



# 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. 07

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

MAY 2009

## Operation Round Up® grants total \$7,785

The Red Lake Electric Trust board met in March and awarded 16 grants to area non-profit and community organizations that totaled \$7,785.

Since its inception in 1993, Operation Round Up grants totaling \$319 thousand have been gifted to area community organizations.

The Red Lake Electric Trust receives money for grants from the Operation Round Up program administered by the Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Today, 90 percent of Red Lake Electric's members voluntarily "round-up" their monthly bill for the Operation Round Up program.

Two area emergency services providers received grants. The Viking Fire and Rescue received \$2,000 for offsetting the cost of start-up and stocking of initial supplies for their new first responder squad and the Polk County Mounted Posse received \$305 to purchase a crowd control training ball.

Area youth will benefit from Operation Round Up grants made to the following organizations: Thief River Falls Little Brother/Little Sister program received \$500 for their youth program activities which (4431003.04 Dale H. Huot) involves pairing positive adult role models with children in need of



their support. The Thief River Falls Little Brother/Little Sister program also received \$200 for a camera to take photos of activities, participants and will be used in promotional material for matching mentors to youth. The Kratka 4-H club received \$130 for materials to build wood duck houses. Little Brother/Little Sister program of Marshall County received \$300 for their youth program activities which involves pairing positive adult role models with children in need of their support. The Agassiz Audubon Society received \$250 for youth education program materials to give to schools that visit the sanctuary for conservation and natural history education.

The Red Lake County American Cancer Society and Pennington County Relay For Life each

received \$500 to raise money to further cancer research, education materials and local patient services. The Merit-Care Auxiliary of Thief River Falls Northwest campus received \$500 to help furnish a new dialysis unit at the hospital.

The Violence Intervention Project in Thief River Falls received \$800 for their Umbrella Tree program that provides supervised child visitations.

The Strandquist area food shelf received \$300 to provide supplemental food for low income, disabled and the needy in Marshall county and Sun, Country and You of Crookston received \$250 to help pay for disadvantaged youth program activities.

Goodridge senior citizens received \$500 for maintenance materials and needed repair to their building.

The Villa St. Vincent of Crookston were the recipients of \$500 Round Up funds to go towards the purchase of an exercise machine for the residents of Summit assisted living apartments and the Minnesota Senior Foundation of Oklee received \$250 to help fund their senior program expenses.

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

## Kelli Brateng begins employment with Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Red Lake Electric has hired Kelli Brateng of Red Lake Falls as an Accounting Assistant/Customer Service Representative.

In this position, Brateng will be helping with maintaining the turtle system, work order accounting, as well as other office and accounting duties.

Brateng has some roots in Red Lake Electric. Joseph Ste. Marie, Brateng's great-grandfather, was on the original board of directors and served as the first board president of RLEC.

Brateng and her husband, Andy, live by Terrebonne with their son Brayden, 2. Andy is a Technical Support Specialist at Digi-Key. They are members of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Red Lake Falls. She enjoys playing volleyball, going fishing and hunting and also spending time with family.



Kelli Brateng

## Current Energy Star household appliance rebates will be discontinued

For over five years, Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) has been offering rebates on various Energy Star household appliances. Due to changes to the Minnesota Conservation Improvement Program, the rebates will end July 31,



2009.

The appliances that rebates will be (5523002.02 Russell Coenen) discontinued on include: all air conditioners, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers and dehumidifiers.

Currently there is a \$100 rebate for an Energy Star clothes washer. This will be reduced to \$50 after July 31.

In order to receive a rebate on an Energy Star appliance purchased before July 31, the application must be submitted to RLEC by August 14, 2009.

## New Conservation Improvement Program incentives available

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 (3726004.03 Todd D. Jesme) 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](http://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, con-

tact RLEC at 253-2168 or 800-245-6068.

