times.

• Keep children away from

ESFI reminds everyone that

electricity is a powerful tool. It can

also be a lethal hazard. Better safe-

ty standards have reduced electrical

hazards can cause deaths, injuries

and/or property damage. However,

good safety habits are still the best

prevention against electrical haz-

information, visit www.electrical-

safety.org or call 703-841-3229.

ry bird hunting regulations apply.

**Goose Seasons** 

Minnesota's regular goose sea-

son will open in conjunction with

the duck season on Saturday, Oct.

3, except for Canada goose seasons

in the West-Central Goose Zone,

which will open on Thursday, Oct.

15. The daily bag limit will be two

Canada geese statewide. Posses-

sion limits are double the daily bag

limits. Efforts to increase Minneso-

ta's daily goose bag to three

statewide except for the West Cen-

tral Goose Zone were not approved

by the Mississippi Flyway Council.

Visit www.dnr.state.mn.us for

dation International.

For additional electrical safety

Source: Electrical Safety Foun-

Keep the generator dry.

ing in contact with them.

properly grounded.

Check carbon monoxide detec-

• Do not connect generators

127 deer permit areas are designated as "lottery" this year, according to Lou Cornicelli, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) big game program coordinator. "We encourage all deer hunters, no matter if they hunt with a firearm or muzzleloader, to determine the status of their hunting area now so that it doesn't come as a surprise to them after the Sept. 10 permit application

Archery hunters may harvest an antlerless deer in lottery areas without applying for an either-sex per-

The DNR has reduced the number of deer permit areas where over-the-counter, either-sex permits are valid. In some parts of Minnesota, the deer population is now within management goals as a result of several years of abundant harvest coupled with a moderate to severe winter in northern Minnesota. In other areas, where the deer

population is below population goals, the restriction is an effort to increase deer numbers.

Hunters who are selected to receive an either-sex permit in a lottery area can harvest a buck or antlerless deer. Those who are not selected can harvest a buck only.

Dennis Simon, DNR wildlife section chief, said hunters younger than 18 who want to harvest an antlerless deer in a significant portion of southwestern Minnesota must apply for an either-sex permit by Thursday, Sept. 10. Only youth hunters selected by lottery will be allowed to harvest an antlerless deer in these areas.

"We commitments made through our goal-setting process to increase southwestern deer populations," said Simon. "To accomplish this, we need to restrict antlerless

Permit areas affected by the change are 234, 237, 274, 275, 282, 283, 284, 286, 288, 289, 294. (see accompanying deer permit area map).

"We've been lowering lottery permits in these areas for several years, but that hasn't increased local deer populations," said Simon. "The next logical step is to allow only hunters younger than 18 who participate in a lottery for either-sex permits to harvest antlerless deer.'

The other significant change is that muzzleloader hunters must apply for an either-sex permit if they want to harvest an antlerless deer in a lottery area. Unlike previous years, there is no exemption for a person who only hunts the muzzleloader sea-

Hunters who choose to hunt in a lottery area and want the option of taking an antlerless deer must decide by Sept. 10 if they will hunt with a regular firearm or muzzleloader, stipulating that choice on the lottery application. If selected in the lottery, the permit will be valid only for the season the hunter specified on the application. Hunters who are not selected only may harvest a buck in lottery areas during the regular firearms and muzzleloader seasons.

Detailed information about deer season licenses and permit requirements is in the Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations and on DNR Web www.mndnr.gov/deer.

# \$3,740,000 in conservation grants coming soon

Hundreds of new conservation projects are expected to soon get underway throughout Minnesota thanks to a new \$3,740,000 grant program that begins in September, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has announced.

The grants from the Outdoor Heritage Conservation Partners Grant Program were recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (L-SOHC), reviewed by the Legislature, and signed into law by Governor Pawlenty. The L-SOHC receives 33 percent of revenue generated by a state sales tax increase approved by voters in a constitutional amendment last November.

The new grant program was a high priority of the L-SOHC, according to Leslie Tannahill, DNR grant coordinator who will head the program.

"It is well known that there are

many outstanding conservation organizations in Minnesota with great ideas and projects they would like to tackle if only they had the funding," Tannahill said. "This program will be exactly what they need to get those projects up and running.

