Volts&Jolts



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

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Casey Thronson

Family members

• Wife: Cassie

• Children: Thoren (15), Lily (13) and Abel (11)



Casey Thronson and his wife Cassie pose for a photo with their children (left to right): Lily, Thoren and Abel.

Job title

Crew foreman

Education

- **High School:** Mahnomen High School
- College: Minnesota State Community and Technical College, Wadena

How your job has changed while you've worked at RLEC

Technology

Years of service

20 years

Hobbies/interests

· Hunting and snowmobiling

Favorite food

Mexican food

Favorite beverage

Pepsi

Favorite part about working at RLEC

Working with all the people

Favorite sport (watch or play)

Football and hockey

Family tradition

• Hunting and snowmobiling

Favorite restaurant

Mexican Village

REC Volts Joits

OCTOBER 2023 - Vol. 59, No. 1

Official Publication of

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 430 • 412 International Drive S.W. Red Lake Falls, MN 56750-0430 (USPS 663-400)

Subscription rate: \$2.50 per year

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

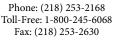
Published 10 times a year, January through May, July and September through December, by Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., in the interest of its members and others. Periodical postage paid at the U.S. Post Office in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750. POSTMASTER, SEND ADDRESS CHANGES to Volts & Jolts, c/o Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 430, Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750-0430. Email: info@redlakeelectric.com.

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MINNESOTA STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

Pennington and Marshall Counties:

Ronald Ditsch: (218) 779-6758

Red Lake and Polk Counties:

Todd Knaack: (763) 516-0344

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.



By the community, for the community

by Stephanie Johnson

hen you think of October, pumpkins, Halloween and beautiful fall foliage naturally come to mind. But October is notable for another reason – it's National Cooperative Month! This is the time of year when cooperatives across the country, including Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC), celebrate who we are and more importantly, the members we serve.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses. When the market declines to offer a product or service, or does so at a very high price, cooperatives intervene (25613 Rodney L Johnson) to fill the need.

Similar to how RLEC was built by members who came together to bring electricity to our community, cooperatives are conveners for the common good. Your electric cooperative exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the cooperative. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve.

As a cooperative, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we are locally governed. RLEC's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. The members of our board of directors, which helps set long-term priorities for the cooperative, live locally on cooperative lines. These board members have been elected to the position by neighbors like you.

We know our members have a valuable perspective. That's why we

are continually seeking your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you.

Our close connection to the community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on local priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as equipment and technology upgrades and electric vehicle programs.

Another feature that sets our cooperative apart from a traditional utility is one of our core principles, "Concern for Community." We participate in Operation Round Up® and other worthy programs that benefit our local communities.

Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower the cooperative through your membership and through your participation (26615 Daryl Sweno) in and support of these programs.

We hope you will think of RLEC as more than your energy provider, but instead as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you – because your electric cooperative was built by the community, for the community.



Fall is here!
by Kelli Brateng

love fall; cool crisp air and autumn leaves. Although I have to say, I don't like it when summer slips away from us too fast, once school is back in session and the sports are rolling it seems to be easier. But we never know what type of fall weather Mother Nature is going to give us. So, when we get the nice fall days, we all take advantage of getting those outside projects done, taking the kids or grandkids out hunting and going to a corn maze and pumpkin patch. Enjoy your time outside (29461 Christine E Hanson) before the snow flies.

We also need to remember the time of year is fast approaching when we become dependent upon our home's heating system. We depend on our heating system for about eight months. Because of this dependency, it is important to have our home's heating system operational and in tune.

A large percentage of Red Lake Electric's members make use of fossil fuel (propane, fuel oil and natural gas)

NOTICE OF NAMES

Hidden within the text of the articles

some Red Lake Electric Cooperative

members. They will appear within

the articles in parentheses as such

(999999.99 Willie Ray Member).

If you find your name and account

number, clip it out and send it with

credited with \$5 on your electric bill.

your next payment. You will be

of this issue of Volts & Iolts are the

names and account numbers of

for home heating. For some members it is used for the back-up or alternate heating system in conjunction with off-peak electric heating equipment. For other members, fossil fuels are the sole source of home heating. Either way, having the heating system tuned up and operating at its highest efficiency will help you save money.