### Business Energy Efficiency Incentives

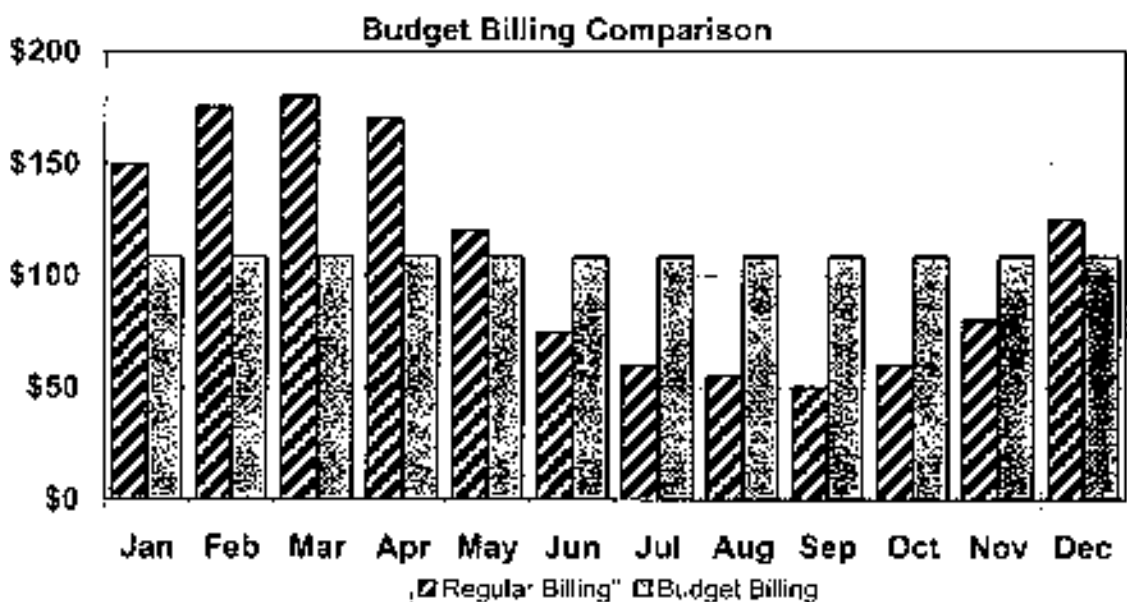
<i>Energy Efficiency Equipment</i>	<i>Rebate Amount</i>
T8 Fluorescent Fixtures (Replacing T12 or incandescents)	\$5 to \$16 per fixture
T5 Fluorescent Fixtures (Replacing HID or incandescents)	Starting at \$60 per fixture
CFL Fixture	\$22/fixture
CFL Lamp	\$1.50/fixture
Split System Energy Efficient Air Conditioners and Air Source Heat Pumps	\$30 to \$40/ton
Single Packaged Energy Efficient Air Conditioners and Air Source Heat Pumps	\$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 Refrigerator or Freezer	\$60 to \$250
Energy Star Ice Machine	\$200 to \$600
Energy Star Steam Cooker	\$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.

### QUICK TAKES

**A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative**

If you like to plan ahead or avoid billing surprises, we recommend Budget Billing for your monthly Red Lake Electric Cooperative energy bill. By using a Budget Billing plan, you average out your monthly payments to R.L.E.C. based on your past years billing history. This enables you to manage better, the bigger bills that normally show up during the winter heating season. The time to start Budget Billing is now. Contact R.L.E.C. today for more information about your Budget Billing amount. 218-253-2168 or 1-800-245-6068.



## Residential Energy Efficiency Incentives

<i>Energy Efficiency Equipment</i>	<i>Rebate Amount</i>	<i>Rebate Maximum</i>
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





Manager's  
Comments

by Roger Johanneck



Signs of Spring

Mother nature seems to be dragging her feet this spring; at least in our part of the world. Despite how the grip of the cool temps and wet conditions have put a hold on many of our activities; there are many signs that the season is moving forward; even if we have had to force some of that progress.

Forcing the season along can be witnessed by the effort of those who are working the fields and planting the crops in less than ideal conditions. I certainly appreciate the efforts of those that are doing so; I love to eat and it would be tough for me to do so without the work of the farmers' and others' hands.

There are some signs here at Red Lake Electric Cooperative that reminds us that spring is here and we too have had to battle less than ideal conditions to get some of our work done. While we didn't have to fight the floodwaters like our neighbors to the west; many parts of our area were extremely wet and made moving about our service area a challenge and a risk; especially in areas where roads were covered with water and culverts were washed out. I appreciate the efforts of our line crew that had to work under these less than ideal conditions and thank them for doing what they do to keep the power on.

We can't blame all the challenges of this spring on mother nature however. One such challenge was a grass-fire north of Goodridge that claimed three of

our distribution system poles and two of Minnkota Powers' transmission line poles. This incident was not only expensive to repair; it could and should have been avoided. When the one responsible for the damages does not step forward, all Red Lake Electric customers end up footing the bill.

Our concern is not only the cost to replace damaged equipment and of man-hours to make repairs, but the danger that downed power lines pose to the public, the inconvenience and risk to those relying on the power being there for lights, heat, and in some cases, life support equipment. If there is no grass fire in this part of our service area next spring, it will be the first time in the past six or seven years we have not had to answer a call to repair burnt poles there.

One other sign of spring for us is the accidental encounter of farm equipment and poles while farmers are doing fieldwork. So far we have had two encounters that resulted in broken poles during this springs fieldwork. It is fortunate that the damage was limited to our power line (5821001.02 ViAnn Moran) equipment and that no one was injured or came in contact with an energized line. We realize the inconvenience poles can be for those that have allowed us to place them on their land, especially those that have to work around them with farm equipment. Where would this Cooperative be without the cooperation of landowners who allow us easements for poles that benefit all of our members? We are grateful to them for these easements.