Half of the grants awarded during the first round of the program will be for less than \$125,000 and half for more than \$125,000. The maximum grant amount is \$400,000. A second round of grants will be offered if there are funds remaining after this fall's selections, or if the L-SOHC recommends additional funding for the program in fiscal year 2011.

Grants are available to local, regional, state and national organizations and government entities. Projects are eligible in the following categories:

Restore or enhance fish and

wildlife habitat on lands permanently protected by conservation easements or public ownership.

Protect lands through acquisition of fee title or conservation easements and be open to public hunting and fishing during open Organizations are required to

non-state sources and be able to complete the work and cover all expenses before being reimbursed. Request for proposals will be out

fund 10 percent of the project from

in late August with first-round applications due Nov. 3. Successful applications will be selected by Dec. 15. Program details are avail-

www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/lessard-sams.html. Final details of the program are still being worked out so interested organizations are urged to check the Web site regularly.

# **Conservation Improvement** Program incentives available

more information.

For the past five years, Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) has had to spend 1.5 percent of gross revenue on conservation programs. The bulk of the money was spent on rebates for Energy Star appliances and equipment.

Starting in 2010, as a directive from the state legislature, RLEC must spend money on conservation programs that yield electric energy savings. Energy conserved must equal 1.5 percent of the Cooperative's total annual kilowatt hour sales.

To meet this directive the Cooperative is launching new

Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) incentives. These incentives are more comprehensive than the previous offerings for both residential and business customers.

Residential offerings span from a \$2 rebate on compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) to \$400 per ton on a geothermal, closed loop heat pump.

Business incentives apply for lighting, air conditioning, air source heat pumps, geothermal heat pumps, chillers, motors, variable frequency drives, and Energy Star food service equipment.

Rebate forms that list the

offerings are posted on RLEC website, www.redlakeelectric.com.

The forms are also available from the Cooperative or local electrical and heating/cooling contractors.

The accompanying tables list many of the incentives.

Custom applications may also apply to business customers. Most energy conservation measures can be explored to see if the measure qualifies for an incentive.

For additional information, contact RLEC at 253-2168 or 800-245-6068.

# **Business Energy Efficiency Incentives**

Energy Efficiency Equipment	Rebate Amount	
T8 Fluorescent Fixtures (Replacing T12 or incadescents)	\$5 to \$16 per fixture	
T5 Fluorescent Fixtures (Replacing HID or incadescents)	Starting at \$60 per fixture	
CFL Fixture	\$22/fixture	
CFL Lamp	\$1.50/fixture	
Split System Energy Efficient Air Conditioners and Air Source Heat Pump	\$30 to \$40/ton	
Single Packaged Energy Efficient Air Conditioners and Air Source Heat Pump	\$35 to \$50/ton	
Geothermal Heat Pump Open loop, 16.2 EER	\$200/ton	
Geothermal Heat Pump Closed loop, 14.1 EER	\$400/ton	
Energy Efficient Air Cooled and Water Cooled Chillers	\$30 to \$40/ton	
Nema Premium® Three Phase Electric Motors	\$4 to \$15/HP	
Energy Star Commercial Solid Door Refidgerator or Freezer	\$60 to \$250	
Energy Star Ice Machine	\$200 to \$600	
Energy Star Steam Cooler	\$300 to \$600	
Energy Star Fryer	\$500	

This list is not all inclusive. There are numerous other lighting retrofits. Other measures may also qualify. Any project totalling \$10,000 or more must receive written approval before project installation. Rebate maximum is 75% of project cost up to \$15,000.

# **Residential Energy Efficiency Incentives**

Energy Efficiency Equipment	Rebate Amount	Rebate Maximum
CFL Lamp (Maximum 12 lamps)	≤ 50% of retail not to exceed \$2	\$24 per customer
Energy Star Clothes Washer	\$50	\$50
High Efficiency Electric Water Heater 80 gallon or larger, EF ≥ 0.91, must be on load control	\$150/unit	\$150/unit
High Efficiency Furnace with ECM blower	\$150/unit	\$150/unit
High Efficiency Air Source Heat Pump 14.0 SEER, 8.2 HSPF	\$250/unit	\$250/unit
Geothermal Heat Pump Open loop, 16.2 EER	\$200/ton	\$1,000
Geothermal Heat Pump Closed loop, 14.1 EER	\$400/ton	\$2,000



