

Published monthly for the members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. SERVING THE FOUR-COUNTY AREA OF MARSHALL, PENNINGTON, RED LAKE AND POLK

and a portion of the lands of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa



Four men, four cooperatives, one family – the Thronsons are keeping homes powered around the region. Left to right: Chris Thronson, Beltrami Electric Cooperative; Casey Thronson, Red Lake Electric Cooperative; Andrew Thronson, Cass County Electric Cooperative; Dave Thronson, Wild Rice Electric Cooperative; and Rita Thronson.

Cooperative blood

RETIREMENT ISN'T THE END OF THE ELECTRIC LINE FOR THRONSON FAMILY, AS SONS CARRY ON COOPERATIVE TRADITION

hirty years ago, when a vicious storm would roll through Wild Rice Electric Cooperative's service territory, three young Thronson boys wouldn't get scared. They would get quiet.

Their dad, Dave, would be out long hours restoring power. He deserved some downtime.

"Whenever I worked all night and came home, they knew they had to be quiet," Thronson remembers. "You know how kids are – they play a lot. So we always told them to make sure they were quiet so I could rest."

Now, after more than 35 years at Wild Rice Electric, director of operations Dave Thronson will get the rest he deserves following his retirement on June 26. But the line didn't de-energize that day, because those three boys at home grew up and became

continued on page 3

Rec Volts Joits

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Pennington and Marshall Counties:

Ronald Ditsch - 218-779-6758

Polk County and Red Lake Counties:

George Stage - 701-306-3511

Any time you or an electrician does wiring or other electrical work at your home or farm, Minnesota state law requires a state wiring inspector to conduct a proper inspection of the work. A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. Please visit www.dli.mn.gov for more information. The inspectors can be reached weekday mornings between 7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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



Electricity brings everyday value

by Stephanie Johnson

ven though I work in the energy industry, like most people, I still do not think much about the electricity I use. I expect the lights to turn on when I flip the switch and the coffeemaker to work each morning. Because electricity is so abundant, we do not think much about it. Since many of us have been spending more time at home during the past few months, we have likely been using more energy. And yet, we still expect an endless supply of power with uninterrupted service 24/7. The only time we really think about electricity is when the power goes out or perhaps when the monthly bill arrives.

Given how electricity powers our modern lifestyle every day, it is a great value, especially when compared to other common services and expenses. For example, think back to the cost of a gallon of gasoline 20 years ago. Consider the cost (Leola Engelsrud 20842) of groceries or a cup of your favorite specialty coffee from a few years back. In comparison, the cost of electricity has remained largely flat, unlike most other consumer goods.

Like many of you, I have a cellphone to stay connected, and I subscribe to cable channels so I can enjoy more viewing options. Many of us consider these necessities for modern-day life. We can see what we are getting for our money, and we pay the price for those services. In contrast, when we use electricity, we do not necessarily "see" all that we are getting for our money.

But considering what electricity does for us, it is a tremendous value for our quality of life as well as our budgets. For comparison, consider that the average rent increase was nearly 4% (from 2014-2019) according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index (CPI). The cost of medical

care was increased 3% during this time, and education was not too far behind at 2.6%. So, where did electricity rank? According to the CPI, electricity increased by less than half a percentage point, 0.4%.

We recognize that the past few months have been challenging for many of our members, and we are here to help. If you have questions about your account or are looking for ways to save energy at home, please give us a call. Red Lake Electric is your electric co-op and our sole purpose is to serve you and the needs of our community. That is everyday value.

Annual meeting

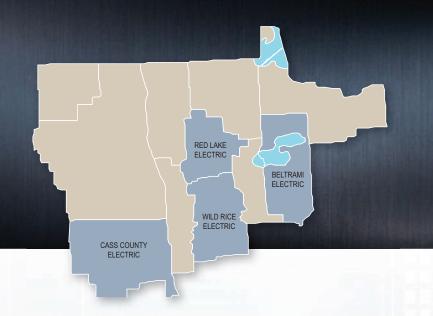
Red Lake Electric's board of directors is continuing to work through (Daren A. Asp 29985) the details of our postponed annual meeting. The meeting will likely require preregistration and include only required business elements and a to-go meal. Further details will be communicated in the September newsletter, on our website and through social media.