My hope is that by sharing with you the news of the fire and accidents that have happened, they will serve as reminders of the risk of burning ditch grass and of working around poles. With a shortened window of time to get crops in this spring, the need to hurry up and get work done is greater; and we know that hurrying a job adds to the risk of having an accident. Let's hope the weather cooperates now so that the crops can get planted; safely, and in time to enable a bountiful harvest.



Report from the Office

by Shirley Bregier

Budget billing and Auto Pay

When I think of May I think of lots of wonderful things like blooming flowers, graduation parties, fishing, warm weather and no snow. The thing you like the most is probably the fact that your electric bill is getting smaller. If you, like me, don't like to try to budget your electric bill payments around what the weather may or may not be doing, you may be the person that is interested in budget billing.

Red Lake Electric offers you a service to even out your electric bills for the year. The Cooperative offers a budget billing program for our (7803004.01 David A. Faldet) residential customers. Budget billing is the payment plan that lets you even out your payments throughout the year, sparing you from unpredictable bills that are caused from seasonal variations. Budget billing does not reduce your energy expense. It simply spreads out your energy expense over a 12 month period.

To qualify for budget billing your account must have 12 months of usage and must be current. Red Lake Electric starts the budget billing program in May of each year.

Your usage for the previous 12 months will be averaged to get your monthly budget payment. You start paying in May, so throughout the summer you start building a credit balance so when the bigger bills arrive with the cold next fall and winter, you have an amount

built up to help cover the larger bills.

We'll review your budget plan every six months to compare your actual energy usage costs to your budget amount. If there's a significant difference, we'll adjust your monthly budget amount up or down accordingly. Your monthly electric bill will continue to show your actual usage as well as your budget amount to allow you to also monitor your electric bill. If at any time you notice a significant difference in the amount you are paying and your actual balance owing, you can call the office to have us look at your account information and reevaluate your budget amount.

Keep in mind that we normally want you to build up a credit over the summer months to help pay for the higher electric bills during the winter months.

Another feature the Cooperative offers is Auto Pay. Auto Pay allows the Cooperative to automatically take the payment of your electric bill from your checking or savings account on the 5th of each month. You just need to sign an enrollment form and give us a voided check.

This saves you the time of writing out a check each month 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.

If you would like to enroll in budget billing or Auto Pay you can either e-mail us at redlake@minnkota.com or call our billing office at 218-253-2168 or 1-800-245-6068.

Once we let you know what your budget billing amount is you can decide if this is the program for you. If you're not completely satisfied, you may stop budget billing or Auto Pay at any time.

### Closed Memorial Day

In respectful remembrance, Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarter facilities will be closed Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.

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

May we all remember those who have gone before us, especially those who have sacrificed their lives for our freedom.



From the Mail Bag

Dear RLEC:

Thank you very much for the nice Lefsa grill I was awarded at the annual meeting. Also for the delicious lunch and entertainment and information.

Sincerely,  
Hazel Magnuson  
Newfolden

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for the Betty Crocker toaster I received at the annual meeting in Thief River Falls. Also for the great meeting and lunch.

Mary Ann Schindler  
Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for the 3-in-1 waffle maker, grill and griddle I won at the annual meeting in Thief River Falls at the REA.

Clayton Larson  
Plummer

Dear Red Lake Electric Trust:

Thank you for the \$500 donation to the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Pennington County. We appreciate your help in the fight against cancer.

Sincerely,  
Marci Kloety  
Relay For Life Committee  
Thief River Falls

Dear Red Lake Electric Trust:

Thank you for your gift of \$300 to the Strandquist Food Shelf. Thank you for helping feed the hungry.

Gula Stromgren  
Strandquist

Dear RLEC Operation Round-Up:

Thank you for helping us again this year with our ECFE "Safety Camp" at J.A. Hughes Elementary School in Red Lake Falls. The children enjoy the prizes they are able to get at each booth.

ECFE Staff  
(Early Childhood Family Education)  
Margaret Hamrum  
Wanda K. Nelson

Dear Red Lake Electric:

I would like to thank you so much for the donation of \$100 that you have given to the 4-H Youth Development Program here in Red Lake County. This means so much to the 4-H Members. It is a great incentive for them to work hard on their fair exhibits. Thanks again for your donation.

Sincerely,  
Sharon Weiss  
4-H Program Coordinator  
Red Lake County

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.



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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Mark Hanson, Peter Mosbeck

Subscription Rate .....\$2.50 per year

NOTICE

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



Red Lake Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

Things you should know  
about your electric service

BILLINGS AND COLLECTION

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

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

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

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

BAD CHECKS

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

OUTAGES

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

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

METER TESTS

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

STOPPED METERS

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

METER READINGS

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

GENERAL SERVICE RATES

Facilities charge variable \$17 to \$23 month  
First 500 KWH .....9.0¢ Kwh  
Over 500 KWH (April-Dec.) ..... .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.