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#### **Miscellany**

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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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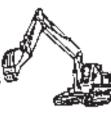
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Red Lake Electric Cooperative

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# OCTOBER 5, 2009 FOR ALL MEMBERS USING AUTO-PAY FOR PAYING THEIR MONTHLY ELECTRIC BILL Auto-Pay is the easiest, most efficient way to make and process your monthly bill payment at Red Lake Electric Cooperative and we want to show our appreciation to the 1,572 customers who currently use it. If you are using Auto-Pay or sign up for Auto-Pay by Oct. 5, on October 6 you are automatically entered in the drawing. Questions about Auto-Pay? Give Red Lake Electric Cooperative a call or

e-mail redlake@minnkota.com. 1-800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168.

#### Energy 202: Speaking the language; choosing a contractor

Last month's Energy 101 article focused on what electricity actually is and some basic terms to help you understand your energy use.

This month, we'll dig a little deeper into the language contractors use when installing common heating and cooling equipment in your home and what these terms mean to you.

With any subject, the use of jargon and acronyms can make understanding an important topic difficult. The heating and cooling world is no different.

When considering new or replacement heating and cooling equipment, you may be told a heat pump has a SEER of 16 and an HSPF of 8.2, or that a furnace has an AFUE of 95 percent. For many, those are foreign numbers.

Yet they have a big impact on your heating and cooling system performance, including payback, system efficiency and whether you qualify for a federal tax credit, or energy efficiency rebate from Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

What some of the most common terms mean:

• SEER stands for Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio. SEER measures the efficiency of airsource heat pumps and central air conditioners in the cooling mode over a whole season at test settings. A higher SEER rating means the unit is more energy efficient and will save on operating costs.

SEER ratings for new air-source heat pumps and central air conditioners range from a minimum of 13 to 23 for the most efficient modeis.

• COP stands for Coefficient of Performance. COP measures the performance of both types of heat pumps (ground and air source). It tells how many times more efficient a heat pump is versus electric resistance heat, which is rated 100 percent efficient.

So, a ground-source heat pump with a COP of 3.3 means you will receive 3.3 kilowatt-hours of heat for every 1 kWh of electricity the unit uses at the test temperature. Heat pumps can achieve efficiency levels of higher than 100 percent because they transfer heat instead of create it like fossil furnaces do.

• HSPF stands for Heating Season Performance Factor. HSPF measures heating efficiency of airsource heat pumps. HSPF is determined by dividing the season heating output in British Thermal Units (BTUs) by the seasonal power consumption in watts. A higher rating means increased efficiency.

• AFUE stands for Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency. AFUE measures efficiency over the entire heating season for gas and oil furnaces. Again, the higher the AFUE percentage means more value for your energy dollar, but does not include electrical consumption by the blower motor.

For example, an AFUE of 90 percent means that if a gallon of propane cost you one dollar, 90 cents of that dollar is delivered to vou as heat and 10 cents is lost in the combustion process. Newer natural gas and propane furnaces can deliver up to 95 percent AFUE ratings or slightly higher.

#### Choosing the **Right Contractor**

While the above ratings can show you the potential energy efficiency of equipment under test conditions, they mean absolutely nothing if your system isn't installed correctly. Here are some guidelines and questions you can ask contractors to help choose the one best qualified for your project.

You should: 1. Obtain bids from more than

one contractor. 2. Have the contractor show you they are licensed, insured and can roduce a certificate for refrigerant

handling if needed. 3. Have the contractor provide examples of quality work and names of customers for references.

4. Have a clear written agreement with all the work listed in detail. All products, their model number and efficiency ratings should also be listed.

5. Ask for explanation of all warranty documentation and have the contractor help with submitting the warranty information.

The contractor should: 1. Be able to show you a layout of where the equipment will be

2. Determine the size of your equipment using Manual J or an equivalent calculation method.

3. Help you determine an estimate of what your payback will be. 4. Explain the benefits of routine

maintenance. 5. Be able to check refrigerant charge using the proper tools.