Summer is not canceled

There are plenty of reasons to get outdoors and enjoy this short warm season in northern Minnesota. Take a break! Take a break from online and television media and from electronic communication. As we get back out in the post-pandemic world, seek out faceto-face conversations that will allow you to listen more than you speak, understand more than you do now and give more than you take. After that, as you learn or relearn what your part should be in any of these areas, expand your influence outward where it will be felt by siblings, children, parents, community members and more.

"It was a part of my life. I knew at a young age I wanted to be a lineworker because of him and seeing what he went through with the calls."

> - Andrew Thronson, Cass County Electric JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN



Cooperative blood continued from page 1

co-op lineworkers themselves, all within Minnkota Power Cooperative's member systems.

"It was a part of my life," said Andrew Thronson, Cass County Electric journeyman lineman. "I knew at a young age I wanted to be a lineworker because of him and seeing what he went through with the calls."

Andrew, 31, and his twin brothers Casey and Chris, 37, all felt the spark and attended line school. Their careers kept them close to home, with Casey now serving as a crew foreman with Red Lake Electric and Chris as a Beltrami Electric journeyman lineman.

"He never pushed us to go into it," Casey recalled. "He just always said, 'It's a good career. I think you guys would like it."

"It was a great job to raise a family," Chris said. "It showed us hard work and what you get out of that."

"The satisfaction of getting people's lights on, of them giving you a thumbs-up when you drive by during a storm - that feels like a big accomplishment," Andrew added.

Dave said he never told his sons "one way or the other" that they should enter into the electricity

business, but he knew firsthand how alluring cooperatives could be. He has two brothers-in-law who worked for Cass County Electric and Red River Valley Co-op Power. "I think that's how I got my interest in it, was from those guys," he said.

When the Thronson men gather for family get-togethers, the conversation seems to slip into a single current. It's prime time to discuss what's happening at different co-ops and swap tricks of the trade.

"Of course, the wives are looking at us like, 'C'mon guys, we don't want to talk about work. We want to visit about other things!" Dave joked.

All the shop talk in the air may also settle into the minds of the Thronson men's children - five sons and daughters between the three of them. Like their own father, the lineworkers won't be guiding their kids into (Janyce Peterson 20392) the cooperative world. But they certainly won't be upset if the generations of power distributors continue.

"I will just do what our dad did with us boys - support her, give guidance and answer any questions," Andrew said of his 19-month-old daughter.

"Family is a huge deal for all of us," Chris said. "Our dad values being supportive of each other and helpful."

The Thronson sons now have an opportunity (Kevin Amiot 24963) to support their father in his retirement. They won't be doing that by staying quiet like when they were boys. "I know the grandkids really like spending time with him, so hopefully he gets more time to do that," Casey said.

"I hope he has a great retirement. He deserves all the happiness for all of his hard work," Andrew said. "I'll miss all the linework talk with him," he added with a laugh.

> - By Kaylee Cusack Communications Specialist Minnkota Power Cooperative





RECIPIENTS



Allison Aakhus Red Lake County Central Jason & Bobbi Aakhus



Josiah Anderson Lincoln High School Eric & Lisa Anderson



Tessa Anderson Marshall County Central Jason & Patti Anderson



Hayden Bakke Marshall County Central Deland & Jana Bakke



Lexie Benke Greenbush-Middle River High School Brad & Joey Benke



Katerina Groven Goodridge High School Shawn & Rosaline Groven



Brooke Hanson Warren-Alvarado-Olso High School Jason & Stacy Hanson



Grant Hartmann Lincoln High School Fred & Stacy Hartmann



Maloni Henrickson Goodridge High School Randy & Twila Henrickson



Jordan Horachek Goodridge High School Doug & Heidi Horachek



Logan Klipping Lafayette High School Marvin & Christie Klipping



Shawna Larson Lafayette High School Mark & Melissa Larson



Sophia Linder Red Lake County Central Ted & Jenny Linder



Christopher Longtin Red Lake County Central Lonnie & Michelle Longtin



Kia McGlynn Lafayette High School Lynn McGlynn & Dennis McGlynn

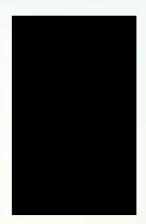
Each year, Red Lake Electric Cooperative provides scholarships for graduating seniors at each of the high schools operating throughout the Cooperative's service area. The recipients are selected by the scholarship selection committee of the recipients' high schools. There were 30 recipients this year with each student receiving \$500. The funds for these scholarships come from unclaimed capital credits. Congratulations and best wishes to these scholarship recipients!