Recipe corner

Hawaiian Rice Salad

2 8-oz. cans of chunked pineapple  
1/4 c. chopped maraschino cherries  
1/4 c. flaked coconut  
1/4 c. sliced almonds  
2 tsp. sugar  
1/4 c. sour cream  
1 tsp. salt  
3 c. rice, cooked  
Drain pineapple, reserving 1/4 c. of juice. Cut chunks in half. Combine pineapple, cherries, coconut and almonds in a medium bowl. Blend in sugar, sour cream, salt and reserved pineapple juice. Pour over rice and toss till mixed. Makes 6 servings.

Wild Rice Salad

Dressing:  
1/4 c. olive oil or vegetable oil  
1/3 c. orange juice  
2 tbsp. honey  
Salad:  
1 c. wild rice, uncooked  
2 golden delicious apples, chopped  
Juice of 1 lemon  
1 c. golden raisins  
1 c. seedless red grapes, halved  
2 tbsp. fresh mint  
2 tbsp. parsley  
2 tbsp. chives  
Dash of salt and pepper  
1 c. pecans  
Combine dressing ingredients and set aside. Cook rice according to package directions; drain if needed and allow to cool. In a large bowl, toss apples with lemon juice. Add raisins, grapes, mint, parsley, chives and cooked rice. Add dressing and toss. Season with salt and pepper. Cover and chill for several hours or overnight. Just before serving add pecans and toss lightly. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

Dipped Strawberries

1 quart fresh strawberries with stems  
1-2/3 c. vanilla or white chips  
2 tbsp. shortening, divided  
1 c. (6 oz.) semisweet chocolate chips  
Wash strawberries and gently pat until completely dry. In a heavy saucepan or microwave, melt vanilla chips and 1 tbsp. shortening; stir until smooth.  
Dip each strawberry until two-thirds of the berry is coated, allowing the excess to drip off. Place on a waxed paper-lined baking sheet; refrigerate for 30 minutes or until set.  
Melt chocolate chips and remaining shortening; stir until smooth. Dip each strawberry until one-third is coated. Return to baking sheet; refrigerate for 30 minutes or until set. Yield: 2-1/2 dozen.

Raspberry Sour Cream Muffins

Topping:  
2 tbsp. chopped pecans  
2 tbsp. sugar  
1 tbsp. wheat germ  
Muffins:  
1-1/4 c. all-purpose flour  
1/2 c. wheat germ  
1/2 c. sugar  
2 tsp. baking powder  
1 tsp. ground cinnamon  
1/4 tsp. salt  
1/2 c. sour cream  
1/2 c. skim milk  
1 egg, beaten  
1 cup fresh raspberries, rinsed and patted dry.  
Glaze:  
1/2 c. powdered sugar  
1 tbsp. fresh lemon juice  
Preheat oven to 375 degrees. For topping: Combine all ingredients in a small bowl; set aside. For muffins: Combine flour, wheat germ, sugar, baking powder, cinnamon and salt in a large bowl. Mix well. In a medium bowl, combine sour cream, milk and egg; blend well. Add all at once to dry ingredients; mix just until dry ingredients are moistened. Gently fold in raspberries. Fill paper-lined muffin cups almost full. Sprinkle with topping. Bake 25 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool muffins in pan for 5 minutes; remove from pan. For glaze: Combine powdered sugar and lemon juice in a small bowl; mix until smooth. Drizzle over muffins. Serve warm. Makes 1 dozen muffins.

Macaroni Salad

2 stalks celery ribs, chopped  
1/2 small onion, chopped  
1/2 c. mayonnaise  
1 tbsp. white vinegar  
1 tbsp. sugar  
1 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. prepared mustard  
1/2 tsp. pepper  
4 c. cooked elbow macaroni  
2 hard-boiled eggs, chopped  
1/2 c. chopped sweet red pepper  
Mix together first eight ingredients in a large mixing bowl. Add macaroni, eggs and red pepper. Mix lightly. Chill for at least 1 hour. Transfer into a serving bowl and serve. Makes 6 servings.

