



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. 45 – NO. 02

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

DECEMBER 2009



The new Crookston Sports Center will sport three sheets of ice. The 1,100-seat main arena is scheduled to open in January 2010. The new facility is located at the northeast corner of Crookston and the southwest corner of Red Lake Electric Cooperative's service territory.

Conservation a goal for new arena

From Minnkota Messenger

When living in "the state of hockey," it's always nice to have a first-class facility. But when Crookston city officials made plans to construct a new \$15 million arena, hockey was only one of the benefits they had in mind for the community.

The city's current facility, the Crookston Civic Arena, is directly in line with where a new levee will be built as part of a flood control project. To protect the city, it's necessary to tear down a building that has served the community for almost 80 years.

"Obviously in a building from the 1930s there is a ton of functional obsolescence," city administrator Aaron Parrish said. "The compressor system in that building alone is over 30 years old. We did an energy efficiency evaluation and it was estimated that we were probably looking at \$2 to \$3 million worth of upgrades just to get it to a basic level."

"So it was at that time, along with the discussion that we had no better way to do the dike alignment for that neighborhood, that we decided we had to look at a new scenario."

With the state kicking in \$10 million, the project moved ahead. Construction (4402029.03 Ronald Philipp) began in May and continues. The goal is to have the arena completely operational by the end of January 2010, just in time to close out the high school hockey season.

The dedication will be held Jan. 30, with both the Crookston High School boys and girls teams scheduled to play.

Eye on Efficiency

The 1,100-seat facility, which is called Crookston Sports Center, has been designed not only to meet state-mandated efficiency requirements, but to surpass them.

The arena found a home on the corner of Barrette Street and Fisher Avenue near Crookston High School. It has three ice sheets, the main rink and two practice facilities. The Center's open layout allows spectators to flow from rink to rink with ease and increases efficiency of heating, lighting and other utilities. It makes the upgrade from the previous two sheets of ice at the old arena affordable.

"Minnesota has what's called the B3 energy efficiency requirements. Basically, this building is designed to 130 percent of the building code," Parrish said. "So it's over-designed and actually beats code by 30 percent."

A major concern for an ice facility (5123003.02 David Austad) is to keep the arena warm for spectators while at the same time maintaining the ice. The Crookston Sports Center came up with a single, cost-effective solution to those issues.

Parrish cited the use of reclaimed heat as a major conservation effort throughout the building. "In this building we've got a number of compressors that are throwing a lot of heat in the process of cooling the ice. Instead of exhausting it out of the building, they recirculate it through the duct system," Parrish said.

Some local residents have had another concern. The main question is whether the operating costs are going to be substantially more for the city to support long term. However, city officials believe that with reliable conservation practices,

community support and the dependability of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, the arena will be successful.

"As we've run projections in the building with the energy-efficiency upgrades and the rate structure with Red Lake Electric, we don't think the operating cost differential is going to be substantial, even though we're adding a sheet of ice," Parrish said.

Community Support

Throughout the process of making the arena project a reality, city officials have received significant community support.

Private donations for the arena total nearly \$1 million, but it's the excitement that has lifted the project.

"This is one of the biggest city-wide improvements we've had in a very long time," parks and recreation director Scott Kleven said. "To get this new facility really is a dream come true."

While it's obvious that the arena is equipped for hockey, there are other aspects to the Crookston Sports Center that make it an all-purpose facility.

There will be weight rooms, a quarter-mile walking track, a curling area and a turf system that will be set up during the spring to facilitate early soccer and baseball practices, along with numerous other activities.

"There are so many possibilities," Kleven said. "It's a multi-use facility. We've already had people wondering about receptions and concerts."

"It's a very exciting time for us. Availability for recreation opportunity is going to be so much better for our community."

Season's Greetings

*Let the light shine wherever you may be ...
whether near or far, the light of the season
brings all hearts closer to home.*

*Greetings are sent your way for a holiday
filled with the light of laughter,
the glow of peace and the warmth of love.*

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from all the employees and directors of
Red Lake Electric Cooperative!*



The barn of John and Carol Lovly of Goodridge is festively decorated for the holiday season. The barn is Carol's favorite decoration in their display and the favorite of many passers-by.

More photos and accompanying story on page 4.

Renewable Energy Surcharge effective with January 2010 billing

A Renewable Energy Surcharge of a half-cent per kilowatt hour (kWh) will take effect with the bill Red Lake Electric members receive in January 2010.

This half-cent per kWh adder will increase the energy rate component only and is a pass-through rate increase from Red Lake Electric's wholesale power supplier, Minnkota Power Cooperative. The surcharge to Red Lake Electric Cooperative and the other Minnkota member systems begins in November 2009 and will likely be in place one year.

The half-cent per kWh surcharge amounts to \$5 per 1,000 kWh of usage; customers using 2,000 kWh

per month will see their bill increase by \$10.

Minnkota faces a revenue shortfall of nearly \$20 million as a result of lower market prices they have received (2104002.02 Anita Hible) from surplus energy sales in the wholesale market. A significant amount of wind energy that Minnkota has contracted to purchase, to meet both the Minnesota Renewable Energy Standard and the North Dakota Renewable energy objective, is now surplus energy. The economic downturn in the U.S. economy has impacted (lowered) the demand for surplus energy and that has reduced the market price Minnkota expected to receive for

its surplus energy by one-half.

As a counter to the increased cost of power to Red Lake Electric Cooperative from Minnkota's surcharge, the Red Lake Electric Cooperative board of directors chose to absorb the increased costs in 2009 without passing that on to RLEC members; the RLEC board approved instead to implement the surcharge pass-through to customers beginning with the January 2010 bill.