Anna Bohnenkamp Lincoln High School John & Bobbie Bohnenkamp



Josie Cervantes Lincoln High School John & Shelley Cervantes



Kasey Cwikla Crookston High School Paul & Allyson Cwikla



Calyssa Eskeli Red Lake County Central Steve & Andrea Eskeli & Becky Eskeli



Carina Huot Lincoln High School Curtis Huot & Andrea Zipprich



Blake Jensen Goodridge High School Donald & Danette Jensen



Carley Johnson Lincoln High School Dan & Lori Johnson



Jalayna Kelley Lafayette High School Jared & Jenny Kelley



Kayla Kiesow Goodridge High School Tony & Nicole Kiesow



Caleb Nelson Marshall County Central Gregg & Kim Nelson



Sidney Olson Red Lake County Central Conway & Kim Olson



Brea Prickett Lincoln High School Todd Prickett & Darla Hegge



Mya Seeger Lafayette High School Nick & Julie Seeger



Piper Sondreal Greenbush-Middle River High School David & Leslie Sondreal

Electrical safety and conservation websites

The following is a list of websites that can provide information and education in reference (Staci D. Reay 23768) to electrical safety and energy conservation. These websites are listed as links on Red Lake Electric's website at www.redlakeelectric.com.

- Electrical Safety Foundation International: www.esfi.org
- Alliance to Save Energy: www.ase.org
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.gov/greenhomes
- Energy Star: www.energystar.gov
- Minnesota Safety Council: www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org
- Safe Electricity: www.safeelectricity.org
- Lighting Controls Association: www.aboutlightingcontrols.org
- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission: www.cpsc.gov



NOTICE OF NAMES

Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of *Volts & Jolts* are the names and account numbers of some Red Lake Electric Cooperative members. They will appear within the articles in parentheses as such (9999999.99 Willie Ray 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.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Installing a smart power strip is a quick and easy way to start saving money while making your home more energy efficient. Smart power strips can actually cut power off to save energy since they are able to detect when a device is in standby mode.

Source: energy.gov



Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ redlakeelectric

Can you help us locate any of the following?

The following people have refunds due to them. Checks mailed to their last-known address have been returned by the Postal Service. If you can provide a current address for someone who is listed or the name and address of an heir if they are deceased, call or write Red Lake Electric Cooperative, PO Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750; 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068.

ADOLFS, KEVIN ALLARD, RAYMOND ANDERSEN, KIMBERLY ANDERSON BROS. ANDERSON, CHAD ANDERSON, DUANE E ANDERSON, HEATHER A ANDERSON, KRIS ANDERSON, LAWRENCE ANDERSON, LOWELL K ANDERSON, MARK A ANDERSON, SARAH R ARLT. RACHEL AWENDER, KEVIN M AZURE, JOHN OR MELISSA BANK OF AMERICAN ESB. BARRETT, ROBERT M BATES, A. J. BAUM, KATHY BENGTSON MARGIE BERGERON, VICKIE J BERTSCH, BENJAMIN BJELLAND, YELENA BJORGAARD, CHAD BLACKWELL, MARK BRADSHAW, MARK & FELICIA BRAULT, RAYMOND O BRAUSEN TOM OR TAMMY BROOKS, ELIZABETH BRUGGEMAN, MARY J BRUNO, BARBARA J BURDICK, BYRON D BURRACK, MARGARET L BUSSE, LEROY CAMARA, AUNDREA CAMERON, TROY CARLSON, MARV CARPENTER, CRISTY CARTER, CYNTHIA CHRISTENSEN, CATHERINE CHRISTOPHERSON, SHIRLEY CLEMONS, BETHANY CLINTON, KIM CONDOR, LINDA CONDOR-MOSER, FRED CULLEN, WALTER J CWIKLA, DAVID DALLMANN, FREDERICK DANIFLSON, TODD I DEKKERS. BEVERLY DEVOE DAVID C DOBIAS, MARVIN DOFMEL VIONA DONARSKI, LEO DRECHSEL JOYCE DUMMER, RICHARD L DURHEIM, MONA R ECKERT, MIKE EKMAN, AMANDA EKMAN, HELEN ELLISON, CLAIR ENGVALL, JIM