Cauliflower Chowder

1 large onion, chopped  
2 tbsp. butter or margarine  
2 c. peeled, diced potatoes  
4 c. vegetable broth or chicken broth  
2-1/2 c. cauliflower florets  
1 c. half-and-half  
2 tbsp. all-purpose flour  
Salt and pepper to taste  
3 c. shredded Swiss cheese  
2 tbsp. snipped fresh Italian parsley  
In a large soup pot, cook onion in butter until clear. Add potatoes and cook for 3 to 5 minutes, add broth. Bring to boiling. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 6 minutes. Add cauliflower and return to boiling. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 6 more minutes, or until vegetables are tender. In a small bowl whisk half-and-half into flour until smooth. Add to soup mixture. Cook and stir until mixture is thickened. Reduce heat to low. Stir in 2-1/2 c. of cheese until melted. Do not boil. Season with salt and pepper to taste. At serving, garnish each bowl with remaining cheese and parsley. Serves 6 to 8.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.			
Operating Report			
MONTHLY COMPARISON			
	MARCH 2008	MARCH 2009	
Total Revenue	\$ 981,410	\$ 1,023,176	
Total Margins	\$ 209,097	\$ 265,186	
Cost of Power	\$ 531,337	\$ 554,698	
KWH's Purchased	14,556,303	14,366,730	
Capital Credits Paid to Estates	\$ 0	\$ 0	
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON			
	MARCH 2008	MARCH 2009	
Total Revenue	\$ 2,997,985	\$ 3,261,796	
Total Margins	\$ 1,028,338	\$ 696,477	
Cost of Power	\$ 1,724,651	\$ 1,853,513	
KWH's Purchased	49,317,129	51,052,582	
New Service Connections	0	0	
Customers Served	5,096	5,157	
Capital Credits Paid to Estates	\$ 0	\$ 11,502	
Miles of Line			
Overhead	2,324	2,319	
Underground	231	235	

Top dairy herds for April DHIA

Randy Rasmussen, supervisor of the Red Lake-Pennington DHIA, put the following herds at top 10 in the association for April.							
Name		% in milk	lbs. milk	test	lbs. fat	protein	lbs. protein
NW Research & Outreach	112	91	78	3.5	2.7	3.2	2.5
Spring Prairie Colony	367	89	71	3.8	2.7	3.0	2.1
Northstar Dairy LCC	791	93	65	3.8	2.5	3.2	2.1
Walter Bros. Farm	308	86	65	3.4	2.2	3.0	2.0
Beyer Bros. Farm	81	96	65	3.6	2.4	3.0	2.0
Wayra Dairy	240	85	63	3.5	2.2	2.9	1.8
CB Farms LLC	51	96	63	4.0	2.5	3.1	1.9
Robert and Terri Dahlen	55	84	63	3.3	2.1	3.0	1.9
Amundson Dairy	69	86	61	3.5	2.1	3.0	1.8
E. Duane & Faith Knott	86	88	58	3.4	2.0	3.1	1.8

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.



702 Dawn Ave.  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701  
218-681-8221 • 1-800-950-9917  
Email: sales@trs salvage.com • Website: www.trsalvage.com

NEW AND USED FARM EQUIPMENT PARTS



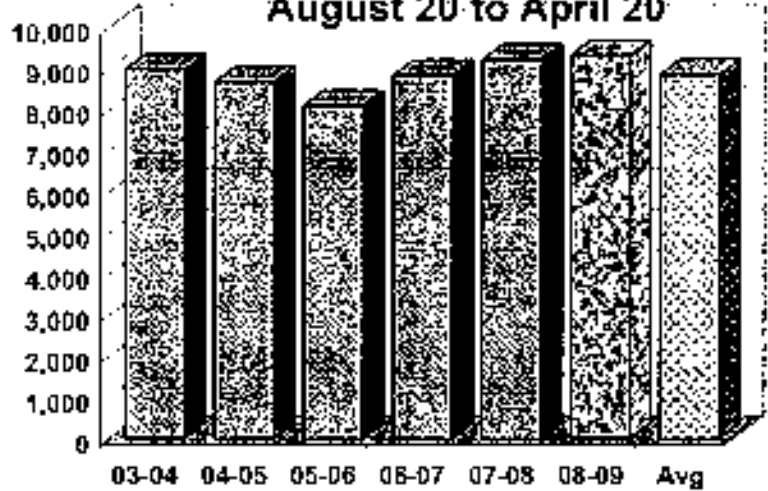
**Mickelson Eye Clinic, P.A.**  
*Craig R. Mickelson, O.D.*  
MeritCare Northwest Medical Center  
126 LaBree Ave. S., PO Box 521  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701-0521

Hours:  
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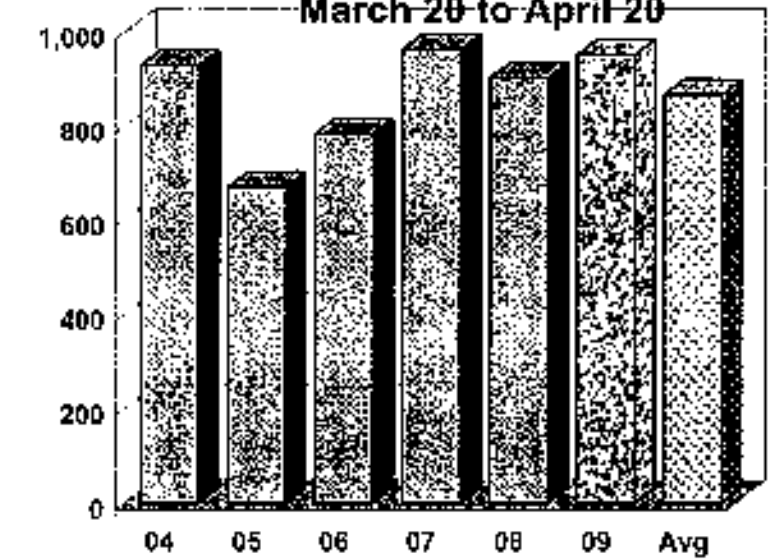
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**Energy Efficiency**  
*Tip of the Month*