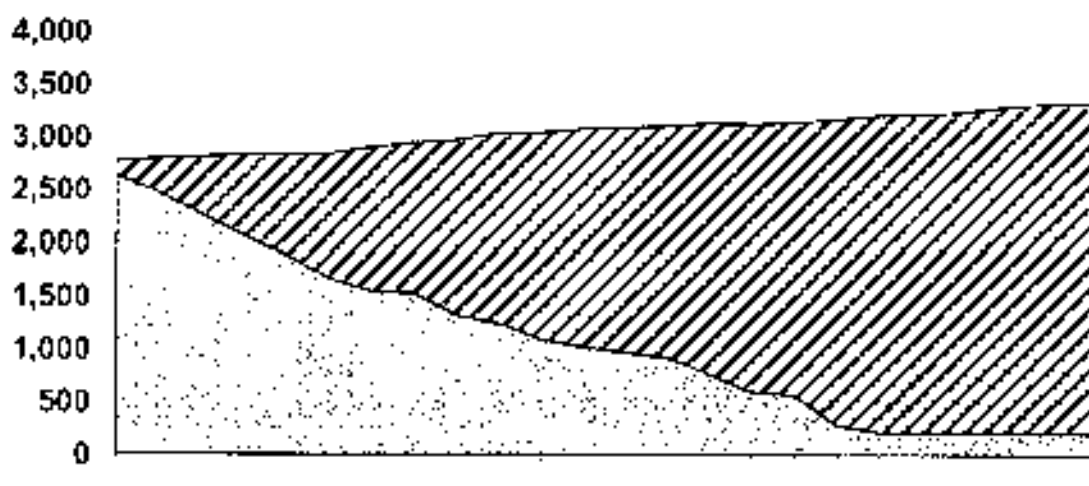
Cooperative members that have questions about the Renewable Energy Surcharge or its effect on their bill can call the Red Lake Electric office at 253-2168 or 800-245-6068.

QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

The shorter daylight hours that come with this time of year doesn't mean you have to be in the dark. Red Lake Electric Cooperative has outdoor Security Lighting available for just pennies a night. The monthly \$7 charge includes all costs to operate and maintain the light. If you want to add lighting to your yard or work area, give RLEC a call today. 1-800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168

Red Lake Electric Cooperative Security Lights in Service



□ Mercury Vapor ▨ High Pressure Sodium

Cookies and Calendars

As a small token of appreciation to our members, an open house will be held at Red Lake Electric's headquarters December 28-31.

*Stop by for refreshments and Christmas cookies
and pick up a 2010 calendar.*



Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck



Load control: Why during mild weather?

Judging by the number of member phone calls this past month, some explanation or review of why off peak loads were controlled so much recently, is in order. "Why load control?" is a reasonable question for a member to have given that off-peak load control is normally saved for days of sub-zero weather, not during days when temps are ranging well above zero, like was the case at various times this fall.

With the amount of load control experienced already this fall and winter, many of you are wondering or concerned (4236001.02 Curtis W. Swanson) about what amount of load control colder weather will bring. As we have learned with our load management system, cold weather is not the only factor that determines when your off-peak heating or water heaters are controlled. We need only to look to recent events in our own (Minnkota's) power supply for examples of that.

In mid-September through the end of October, Minnkota's Young 1 generating unit was taken off line for a major planned outage. Favorable rates for surplus energy in the market during the maintenance out-

age enabled Minnkota to purchase energy during much of the outage to Young 1 when customers demand for energy exceeded Minnkota's resources. Market rates for energy fluctuate hourly; when pool prices were too high, Minnkota controlled system off-peak loads until their resources could meet the demand or until market prices made it feasible to purchase energy in the pool again.

During the first week of December when customers experienced some unexpected load control, one other source of base load generation for Minnkota was down for a scheduled maintenance; the Coyote power plant. Coupled with Coyote's maintenance, was a stretch of days with little or no wind that had the same affect on the output from the Langdon and Ashtabula wind farms, the source of Minnkota's renewable energy.

Today, as I write, Red Lake Electric Cooperative members are experiencing extended load control due to these four different events or conditions: Minnkota's base-load Young 2 generating unit went down unexpectedly with problems on Dec. 9 and will be out of service for seven or eight days if the repairs go

as planned; wind speeds are minimal and the turbine blades perched on the wind towers at the Langdon and Ashtabula wind farms are at a standstill; temperatures today are some of the coldest so far this winter and that has pushed up demand for energy beyond Minnkota's own available resources; and market prices for energy are not economical enough for Minnkota to purchase from the energy pool so the load management system is used to control off-peak loads.

Historically, we have all become accustomed to off-peak load control when the temperatures are cold. It makes sense; we are a winter-peaking system and that is when our members demand for energy is the greatest. We have learned however that there are other reasons why the off-peak system is used. Shedding load that would otherwise require additional generation capacity to serve or not purchasing energy in the pool when prices are high are the obvious ways the load management system has financially benefited all members.

Members with off-peak heating systems have experienced load control well above 500 hours some years. With the addition of renewable energy to Minnkota's generation mix, we expect load control to be near 265 hours when this heating season ends. Whether load control is 265 hours or 500 hours, does not matter to most RLEC customers; having an adequate reliable back-up heating system in place will do that for you.

On behalf of the employees and directors of your Red Lake Electric Cooperative, thank you for your patronage this past year. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you in 2009 and we look forward to serving you and the new members that will be joining us in 2010. Merry Christmas and may the new year be one full of blessings for you, your family and your Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

From the Mail Bag

Dear Red Lake Electric Co-op's Operation Round-up Grant:

On behalf of the Red Lake Falls Fire Department, I would like to say thank you for the \$1,000 grant. This money is going to be used to purchase some firefighter gloves and two extension ladders that are greatly needed. The round-up grant has helped so many organizations in the local area. We are very fortunate to have your business and the people that contribute that little extra every month to make these grants available.

Thanks again,
Chad Schmitz, Chief
Red Lake Falls Fire Department

Dear Red Lake Electric Trust:

On behalf of the Little Brother/Little Sister Program of Marshall County, I would like to thank you for the \$550 grant from Operation Round Up funds. The funds will be used to put on activities for the children and their Big Brothers and Big Sisters. We typically have put on three events a year, which involve all those paired in our program. Your generosity will help us to continue planning these activities.

Sincerely,
Ruth Finseth
Social Service Supervisor
Marshall County Social Services



Member Service Department

by Kevin Reich

Off-peak electric heat rates vs. other fuels

Often the information I share in this report is in reference to questions we are asked by our members. One question we are being asked as of late is how does the off-peak electric heat rates compare to the prices of other fuels?

The current long term control off-peak rate is 4 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh). Add the half-cent per kWh surcharge that took affect with any electrical usage after Dec. 10 and the rate totals 4.5 cents. This rate is comparable to propane at \$1.09 per gallon for a furnace operating at 90 percent efficiency. It is comparable to fuel oil at \$1.49 per gallon for an 80 percent efficient furnace. This electric heat rate is very favorable compared to current fossil fuel prices.

The short-term control off-peak electric rate is currently 5.8 cents per kWh. Add the half-cent surcharge and the net rate is 6.3 cents. This rate compares to propane at \$1.54 per gallon for a 90 percent efficient furnace. It compares to \$2.07 per gallon fuel oil for a furnace operating at 80 percent efficiency. The short-term control rate is rather comparable to current propane prices and favorable compared to current fuel oil prices.