ERICKSON, KENT J ERICKSON, TONIA

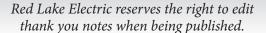
ERICKSON, WAYNE OR AMY

ESKELI. AMELIA ETZOLD, CORIANN M EVENSON, MARY A FALDET, ALVINA FINLEY, ROBERT L FISCHER, WILBERT OR BETTY FLAHERTY, KEVIN FLYNN, EUNICE FORSBERG, CAROL J FOSTER, KIMBERLY K FOSTER, MICHAEL FRANK WANDA FULLER, ERMA H GIBSON, BRENDA GILBERTSON, DENNIS GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH GRAHAM, JODI GRANDSTRAND JASON GREER, THOMAS GUNDERSON, SHANNON GUNDERSON, VERNA GU7MAN, GII MA HAGEN, BARBARA HAGEN SCOTT B HAHN, JULIE L HAMMER, LEIGH E HART, KEVIN HAUGEN, ANMARIE HAUGEN, IDA HAUPT, DIRK A HEATON, YVONNE HENDRICKSON, CHARLES HERNANDEZ, MICHAEL HESSE, RANDALL HICKS, JAY M HILLTON HOG FARM HINCE, RONALD J HOISETH, TERESA HOLTEN, INGA HOLTHUSEN, JOEY D HOWARD, MICHAEL J INTERSTATE BRANDS IVERSON, JERALD JENKINS, KIMBERLY JENNEWEIN, NATHAN JOHNSON, DEAN JOHNSON, HENRY JOHNSON, ORMOND JORSTAD, SCOTT JUDD, GEORGE D JR. KAISER, AARON F KALBAKDALEN, HELMER KALIS, CORFY OR CHERL KASPROWICZ, MATT KF7AR CARL G KISCH, CULVER KLEMETSON, JR., GARY F KOENIG, TIMOTHY M KOLESTRAND, MOSES KORINTA, RAY KOSTRZEWSKI, JEREMY S KOUKARI, JR., RAYMOND KRANZ, GREGORY M LANCTOT, SARALEE

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I am so very grateful for the generous scholarship! I am excited to attend college this fall.

Jalayna Kelley

Thank you for the scholarship. It's awesome to have supportive community members that see the importance of (Glenn Meekma 26831) investing in the future of students.

Josie Cervantes

I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient of the Red Lake Electric Cooperative scholarship. Thank you for your generosity, which allows me to pursue my career in mechanical engineering at North Dakota State University.

Caleb Nelson

Thank you for the generous scholarship; I was very happy and appreciative to learn I was a recipient. I will be attending Mayville State University in the fall for early childhood education. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me. Sidney Olson

I would like to thank you so much for the scholarship from Red Lake Electric. I am so very grateful. My plans are to attend SDSU in the fall for a degree in construction management. Iosiah Anderson

Thank you so much for the scholarship. I plan to further my education at UND and go into nursing with the end goal of becoming a nurse practitioner. I will also be running track for the UND track team.

Carley Johnson

Thank you for the scholarship I was awarded. It will be put to use as I attend NDSU in the fall for agribusiness.

> Chris Longtin Red Lake County Central

Thank you so much for the generous scholarship. I am extremely grateful to live in such a generous community. This scholarship will help me pay tuition at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. I hope one day to return to this community and provide opportunities to kids.