What's in store for the next heating season, no one knows. Predictions and estimates can be made but the answers will only be revealed in time. Having and maintaining an adequate and dependable heating system (31906 Alex Henningsen) will make it simpler and certainly more comfortable for you and your family.

Call your local HVAC contractor to make sure your heating system is serviced and operational for the upcoming heating season. Remember, we offer rebates on new installations of electric heat or heat pumps – check out our website for more details or call the office.



headquarters will be closed Friday, Nov. 10.

In case of an electrical outage or

emergency, call the after-hours phone number at 218-253-2200.



Submit your recipes to be published in *Volts & Jolts*. Email to <u>info@redlakeelectric.com</u> or mail to: Red Lake Electric Cooperative, PO Box 430, Red Lake Falls. MN 56750-0430.

PUMPKIN PECAN COBBLER

Ingredients

For the Cobbler

- 1 cup + 3 tablespoons all purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon cloves
- 1/2 cup pumpkin puree
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1/4 cup melted butter or vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla

For the Topping

- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup chopped pecans
- 1 1/2 cups very hot water

Instructions

- 1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- In a medium-sized bowl, stir together flour, baking powder, salt, sugar and spices. Set aside.
- In a smaller bowl, stir pumpkin, milk, melted butter and vanilla together to combine. Pour wet ingredients into dry ingredients and mix to create a thick batter. Pour into a small 8-inch casserole dish with high sides.
- 4. In a separate bowl, stir sugar, brown sugar and pecans together. Spread over the top of the batter evenly. Pour hot water over the entire thing (WITHOUT STIRRING A THING!) and bake for 40 minutes or until the middle is set. Be sure to place on a baking sheet in case it bubbles over. Cool 5-10 minutes before serving. Serve with more pecans and vanilla ice cream.

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OUR SEVEN (OOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

October is National Cooperative Month and Red Lake Electric Cooperative is proud to be the local electric cooperative for your region! As a cooperative, we operate a little differently than other electric utilities. Since we are member-owned and operated, we are rooted in seven key cooperative principles that guide us in always putting our members' needs first.



COOPERATION AMONG (OOPERATIVES

By cooperatives working together through local, national, regional and international structures, we can improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs.



EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Education empowers growth for the members, representatives and staff of Red Lake Electic Cooperative. Spreading cooperative awareness enhances understanding of the cooperative and the cooperative way to the community and beyond.



DEMOCRATIC WEMBER (ONTROL

Members actively shape policies and choices for our cooperative. Directors are elected from within our membership and held accountable by our members. All members also have equal voting rights.



MEMBERS ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members invest fairly and control the cooperative's capital. Part of the capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Any surpluses are allocated by the members to serve goals like growth, reserve funds and approved ventures - and some even comes back to members in the form of capital credits!



As a cooperative, we are devoted to the sustainable development of our communities shaped by our member-supported policies.



OPEN AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone who would reasonably use our services and embraces membership responsibilities, regardless of their background.



AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous organizations controlled by their members! If the cooperative enters into an agreement with an organization or raises capital from an external source, it does so on terms that ensure democratic control for the membership.

Thank you to our members for your trust and stewardship throughout Red Lake Electric's years of providing affordable, reliable and safe energy to the region.

STAY A STEP AHEAD

During Cybersecurity Awareness Month

As we get smarter about all of the ways cybercriminals can target our personal information, the cybercriminals are getting smarter, too. They only remain effective by staying one step ahead of their victims. More advanced cybercrime techniques (30519 Dannielle A Rausch) have taken hold in 2023, and Red Lake Electric Cooperative wants to make sure our members are aware and taking steps to protect themselves.



many channels to

platform - scammers

have found ways to use

artificial intelligence (AI) for smoother infiltration. Al can serve as a sneaky They are using

They are using

tool to help scammers

trick you in more than scam you - often one way. AI can help all at once. them clone voices that you may recognize or Email used to be the write in a style that you main platform scammers trust. In addition to would use to get you to using AI tools to fool hand over your personal you, you must also information. However, remember that any since spam/junk filters personal information have improved, they are you type into an Al targeting other platgeneration platform forms like social media. (like ChatGPT) could text messaging, and be accessed and used even collaboration tools by a cybercriminal. Be like Zoom or Microsoft careful! Teams. Be vigilant when using any technology

They know you are more mobile, and they're taking advantage of it.