As I write this report (Dec. 14), another question we have been asked throughout the past week is, why has the control of off-peak electric heat been so regular and for extended hours?

There are three factors that play a role (3813010.03 Corey Skjerven) in the answer to this question. Number one, the Young 2 coal generation plant near Center, N.D. was forced into an outage last week due to a boiler feed pump failure along with other equipment connected to the feed pump. This part has never failed before in the life of the plant, which is 30 years. Minnkota Power Cooperative is working with GE to get the parts and replace them as quickly as possible. Hopefully by the time you receive this publication, the plant will be back on-line.

Number two, the temperatures we have been experiencing the last few days are 30 to 35 degrees cold-



'Reflecting the Reason for the Season'

Dorothy Swanson, Thief River Falls, submitted this photograph showing the reflection from the yard pole onto the barn wall. She titled it "Reflecting the Reason for the Season". The yard pole was serving double duty this day as the sun was setting. Thank you Dorothy for sharing this photo.

Top dairy herds for November DHIA

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

Name	Cows	% in milk	lbs. milk	test	lbs. fat	protein	lbs. protein
Northstar Dairy LLC 3X	1076	90	71	3.7	2.6	3.3	2.3
Walter Bros. Farm	325	90	71	3.5	2.5	3.1	2.2
NW Outreach Center	108	84	70	3.6	2.5	3.2	2.2
Beyer Bros. Farm	84	93	67	3.4	2.3	3.1	2.1
Wayra Dairy 3X	273	88	64	3.7	2.4	3.0	1.9
Spring Prairie Colony	376	84	62	3.9	2.4	3.1	1.9
Robert and Terri Dahlen	55	85	61	3.5	2.1	3.0	1.8
BLY Dairy Inc.	217	95	60	4.1	2.5	3.2	1.9
CB Farms LLC	48	90	58	3.7	2.2	3.1	1.8
Mark Gladen	90	90	53	3.3	1.8	3.2	1.7

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 produces a lot of milk.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

Things you should know about your electric service

BILLINGS AND COLLECTION

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

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

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

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

BAD CHECKS

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

OUTAGES

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

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

METER TESTS

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

STOPPED METERS

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

METER READINGS

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

GENERAL SERVICE RATES

Facilities charge variable \$17 to \$23 month

First 500 KWH9.0¢ Kwh
Over 500 KWH (April-Dec.)6.6¢ Kwh
Over 500 KWH (Jan.-Mar.)7.5¢ Kwh

Multiphase users add \$17/month cost of service charge.

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.

Mission Statement

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



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

Call before digging!
It's the law!

1-800-252-1166

WE PROUDLY PRESENT TO YOU

The Red Lake Electric Cooperative Customer Service Guarantee



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



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

ROGER JOHANNECK
General Manager

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.

Recipe corner

Nutty Caramel Clusters

25 caramels
1 Tbsp. butter
1 Tbsp. milk
1 c. sliced almonds
1/2 c. salted dry roasted peanuts
1/2 c. pecan halves
1/2 c. semisweet chocolate chips
2 tsp. shortening

In a 1-qt. microwave-safe dish, combine the caramels, butter and milk. Microwave, uncovered, on high for 1-1/2 to 2 minutes or until caramels are melted, stirring once. Stir in the almonds, peanuts and pecans. Drop by tablespoonfuls onto waxed paper-lined baking sheets.

In a microwave-safe bowl, melt chocolate chips and shortening; stir until blended. Spoon over clusters. Refrigerate until set. Store in the refrigerator. Yield: 1-1/2 dozen.

Nutrition Facts: 1 piece equals 161 calories, 10 g. fat (3 g. saturated fat), 3 mg. cholestrol, 74 mg. sodium, 16 g. carbohydrates, 2 g. fiber, 3 g. protein.

Finnish Suomalaiset Puikot Cookie Sticks

1 c. soft butter
1/2 c. sugar
1 egg
1 tsp. almond extract
1/4 tsp. salt
3 c. sifted flour
3 eggs, beaten
sugar for coating
1-1/2 c. finely chopped almonds

Cream butter and 1/2 c. sugar until well mixed; add egg, almond extract and salt. Add flour, working with hands until it forms a smooth dough, and shape into long rolls about 3/4-inch thick. Cut into 3-inch lengths and dip into eggs, then sugar, then almonds. Place in rows on greased cookie sheets. Bake at 350 degrees for 8 to 10 minutes or until very lightly browned. Yield: 5 dozen.

Christmas Bark Candy

1 pkg. (10 to 12 oz.) vanilla or white chips or 1 pkg. (11-1/2 oz.) milk chocolate chips
2 tsp. vegetable oil
1-1/4 to 1-1/2 c. M&M miniature baking bits or broken pretzel pieces

In a heavy saucepan or microwave, melt chips with oil; stir until smooth. Cool for 5 minutes. Stir in baking bits or pretzels.

Spread onto a waxed paper-lined baking sheet. Refrigerate 10 minutes. Remove from refrigerator; break into pieces. Store in an airtight container. Yield: about 1 pound.

Nutrition Facts: 2/3 oz. equals 127 calories, 7 g. fat (4 g. saturated fat), 3 mg. cholesterol, 11 mg. sodium, 15 g. carbohydrate, 1 g. fiber, 1 g. protein.

Orange Jelly Candies

2 tsp. butter
1 pkg. (1-3/4 oz.) powdered fruit pectin
1/2 tsp. baking soda
3/4 c. water
1 c. sugar
1 c. light corn syrup
1/8 tsp. orange oil
5 drops each red and yellow food coloring

Additional sugar

Butter a 9-inch square pan with 2 tsp. butter; set aside. In a large saucepan, combine the pectin, baking soda and water (mixture will be foamy).

In another saucepan, combine sugar and corn syrup. Bring both mixtures to a boil. Cook until foam on pectin mixture thins slightly and sugar mixture comes to a full rolling boil, about 4 minutes. Gradually add pectin mixture to boiling sugar mixture, stirring constantly. Boil for 1 minute, stirring constantly.

Remove from heat. Stir in orange oil and food coloring. Immediately pour into prepared pan. Let stand at room temperature for 3 hours or until set.