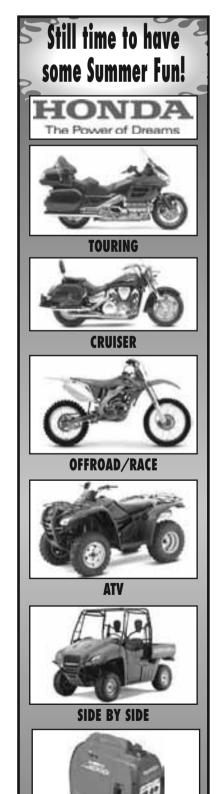
6. Examine and reuse your duct system, if necessary.

7. State the scheduled start and completion date. 8. Inspect the work carefully to make sure there are no safety

9. Test the system to make sure it is working properly.

10. Be able to provide an AHRI (Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigerant Institute) number or Certificate of Product Performance, which helps ensure the technician installed a properly matched sys-

Sources: AHRI, Energy Star, Minnesota Department of Com-



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## Pole inspection to begin after Labor Day



Pole Maintenance Company (PMC) plans to begin inspecting poles in Red Lake Electric Cooperative's service territory after Labor Day. They will be inspecting poles on two feeders from Dakota substation and one feeder from the Morris Owen substation.

This inspection will include parts of Pennington County townships North, Norden, Numedal, Sanders, Rocksbury, Bray and Black River. Townships in Marshall County will be Viking and New Solum strips.

PMC employees will have marked vehicles. They will travel from pole to pole with all-terrain units. If you have any questions please call the Cooperative's headquarters at 1-800-245-6068.

## **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 been set up for you.

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

# 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

Cancer it in such time as to allow ALEC to act on it.
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NAME OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION
CHECKING ACCOUNT #
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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

#### Thief River Falls, MN ~ Ph. 218-686-2290 or 218-689-6665 Sunday, August 30, 2009 ~ 11 a.m. Location: From Thief River Falls, MN: 3 miles West on Hwy. 1 Roads will be marked. LUNCH SERVED Joe "Shorty" & Mabel Holtan Estate ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES VEHICLES AND TRAILERS Wooden Wagon Wheels Hand Drill Press Misc. Old Anvils Bronze Bell Apple Press Old School Books Seat for a Horse Buggy Baby Crib Metal Folding Chairs Hanging Lamps Wooden Yokes (UX) Several Cast Iron Seats Large Cast Iron Bell Huge Cast Iron Pot Several Misc. Oil Lamps Pump Organ (Dyer Brothers- St. Paul) Several Old Trunks Baby Buggar SHOP TOOLS & MISC. ITEMS ohnson Outboard Motors eral Canisters for Recessed Lighting 50 ft. Standing TV Tower Roll Bar for a Picky ionary Air Compressor 70/60 Amp Battery Chargu Vintage Linens and Aprons Parlor Table Wooden Swivel Desk Chair 2 Place Tandem Axle Horse Trailer Misc. Dressers Dresser with Mirror Judge's Chair 303 British (Parts Gun) Ross M10 303 Bolt Navy Arms su caller slack Powder Stevens double barrel 16 gauge Hammerless Browning Semi Auto 12 gauge 3 inch chambered Winchester 101 12 gauge over and under 25-35 Winchester WCF Model 94 Volunteer-Blumfield Co 10 gauge Mag side by side Browning 22 long rifle Semi Auto with a scope TRACTORS AND MISC. MACHINERY Sealed Forever Elvis '68" Decenter – Third in a Series Sealed J.R. Ewing Decenter will in a Series Sealed J.R. Ewing Decenter will in a Series Sealed J.R. Ewing Decenter will work to ox, plays the Theme from Dallas Led Edition 1988 MM State Fair Allis Chalmers D-21 Tractor, 1/16 Scale 3ast Iron Wood Cooking Stove looby Uniser Qurent Fands D-20 Cooking Stove Bobby Unser Gurney Eagle Race Car Decanter 4 Horse Stationary Waterloo Gas Engine HOUSEHOLD W Farmall WC Allis Chalmers, PTO, NF WD 45 Allis Chalmers WF, PTO WD 45 Allis Chalmers WF, PTO, 2-pt. 3 A John Deeres, NF, PTO 2 B John Deeres, NF, PTO This Auction Conducted, Managed & Clerked By McMullen Auctioneers

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