When using your laptop computer at home, put the battery charger (an AC adapter) on a power strip that can be turned off. The transformer in the charger draws power continuously, even when the laptop is not plugged in.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy


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VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Jason Lee repairs damaged boat props to like new condition

By Destiny Harmoning

As you pull up to the home of Jason Lee in Newfolden, the first thing you will see is a sign adorned with a boat propeller, ripping through the air with the help of the wind.

The sign reads "Lee Prop Repair and Welding", a business that Lee operates from home.

Lee began rebuilding boat propellers in 1993 after he sent one to be repaired but the prop was lost. Lee saw a need and filled it.

"I just started fixing them on my own," Lee stated. Now he gets an average of about 10 props a week.

Lee is able to rebuild any boat propellers, stainless steel or aluminum. He also rebuilds the lower scags on the boat motors as well and does many other welding jobs.

As far as the process is concerned, Lee basically rebuilds the propellers. He takes a chewed prop and stands it on its edge and then welds it continuously back and forth until the prop is built up to the desired specifications. After the propeller is welded, Lee grinds it down and finishes it with a new paint job. Finally, he balances the prop.

Much of the equipment Lee uses to repair the boat props he made for himself. He made all of the fixtures he uses to calculate the pitches, diameters and blade sizes to ensure they are correct.

It typically takes Lee about an hour and a half to complete a boat propeller repair and his turn around time on orders is about a week.

Boat propellers can get chewed up after coming into contact with logs and rocks on the bottom of lakes.

Lee grew up in Newfolden where he graduated from Marshall County Central High School.

He has been married to Heather for 9 years. They have three children, Shelby, 18, Brady, 13, and Jarrett, 6.

In his free time, Lee enjoys fishing and hunting. His home is embellished with several deer mounts from his hunting trips.

Jason Lee displays a finished boat propeller that he repaired.

Jason Lee welds a boat propeller to repair damage done to it while his son Jarrett observes from a distance.

A boat propeller on the top of the Lee Prop Repair sign rotates with the wind.

Lee works at Central Boiler in Greenbush where he is the Supervisor of Welding. He has been there for three years.

If you ever find your boat propeller is in less than perfect shape after taking on logs or rocks, Lee is able to help. He can make that chewed up, broken propeller looking like new again.

Taking a closer look at Jason Lee's welding process.

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# Single phase line upgraded to three phase and two phase

Each year Red Lake Electric does load studies on lines that are suspected in need of upgrade. These studies determine which lines need to be upgraded and to what level. Another factor that plays a role in a line upgrade is if a customer wants multi phase service into their account.

Both of these factors led to a line upgrade southwest of Thief River Falls in Rocksbury Township, sections 7, 18 and 20. Three miles of single phase line was upgraded to two miles of three phase and one mile of two phase.



Above: A Red Lake Electric line crew work to reset the single phase poles out at an angle to make room for the new multi phase poles.



Upper Right: Once the single phase poles are leaned out it allows the new three phase poles to be set in place.



Left: A line crew works to load wire reels onto the bombardier. The wire will be strung out for the new line.



Lower Right: Troy Schmitz, lineman, sets the new wire onto a stringing block. As the wire is strung out and pulled to proper tension the stringing block rolls the wire.



Below: Work progresses on the new three phase line as the stringing of wire is nearly completed.



Upper Right: As the new wires are tied into place and still de-energized, everything is bonded together with grounds for protection, in case a new wire would come in contact with an existing energized wire.

Lower Right: Dick Gervais, left, crew foreman and Ira Cota, lineman, use come-along hoists to increase tension on guy wires to bring the new line into place.

Below: Brett Knott, left, apprentice lineman, and Roger Valley, crew foreman, use the winch on the digger truck to pull the last old pole as the new line is completed and energized.