Sprinkle waxed paper with additional sugar; invert pan onto sugar. With a knife dipped in warm water, cut candy into 1-inch squares; roll in additional sugar. Place on a wire rack. Let stand, uncovered, at room temperature overnight. Store in an airtight container. Yield: 81 pieces.

Nutrition Facts: 3 pieces (calculated without additional sugar) equals 76 calories, trace fat (trace saturated fat), 1 mg. cholesterol, 41 mg. sodium, 19 g. carbohydrates, 0 fiber, trace protein.

Creamy Pastel Mints

1 pkg. (3 oz.) cream cheese, softened
3/8 tsp. peppermint extract
1 drop red food coloring
1 drop blue food coloring
1 drop yellow food coloring
3 c. confectioner's sugar

Divide cream cream equally among three small bowls. Stir in 1/8 tsp. mint flavoring into each bowl. Using the food coloring, tint one portion red, one blue and the remaining portion yellow. Gradually stir in 1/2 c. sugar into each portion.

Knead 1/2 c. of the remaining sugar into each color until smooth. Roll out to 1/4-inch thickness. (No sugar or flour is necessary on the rolling surface.) Use 1-inch cookie cutters to cut out various shapes. Store tightly covered in the refrigerator. Yield: about 5 dozen.

Nutrition Facts: 1 piece equals 28 calories, 1 g. fat (trace saturated fat), 2 mg. cholestrol, 4 mg. sodium, 6 g. carbohydrates, 0 fiber, trace protein.

Vanilla Popcorn

3 qts. popped popcorn
1 c. sugar
1/2 c. butter
1/4 c. light corn syrup
1/4 tsp baking soda
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

Place popcorn in a large bowl; set aside. In a saucepan, combine the sugar, butter and corn syrup. Bring to a boil over medium heat; boil and stir until mixture is golden, about 2 minutes.

Remove from the heat; stir in baking soda and vanilla. Pour over popcorn and toss to coat. Cool slightly; break apart while warm. Yield: 3 quarts.

Nutrition Facts: 1 c. equals 206 calories, 11 g. fat (5 g. saturated fat), 20 mg. cholestrol, 209 mg. sodium, 28 g. carbohydrates, 1 g. fiber, 1 g. protein.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.			
Operating Report			
MONTHLY COMPARISON			
	OCTOBER 2008	OCTOBER 2009	
Total Revenue	\$ 619,268	\$ 770,291	
Total Margins	\$ (59,374)	\$ (20,719)	
Cost of Power	\$ 435,593	\$ 540,973	
KWH's Purchased	9,365,933	10,852,028	
Capital Credits Paid to Estates ...	\$ 12,528	\$ 6,115	
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON			
	OCTOBER 2008	OCTOBER 2009	
Total Revenue	\$ 7,299,358	\$ 8,224,844	
Total Margins	\$ 736,354	\$ 624,682	
Cost of Power	\$ 4,699,181	\$ 5,288,162	
KWH's Purchased	111,630,093	113,929,786	
New Service Connections	71	49	
Customers Served	5,154	5,190	
Capital Credits Paid to Estates ...	\$ 65,971	\$ 68,760	
Miles of Line			
Overhead	2,325	2,319	
Underground	233	235	



Merry Christmas

from Jim, Brian and Kristie



Unity Insurance and Investment Services

FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE AND INVESTMENT NEEDS

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To All Our Good Neighbors

At Christmas

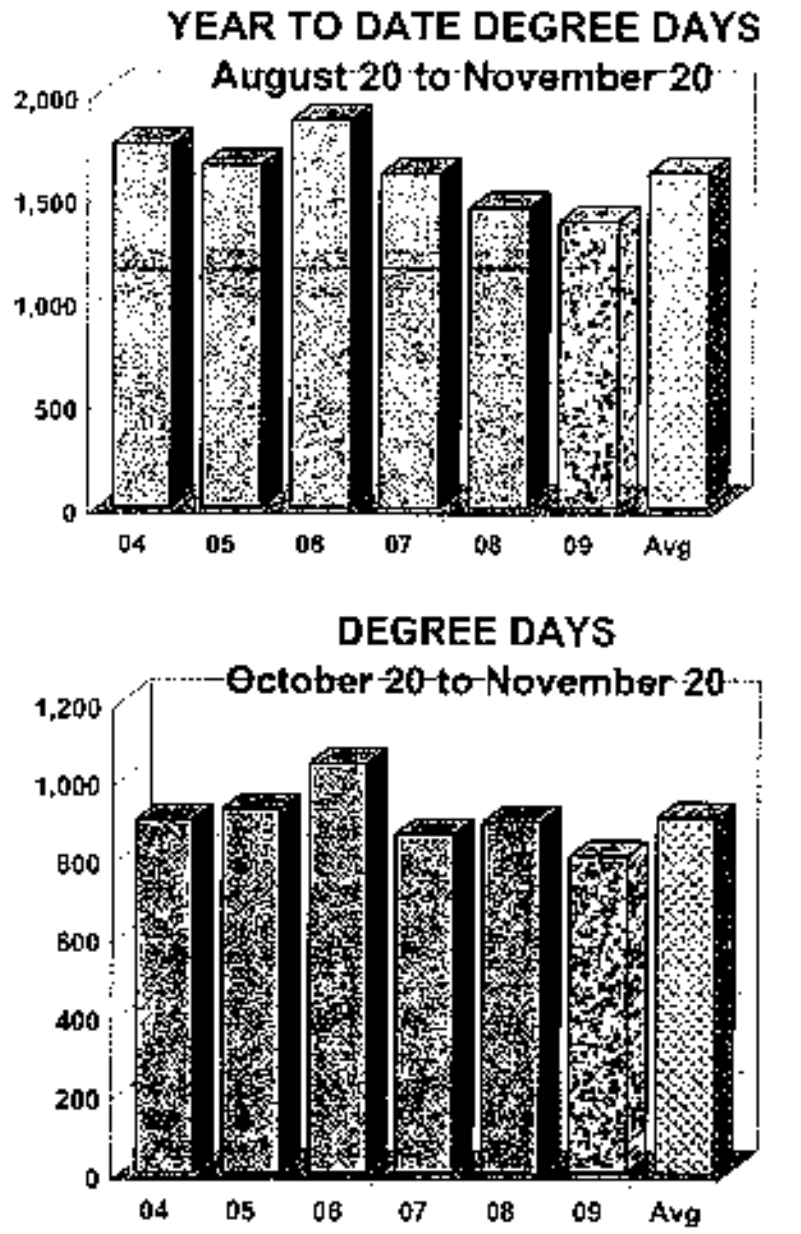
We're displaying our holiday cheer,
To thank everyone for stopping here
And for your winning attitude,
You surely have our sincere gratitude ...
So without any fanfare or further delay
Please accept our best wishes for a great holiday!