> Calyssa Eskeli Red Lake County Central

Thank you so much for the scholarship. I really appreciate the generosity. This scholarship will be very helpful as I start college in the fall. I plan to attend NCTC to finish my generals and then attend BSU to get a degree in elementary education. Thank you so much.

Brea Prickett

I am sincerely honored to have been selected as a recipient of the Red Lake Electric scholarship. I am very (Kristel Kizer 23882) thankful as it will help me continue my education at Northland Community and Technical College.

Kia McGlynn

Thank you so much for the scholarship award. It is extremely appreciated and will go a long way as I pursue my degree in speech pathology. Kasey Cwikla

Thank you very much for the Red Lake Electric scholarship; it is a great honor. I plan to use that money next year to continue my education at Northland Community and Technical College for nursing.

Anna Bohnenkamp

Thank you for awarding me the Red Lake Electric scholarship. This will help me pursue my degree in computer science and cybersecurity next year. With all the uncertainty this spring, I appreciate your support, and it will relieve some of my financial stress as I continue my education in the fall.

Kyri Christensen

Thank you Red Lake Electric for the \$500 scholarship to put toward my college of choice, Bemidji State University. It will be used for my education as either becoming a business manager or industrial engineer. This will be very helpful to complete the degree of my choice.

Grant Hartmann

Just a quick but sincere thank you for your efforts to restore power to my area during the June storm. Thank you very much for your quick service! Mary Solberg, Crookston

Our transformer had blown last night leaving us with no electricity through the storm. I want to thank whoever arrived (Michael Barry 30060) at our house at dawn to fix our electricity. Your willingness to rise before the crack of dawn means a lot to me and my family.

Jessica Christensen, Crookston

Looking to buy:

John Deere or Case backhoe. Call Craig at 218-681-0468.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters facility will be closed

Monday, Sept. 7

in observance of Labor Day.

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



Energy Efficiency Incentives

Electric Heating Rebates

Must be on off-peak

Electric plenum heaters

Easily converts your existing fossil fuel furnace into a dual-fuel heating system. You are able to use the most efficient, cost-effective heating source - fossil fuel or electricity - at any time.

Rebate of \$50 per kilowatt (kW)

Electric thermal storage heaters

Draws electricity during off-peak hours when it is cheaper. Heat is stored in specially designed (Brady T. Lee 30444) bricks to provide comfort 24 hours a day.

Rebate of \$60 per kW

Air-source heat pumps (including mini-split ductless option)

Works just like a central air conditioner in the summer. In the fall and winter, they provide super-efficient supplemental heat.

Up to 16 SEER: Rebate of \$300 per ton 17 SEER or greater: Rebate of \$500 per ton

Geothermal heat pumps

Provides the highest efficiency for space heating and cooling available today. The system transfers heat to and from the earth using only small amounts of electricity.

Closed loop: Rebate of \$400 per ton Open loop: Rebate of \$200 per ton

Electric underfloor boiler

A popular off-peak option because the system transfers consistently across the floor to reach people (Krist Olson 29310) and objects, providing both comfort and efficiency. Applications include electric boiler with hydronic tubing.

Rebate of \$50 per kW

Other electric heating systems

Options include electric baseboards, cove heaters, electric floor cable, mats and more.

Rebate of \$25 per kW

Great rebates and incentives are available to help you upgrade your heating and cooling system, water heater and electric vehicle chargers. Not sure where to start? Check out our rebate list below for heating and cooling options. Contact Red Lake Electric Cooperative for expert advice on improving your home's energy performance.

Electric Water Heater Rebates

Must be on off-peak

100 gallon or greater

\$350 rebate

56-99 gallon

\$300 rebate

55 gallon or less

\$150 rebate

Bonus rebates: Add \$250

if converting from natural gas or propane.

Add \$100 for new building construction.



Electric Vehicle Charger Rebates 240V Level 2 Charger Must be on off-peak





Electric vehicle or hybrid

\$50 per kW

Residential Commercial Charger

Charger

Commercial - Forklifts, Zambonis, etc.

\$50 per kW

All equipment must be new and installed on Red Lake Electric Cooperative's system.

Equipment must be installed on RLEC's off-peak program.

Contact Member Services for more details!

218-253-2168