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# Federal Tax Credits for Energy Efficiency

## 2009 Summary of Tax Credits for Homeowners

Product Category	Product Type	Tax Credit Specification	Tax Credit	Notes
Insulation	Insulation	Meets 2009 IECC & Amendments	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 <sup>2</sup>	For insulation to qualify, its primary purpose must be to insulate (example: insulated siding does not qualify).  Must be expected to last 5 years OR have a 2 year warranty
Windows & Doors	Exterior Windows and Skylights	U factor <= 0.30 SHGC <= 0.30	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 <sup>2</sup>	Not all ENERGY STAR labeled windows and skylights qualify for tax credit.
	Storm Windows	Meets IECC <sup>1</sup> in combination with the exterior window over which it is installed, for the applicable climate zone	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 <sup>2</sup>	
	Exterior Doors	U factor <= 0.30 SHGC <= 0.30	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 <sup>2</sup>	Not all ENERGY STAR doors will qualify.
	Storm Doors	In combination with a wood door assigned a default U-factor by the IECC <sup>1</sup> , and does not exceed the default U-factor requirement assigned to such combination by the IECC	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 <sup>2</sup>	
Roofing	Metal Roofs, Asphalt Roofs	All ENERGY STAR qualified metal and reflective asphalt shingles	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 <sup>2</sup>	
HVAC	Central A/C	<i>Split Systems:</i> EER >=13 SEER >= 16  <i>Package systems:</i> EER >= 12 SEER >= 14	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 <sup>2</sup>	For a list of qualified products, go to the Consortium for Energy Efficiency product directory, click on the Air Conditioners and in the "CEE Tier" enter "Residential Advanced Tier 3" for CAC Split Systems, and "Residential Tier 2" for CAC package systems and ASHPs.
	Air Source Heat Pumps	<i>Split Systems:</i> HSPF >= 8.5 EER >= 12.5 SEER >= 15  <i>Package systems:</i> HSPF >= 8 EER >= 12 SEER >= 14	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 <sup>2</sup>	Note--not all ENERGY STAR products will qualify for the tax credit.  ENERGY STAR Spec. (Same for CAC and ASHP):  Split systems:      Package systems: HSPF=8.2            HSPF=8 EER=12              EER=11 SEER=11            SEER=14
	Natural Gas or Propane Furnace	AFUE >= 95	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 <sup>2</sup>	For a list of qualified products, go to the Gas Appliance Manufacturing Association:  Not all ENERGY STAR products will qualify for the tax credit.
	Oil Furnace	AFUE >= 90	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 <sup>2</sup>	
	Gas, Propane, or Oil Hot Water Boiler	AFUE >= 90	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 <sup>2</sup>	ENERGY STAR Spec:  Gas Furnaces: AFUE=90 Oil Furnaces: AFUE=85 Boilers: AFUE=85
	Advanced Main Air Circulating Fan	No more than 2% of furnace total energy use.	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 <sup>2</sup>	
Water Heaters	Gas, Oil, Propane Water Heater	Energy Factor >= 0.82 or a thermal efficiency of at least 90%.	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 <sup>2</sup>	All ENERGY STAR gas tankless water heaters will qualify.  There are currently no ENERGY STAR qualified gas storage tank or gas condensing water heaters that qualify.
	Electric Heat Pump Water Heater	Same criteria as ENERGY STAR: Energy Factor >= 2.0	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 <sup>2</sup>	All ENERGY STAR electric heat pump water heaters will qualify.
Biomass Stove	Biomass Stove	Stove which burns biomass fuel <sup>5</sup> to heat a home or heat water.  Thermal efficiency rating of at least 75% as measured using a lower heating value.	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 <sup>2</sup>	

Footnotes:  
1 Either the 2001 Supplement of the 2000 International Energy Conservation Code or the 2004 Supplement of the 2003 International Energy Conservation Code.  
  
2 Subject to a \$1,500 maximum per homeowner for all improvements combined.  
  
3 A Manufacturer's Certification is a signed statement from the manufacturer certifying that the product or component qualifies for the tax credit. The IRS encourages manufacturers to provide these Certifications on their website to facilitate identification of qualified products. Taxpayers must keep a copy of the certification statement for their records, but do not have to submit a copy with their tax return.  
  
4 Additional information on exterior window features may be viewed at Anatomy of an Energy Efficient Window.  
  
5 Biomass Fuel means any plant-derived fuel available on a renewable or recurring basis, including agricultural crops and trees, wood and wood waste and residues (including wood pellets), plants (including aquatic plants), grasses, residues, and fibers.  
  
The IRS defines "placed in service" as when the property is ready and available for use.  
  
For complete details, go to [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) or contact your tax accountant.

### DNR announces four new critical habitat plates

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) revealed four new critical habitat license plate designs today during a ceremony at the Hennepin County deputy registrar's office in Minnetonka.

The new designs feature a showy lady's-slipper, a northern Minnesota fishing scene, a majestic white-tailed buck and a black-capped chickadee. These are the first new critical habitat license plate design options available to Minnesota motorists in seven years.

The four new license plates are now available at all deputy registrar offices statewide, as are the existing loon and white-tailed deer plates, which will continue to be offered.