HEATHER DUFAULT
2611 Wheat Drive, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750
218-253-2040

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.



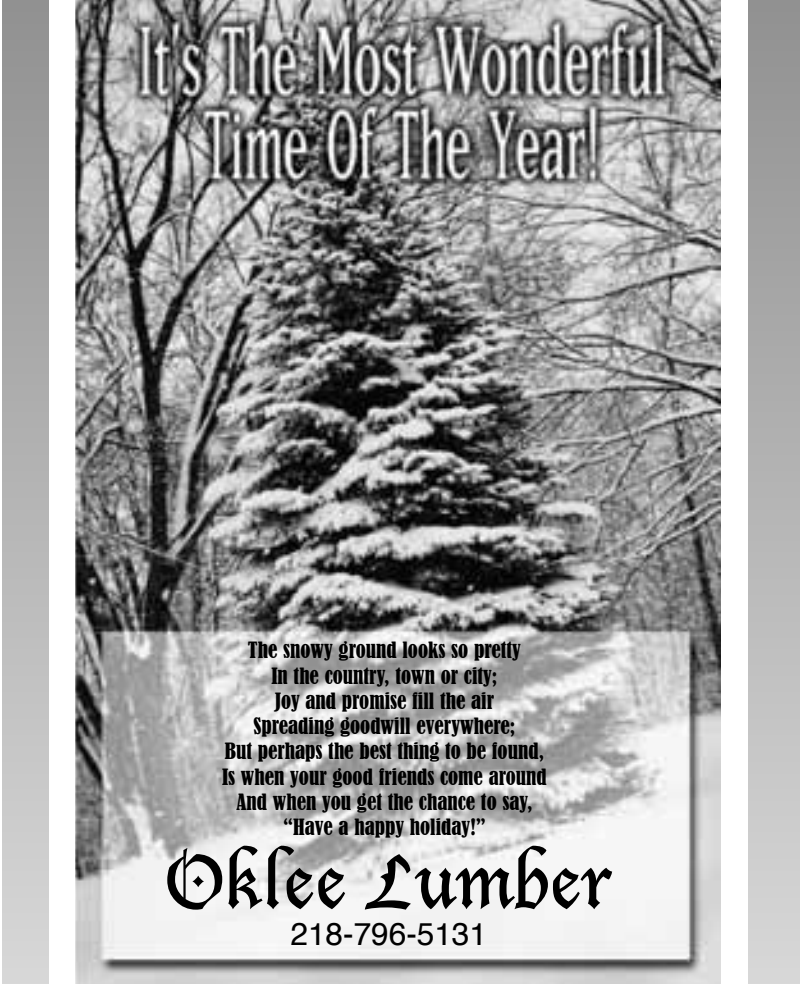


Have A Beautiful Season!

Christmastime will soon be here—
So deck the halls
Bring on the cheer!
We know we're celebrating a very bright season. And your kind friendship is the reason!

Auto-Owners Insurance
Life • Home • Car • Business
The no problem people

Red Lake County Insurance
Red Lake Falls, MN
218-253-2177 • rlci@gvtel.com
www.redlakecountyinsurance.com



It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year!

The snowy ground looks so pretty
In the country, town or city;
Joy and promise fill the air
Spreading goodwill everywhere;
But perhaps the best thing to be found,
Is when your good friends come around
And when you get the chance to say,
"Have a happy holiday!"

Oklee Lumber
218-796-5131



Merry Christmas!

May the beauty of the season bring warmth and contentment to you and your loved ones. For your continued business and support you have our thanks and sincere gratitude.

Northwest Grain

we grow value

St. Hilaire Ag Insurance
Northwest Grain in St. Hilaire, Oklee, Brooks, Red Lake Falls
St. Hilaire 218-964-5252, Oklee 218-796-5125, Red Lake Falls 218-253-4294



Greetings of the Season

With best wishes for a happy holiday from us!
Many thanks for your loyal patronage

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Photo by Minnkota Power Cooperative

Construction of Crookston Sports Center necessitates line upgrade and extension

Two miles of single phase overhead line along Polk County 54 had to be converted to three phase to help meet the electrical needs of the new Crookston Sports Center. One mile of three phase underground line also had to be installed along Polk County 11.



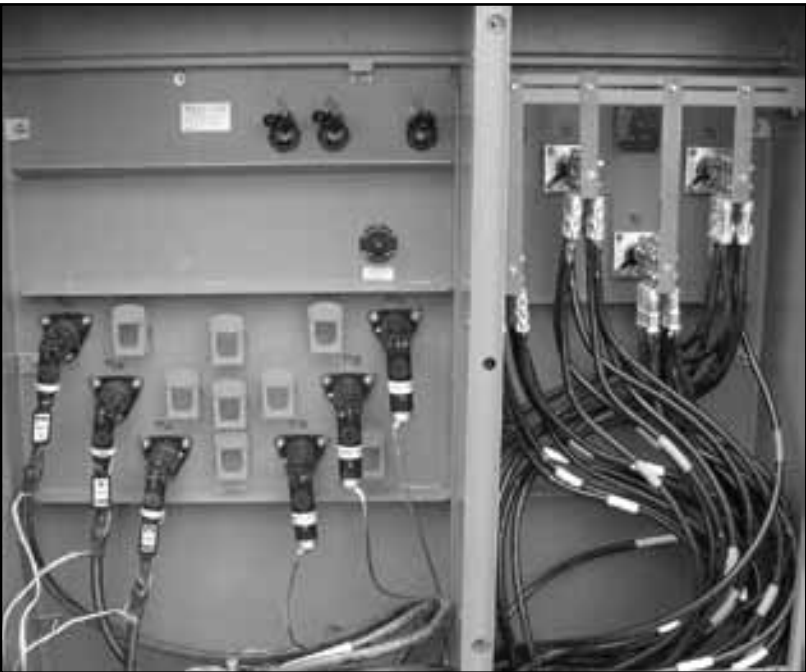
Ira Cota fastens a stringing block to a crossarm to allow wire to pass freely over the crossarm as it is strung and pulled into place. Two stringing blocks were used, one for each additional phase wire added. Cota wears rubber insulated gloves and sleeves as the present phase wire remains energized while he works.



Troy Schmitz, left, lineman, and Alan Cota, lead lineman, begin to connect wires in the current transformer cabinet attached to the transformer located outside the Crookston Sports Center.



Troy Schmitz uses a shotgun stick to remove a hot tap on a take off. The take off wires serving a members account need to be dropped so the new wires can be lifted into place onto the insulators of the pole and crossarm.



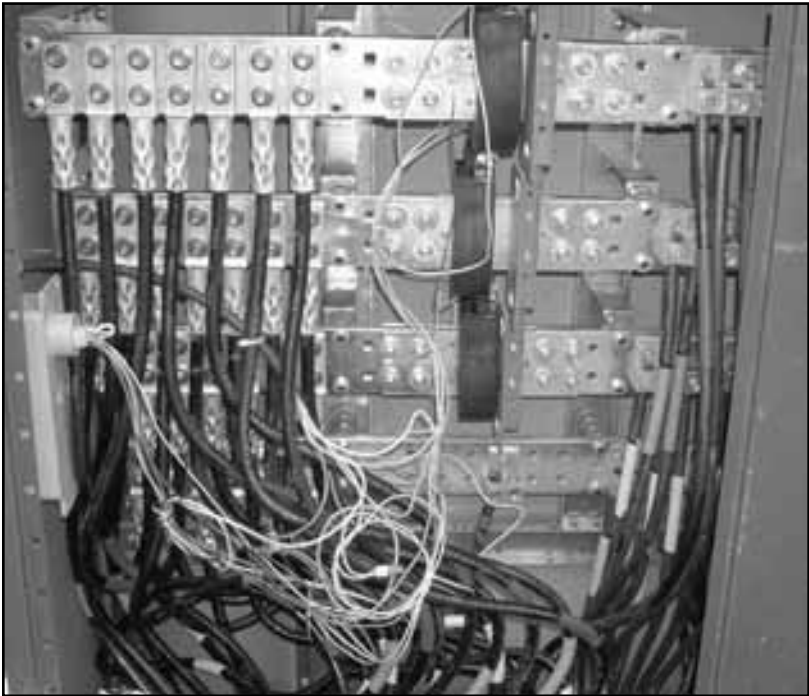
Pictured is the pad mount transformer after all the wires have been terminated and connected. The left side of the transformer has the terminated underground elbows on the underground wires feeding the primary side of the transformer. The right side of the transformer has all the wires connected to the secondary side of the transformer, which run to the current transformer cabinet.



Troy Schmitz attaches an 8-foot crossarm to a pole in preparation for the two additional wires that need to be added for the two additional phases. Insulated rubber blankets are wrapped around the existing phase wire to help prevent making contact with the energized wire.



Aaron Derosier, left, apprentice lineman, works to terminate the underground wires feeding the pad mount transformer at the new Crookston Sports Center. Travis Huot, center, apprentice lineman, and Ira Cota, lineman, work to connect wires that feed from the transformer to the current transformer cabinet.



Pictured is the current transformer (CT) cabinet adjacent to the transformer. A total of 28 wires were connected to the bus bars in the CT cabinet. For reliability reasons, a back feed to the arena complex has been provided by Otter Tail Power Company.



HOLIDAY GREETINGS

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Fire extinguishers: a little preparation can go a long way

House fires can happen in seconds: in one instant, you could go from whipping up dinner to watching flames spring up from the stovetop.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, 410,500 fires, or 78 percent of all reported structure fires-occur in homes. In the right hands, a household fire extinguisher can save lives and protect property should a small fire start.

"Every home should have at least one fire extinguisher, and you need the right type and you must know how and when to use it," said John Drenenberg, consumer affairs manager at Underwriters Laboratories (UL), the Chicago, Ill.-based not-for-profit firm that tests and sets minimum standards for electric-consuming items.

Fire extinguishers should be placed in easily-accessible areas of the home, close to where they might be needed (such as in a kitchen, garage or bedroom).

Some basic rules to keep in mind when using household fire extinguishers:

- If the fire is not spreading and remains confined to a small area, use the appropriate type of extinguisher. Select a multi-purpose extinguisher (rated A, B, or C) with the UL mark that can be used on all types fires



such as wood, cloth, paper, flammable liquids (gasoline, oil, grease, oil-based paint), and energized electrical equipment including wiring, fuse boxes, circuit breakers and appliances.

- Know both your limits and that of the fire extinguisher.
- Periodically inspect your extinguishers to determine if they need to be recharged or replaced. Extinguishers need to be recharged or replaced after each use-even if you haven't used the entire extinguishing agent. Check the gauge on the fire extinguisher for this information.
- When operating a fire extinguisher, stand at least 6 feet away from the fire and keep your back to a door so you can escape easily, if necessary.

Remember the word PASS: Pull the pin, hold the extinguisher away from you and release the locking mechanism. Aim low, pointing the extinguisher at the base of the fire. Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly. Sweep the nozzle from side to side.

"Fire extinguishers for home use are not designed to fight large or spreading fires," stresses Drenenberg. "Rather than fighting the fire, your number one priority should be getting out safely."

Source: Underwriters Laboratories.

Diversification: A key driver in retirement investing success

By Lisa Hughes-Daniel

For investors who have been hurt by the economic slump, and that's just about everyone, it's hard not to feel gun-shy about putting more of your money into the market.

But if you're a long-term investor saving for retirement, say in a 401(k) or Individual Retirement Account (IRA), you have even more reason to focus on a key principle of investing: diversification.

Diversifying simply means putting your eggs in different baskets; investing in a variety of asset classes, such as stocks (equities), bonds and cash-type instruments.

Why diversify? Because all investments, not just stocks, carry some type of risk. As we know too well, stock values can dip due to economic factors as varied as the stocks themselves. Bonds are generally considered more conservative, because they provide a fixed income stream in interest payments, but they do fluctuate in value and vary in degree of risk. Cash, including CDs and money market accounts, are safe short-term investments, but "risky" long-term since their value can be eroded by inflation.

And that's the flip side of risk: growth potential. For instance, stocks have historically outperformed other asset classes, despite occasional market slumps, while cash preserves value but doesn't grow your money as much.



Successful when you stick to an established plan. Keep that in mind as you invest, so your portfolio doesn't keep you awake at night or tempt you to make impulsive changes.

- Financial goals. How can you get from point A, today, to Z, a comfortable retirement? How much have you saved, how much more will you need to invest and what type of growth will you need to meet your goals? If your dream scenario would require aggressive investing, but that feels too risky to you, are there other ways to meet your needs?