Motorists who purchase a critical habitat plate make a minimum contribution of \$30 to the Reinvest



in Minnesota (RIM) program. They are also required to make a minimum contribution of \$30 each year to renew the plate. Every dollar generated through the sale of the license plate is matched with private donations of cash or land.

"It has been a long time since we issued a new plate, so to rev up the RIM program, we are giving motorists more ways to show their conservation colors and individual identity," said DNR Commissioner Mark Holsten.

More than 29,000 people participated in two surveys conducted by the DNR earlier this year to gather

citizen and stakeholder input about favorite designs. Holsten and Department of Public Safety Commissioner Michael Campion weighed the survey results and accompanying comments when selecting these four designs.

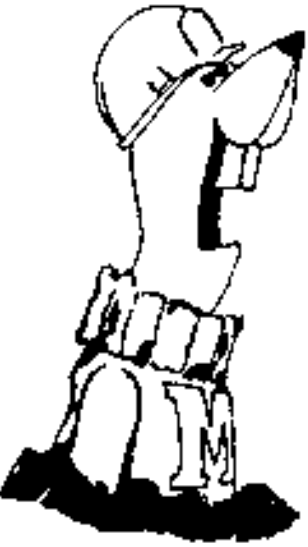
The critical habitat license plate program was created in 1995 to provide additional opportunity for Minnesotans to contribute to conservation. The plates have generated more than \$25 million toward the purchase of 7,700 acres of critical habitat, and have helped fund nongame research and surveys, habitat enhancement and educational programs.

To order plates over the phone, or for questions about ordering the Critical Habitat License plate, call the Department of Public Safety – Driver and Vehicle Services at 651-297-3304.

Product Category	Product Type	Tax Credit Specification	Tax Credit	Notes
Biomass Stove	Biomass Stove	Stove which burns biomass fuel <sup>5</sup> to heat a home or heat water.  Thermal efficiency rating of at least 75% as measured using a lower heating value.	30% of cost, up to \$1,500 <sup>2</sup>	
Geo-Thermal Heat Pump	Geo-Thermal Heat Pump	Same criteria as ENERGY STAR:  Closed Loop: EER >= 14.1 COP >= 3.3  Open Loop: EER >= 16.2 COP >= 3.6  Direct Expansion: EER >= 15 COP >= 3.5	30% of the cost	All ENERGY STAR geothermal heat pumps qualify for the tax credit.  Use IRS Form 5695  Must be placed into service before December 31, 2016.
Solar Energy Systems	Solar Water Heating	At least half of the energy generated by the "qualifying property" must come from the sun. Homeowners may only claim spending on the solar water heating system property, not the entire water heating system of the household.  The credit is not available for expenses for swimming pools or hot tubs.  The water must be used in the dwelling.  The system must be certified by the Solar Rating and Certification Corporation (SRCC).	30% of cost	All ENERGY STAR solar water heaters qualify for the tax credit.  Use IRS Form 5695  Must be placed into service before December 31, 2016.
	Photovoltaic Systems	Photovoltaic systems must provide electricity for the residence, and must meet applicable fire and electrical code requirement.	30% of cost	Use IRS Form 5695  Must be placed into service before December 31, 2016.
Small Wind Energy Systems	Residential Small Wind Turbines	Has nameplate capacity of not more than 100 kilowatts.	30% of cost	Use IRS Form 5695  Must be placed into service before December 31, 2016.
Fuel Cells	Residential Fuel Cell and microturbine system	Efficiency of at least 30% and must have a capacity of at least 0.5 kW.	30% of the cost, up to \$500 per .5 kW of power capacity	Use IRS Form 5695  Must be placed into service before December 31, 2016.
Cars	Hybrid gasoline-electric, diesel, battery-electric, alternative fuel, and fuel cell vehicles		Based on a formula determined by vehicle weight, technology, and fuel economy compared to base year models	There is a 60,000 vehicle limit per manufacturer before a phase-out period begins. Toyota and Honda have already been phased out. Credit is still available for Ford, GM and Nissan.  For more information visit: <a href="http://Fueleconomy.gov">Fueleconomy.gov</a>  Use IRS Form 8910 for hybrid vehicles purchased for personal use.  Use IRS Form 3800 for hybrid vehicles purchased for business purposes.
	Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles		\$2,500–\$7,500	The first 250,000 vehicles sold get the full tax credit (then it phases out like the hybrid vehicle tax credits).  Effective January 1, 2009.

## Call Before You Dig

With the arrival of spring, many people have plans for digging and planting projects. To ensure your safety and the safety of others, before digging or planting, call Gopher State One Call, 1-800-252-1166.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative members and area contractors are reminded, if you are planning to dig deeper than one foot, you must call Gopher State One Call – it's the law!

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## Miscellany

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