These are a few questions to get you started. A conversation with a trusted financial advisor can help you flesh out the details and come up with a mix that suits your needs. You can also try online tools that model asset allocations, such as those at www.bankrate.com or www.smartmoney.com.

Once you've established an allocation strategy, don't forget to review it periodically. As life changes, your financial circumstances and needs may change, too.

And unless you're invested in an automatically managed fund like a target-date portfolio, be sure to rebalance your investments on a regular basis.

Lisa Hughes-Daniel is a marketing communications consultant who writes and edits employee benefits-related materials for the Insurance and Financial Services Department of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year!

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Season's Greetings

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T 500 EFI ESR 2-UP	GRN	\$8,858.00	\$7,499.00
T 570 ESR 2-UP	GRN	\$7,458.00	\$6,299.00
T Z1 LXR ESR 4-STROKE	BLK	\$12,058.00	\$9,999.00
BEARCAT 570 REV	BLU	\$7,158.00	\$6,149.00
BEARCAT Z1 XT EFI ESR 4-STROKE (1 LEFT)	BLU	\$11,658.00	\$9,999.00
CROSSFIRE 5 141" EFI REV (ONLY 1 LEFT)	BLK	\$7,958.00	\$6,749.00
*CROSSFIRE 5 141" EFI REV	BLK	\$7,958.00	\$6,299.00
*CROSSFIRE 8 141" EFI REV	BLK	\$9,999.00	\$7,499.00
*CROSSFIRE 8 141" EFI REV	BLK	\$10,258.00	\$7,999.00
*CROSSFIRE R 800 EFI REV (DEMO)	ORG	\$10,158.00	\$7,299.00
CROSSFIRE R 800 EFI REV	BLK, ORG	\$10,158.00	\$7,599.00
CROSSFIRE R 1000 EFI REV (ONLY 1 LEFT)	ORG	\$11,858.00	\$8,999.00
*F 6 EFI SNOPRO REV	GRN	\$9,699.00	\$7,499.00
*Z1 4-STROKE EFI ESR (ONLY 1 LEFT)	GRN	\$9,908.00	\$7,499.00
Z1 TURBO ESR 4-STROKE (ONLY 1 LEFT)	BLK	\$12,858.00	\$9,999.00
Z1 TURBO LXR ESR 4-STROKE (ONLY 1 LEFT)	BLK	\$13,658.00	\$10,599.00
*M8 HCR-153	BLK	\$12,388.00	\$8,599.00

2008 MODELS NEW WITH WARRANTY			
MODEL	COLOR	MSRP	BEST PRICE (ALL PROGRAMS APPLIED)
*PANTHER 370 2-UP ESR	BLK	\$5,499.00	\$4,899.00
PANTHER 680 2-UP ESR 4-STROKE	BLK	\$7,398.00	\$6,299.00
T500 2-UP EFI ESR (ONLY 1 LEFT)	BLK	\$8,398.00	\$6,999.00
M 8 162" EFI REV	BLK	\$10,298.00	\$6,999.00
M1000 153 EFI REV (ONLY 1 LEFT)	BLK	\$11,498.00	\$7,799.00
M1000 162 EFI REV (ONLY 1 LEFT)	BLK	\$11,898.00	\$8,199.00
CROSSFIRE 800 EFI SP (ONLY 1 LEFT)	ORG	\$10,498.00	\$7,999.00
CROSSFIRE 1000 EFI REV (ONLY 1 LEFT)	BLK	\$11,398.00	\$7,999.00
CROSSFIRE 1000 SNOPRO REV (LAST ONE)	ORG	\$12,198.00	\$8,499.00
F 570 ESR	BLK	\$6,499.00	\$5,299.00
*F 570 ESR	ORG	\$6,499.00	\$4,999.00
F 5 REV EFI (LAST ONE)	BLK	\$7,399.00	\$5,899.00
*F 5 LXR EFI ESR (LAST ONE)	GRN	\$7,998.00	\$5,999.00
F 5 LXR EFI ESR (1 OF EA. COLOR LEFT)	BLK, ORG	\$7,999.00	\$6,399.00
F 6 EFI REV (1 OF EA. COLOR LEFT)	BLK, GRN	\$8,699.00	\$6,999.00
F 6 LXR EFI ESR (LAST ONE)	PWK	\$9,298.00	\$7,499.00
F 8 EFI REV (1 OF EA. COLOR LEFT)	GRN, ORG	\$9,599.00	\$7,299.00
F 8 LXR EFI ESR (LAST ONE)	ORG	\$10,199.00	\$7,799.00
*JAGUAR Z1 4-STROKE ESR (LAST ONE)	BLK	\$9,999.00	\$6,999.00

2007 MODELS NEW WITH WARRANTY			
MODEL	COLOR	MSRP	BEST PRICE (ALL PROGRAMS APPLIED)
2570 LX ESR (ONLY 1 LEFT)	ORG	\$6,299.00	\$4,999.00
*PANTHER 370 ESR 2-UP (ONLY 1 LEFT)	BLK	\$5,399.00	\$4,499.00
*PANTHER 370 LX ESR 2-UP	BLK	\$6,699.00	\$4,999.00
*PANTHER 680 TRAIL EFI ESR 4-STROKE	BLK	\$6,999.00	\$5,199.00
*PANTHER 680 TOURING EFI ESR 4-STROKE	BLK	\$7,299.00	\$5,099.00
*T660 TURBO TRAIL EFI ESR 4-STROKE	BLK	\$10,028.00	\$8,999.00
*T660 TURBO TRAIL EFI ESR 4-STROKE	BLK	\$9,699.00	\$6,499.00
*T660 TURBO TOUR 2-UP ESR 4-STROKE	BLK	\$9,999.00	\$6,499.00
F 5 EFI REV (ONLY 1 LEFT)	BLK	\$7,629.00	\$5,599.00
F 6 LXR EFI ESR	BLK	\$9,529.00	\$6,699.00
*F 8 SNOPRO EFI REV	GRN	\$10,299.00	\$6,999.00
*BEARCAT 600 TURBO ESR 4-STROKE (LAST ONE)	BLU	\$16,498.00	\$7,799.00

2006 MODELS NEW WITH WARRANTY			
MODEL	COLOR	MSRP	BEST PRICE (ALL PROGRAMS APPLIED)
*T660 TURBO ST EFI ESR 4-STROKE	BLK	\$9,499.00	\$5,499.00
*T660 TURBO TRAIL EFI ESR 4-STROKE	BLK	\$9,699.00	\$6,499.00

USED INVENTORY			
MODEL	MILES	COLOR	BOTTOM LINE
2002 Z 440 FIC SNOPRO (Mark)	3300	GRN	\$2,399.00
2002 Z1 500 CROSS COUNTRY	SOLD	GRN	\$2,799.00
2004 SABERCAT 600 LX ESR	SOLD	GRN	\$2,899.00
2004 Z570 LX (ESR)	SOLD	GRN	\$2,999.00
2005 Z570 LX (ESR)	2615	GRN	\$3,299.00
2005 SABERCAT 600 LX ESR EFI	3300	GRN	\$4,299.00
2005 F 7 W/STUBS (COMING IN)	SOLD	BLK	\$4,899.00
2005 ZR 900 CARB	1413	GRN	\$4,499.00
2006 CROSSFIRE 7 EFI	2877	BLK	\$4,999.00
2007 F6 EFI REV SNOPRO	1860	GRN	\$5,199.00
2007 CROSSFIRE 6 EFI REV	2315	ORG	\$5,399.00
2007 Z1 JAGUAR ESR 4-STROKE EFI	900	GRN	\$5,999.00
2007 Z1 JAGUAR ESR 4-STROKE EFI STUDS, ACC	1075	GRN	\$5,999.00
2007 JAGUAR Z1 W/CAT-COMM/MIRRORS	1482	RED	\$5,999.00
2007 T660 TURBO TRAIL LE EFI ESR 4-STROKE	375	GRN	\$5,499.00
2008 T570 2-UP ESR	5000	BLK	\$4,799.00
2008 F 570 ESR	1219	ORG	\$4,399.00
2008 F 6 LXR ESR EFI	1000	ORG	\$5,599.00
2009 CROSSFIRE R800 EFI (DEMO WARRANTY)	365	ORG	\$7,299.00

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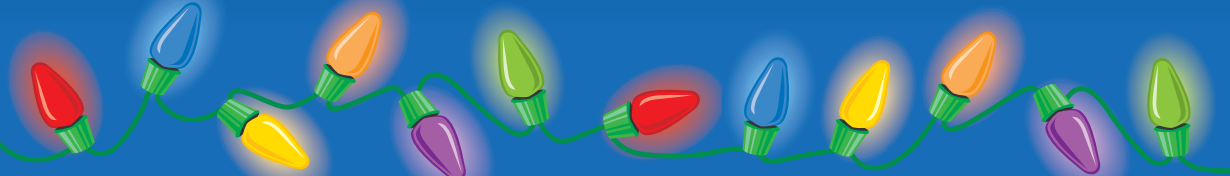
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Holiday Office Hours

Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters will be closed Christmas Day, December 25 and New Year's Day, January 1.

In case of an electric outage or emergency, please call the after-hour phone number at 218-253-2200.

Have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!



RLEC employees, directors recognized for years of service

Recently employees and directors of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, who have reached different five-year increments of service, were recognized for their years of service.

Employees with 35 years of service were Dick Gervais, Bob Guillemette and Kevin Reich. Achieving 20 years of service is employee Mike Raymond. Kelly Lundeen has served 15 years as a

director and Robbie Finstad has been a director for 10 years. Reaching five years of service were employees Casey Thronson and Troy Schmitz and director Joyce Johnson.



Service award recipients were, from left, Bob Guillemette, Casey Thronson, Joyce Johnson, Troy Schmitz, Mike Raymond, Kelly Lundeen and Kevin Reich. Not pictured are Robbie Finstad and Dick Gervais.

Crookston Sports Center



Photo by Minnkota Power Cooperative

Construction crews work on the main arena in the new Crookston Sports Center. Since this picture was taken, much of the interior work has been completed which includes the pour of the concrete floor. The Crookston Sports Center will replace the Crookston Civic Arena, which was built in the 1930s.



Photo by Minnkota Power Cooperative

Crookston city administrator Aaron Parrish explains how by designn, the complex surpasses Minnesota efficiency standards by 30 percent. These energy efficiency upgrades will keep the Crookston Sports Center operating costs down. Parrish cited the use of the reclaimed heat as a major conservation effort throughout the building.

Wash clothes efficiently without getting caught in the spin cycle

Washing machines perform a fairly simple function: getting dirty clothes clean. Yet prospective buyers today can be overwhelmed with all of the different models and "bells and whistles" available: top-loading, front-loading, high-efficiency, water saver, steaming and wrinkle removing, to name only a few.

Energy-efficient washing machines, easily identified by the Energy Star label, are a priority for any cost-conscious consumer's list. Approximately 93 percent of all American households have a clothes washer, adding up to 102 million clothes washers across America. About 9 million washing machines are sold each year; efficient models account for slightly more than one-third of sales.

Energy Star-rated washing machines cost slightly more than their less-efficient counterparts, anywhere from \$400 to \$1,500, depending on other features selected. To get a handle on how much electricity a particular unit will draw, pay close attention to the yellow energy guide before making a purchase.

An energy-efficient washing machine can save the typical homeowner around \$50 a year, or \$540 to \$600 over the life of the appliance. Efficient machines also save more than 5,000 gallons of water



annually. The energy and water efficiencies of clothes washers are measured according to their modified energy factor and water factor. These criteria generally limit Energy Star qualification to front-loading and advanced top-loading models.

Front-loading clothes washers use a horizontal or tumble-axis basket to lift and drop clothing into the water, instead of rubbing clothes around a central agitator in a full tub. These units use less energy than conventional clothes washers by reducing the amount of hot

water needed to clean clothes. Front-loading models also squeeze more water out of clothes by using spin speeds that are two to three times faster than conventional washers, reducing both drying time and energy use.

Energy Star-qualified top-load-

ing models typically use spray valves to rinse clothes, rather than a new tub of water. This method not only reduces the energy required for water heating, but typically saves an average of 15 gallons of water per wash, compared with conventional clothes washers.

Qualified top-loading models also boast sensors to monitor and adjust incoming water temperature. This keeps water hot enough to dissolve the detergent and provide high-performance cleaning, but cool enough to save energy and minimize hot water damage to fabrics.

One limitation of efficient top-loading washers is that many models do not offer a high-temperature standard wash option.

By looking for the Energy Star logo and shopping at a store with knowledgeable staff, you should be able to leave with a new washing machine that will, over time, pay for itself.

Source: NRECA's Cooperative Research Network.

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