The company you

work for likely has many cybersecurity protections in place on its systems. However, when you are working remotely or using your smartphone to do business, your information may be more vulnerable. Talk with your information technology (IT) representative about integrating multi-factor authentication and/or a secure VPN to make sure you are protected on the go.

They are getting better at hiding phishing schemes.

Scammers know that you no longer trust a strange-looking URL in your email, so they're hiding malicious links behind Google Translate links. Hover over a link to see if it contains https://translate.google.com. If it does, do not click on it.

Criminals may also use image attachments in emails to get around security that focuses on email body text. If you're unsure about a link or callback information in an attached image, do not click or call.





Operation Round Up® grants total \$12,080



he Red Lake Electric Trust board met recently and awarded 17 grants to area nonprofit and community organizations that totaled \$12,080. Since its inception in 1993, 1,060 Operation Round Up grants totaling \$660,000 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, 97% of Red Lake Electric's members voluntarily "round up" their monthly bill for the Operation Round Up program.

The following two organizations were awarded Operation Round Up funds to help the disadvantaged.

- Red Lake County Victim Services: \$750 to help with expenses for victims of a crime.
- Falls DAC (TRF): \$500 to help with sidewalk expansion project.

Three area grants were awarded for the general public.

- Pennington & Red Lake County
 Public Health & Home Care:
 \$1,000 to help parents of new
 babies by offering a free home
 visit.
- Middle River Legacy Center: \$500 to help refurbish the weight room with a new heating system, equipment, and security system.
- American Legion Post 159: \$580 to purchase an electronic bugle to use at veterans' funerals.

Five area emergency service providers were awarded grants.

- Red Lake Falls Volunteer
 Ambulance Service: \$1,000 to
 help purchase an AED and EKG machine for the ambulance.
- Plummer Volunteer Fire Department: \$1,000 purchase fire safety equipment for new fire pickup truck.
- Viking Fire and Rescue: \$1,000 to purchase equipment for fire truck.
- Goodridge Area Fire and Rescue: \$1,000 to help purchase five fire suits for new recruits.
- Minnesota Firefighter Initiative: \$500 to help fund therapy sessions for firefighters.

Monies to benefit the youth were awarded to four organizations.

- Christmas for Pennington County: \$500 to help purchase Christmas gifts for their annual holiday program.
- TRF Chapter of the MN Deer Hunters Association: \$500 to help fund the fall youth day event.
- Red Lake County Holiday Gift Program: \$500 to help fund the Christmas Giving Tree distributed to children in need during the holiday season.
- Marshall County Social Services, Christmas Projects: \$750 help purchase items for the Christmas Giving Tree.

Two organizations that provide help and service to area seniors received grants.

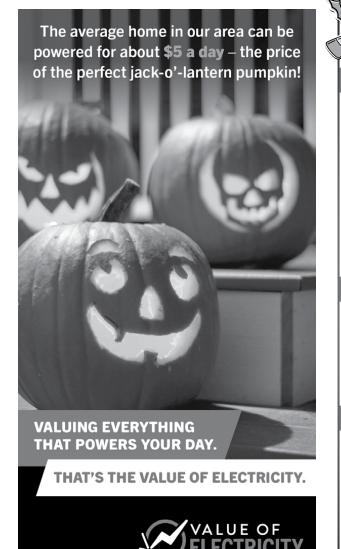
- LSS Senior Nutrition Program (Red Lake Falls): \$750 to help provide seniors with meals.
- Heritage Community Center: \$750 to purchase supplies for senior activities.

One grant was awarded for historical purposes.

• Goodridge Area Historical Society: \$500 to help continue restoration of the log cabin.

The RLE Trust board of directors determines grants two times per year, in March and September. Serving on the board are: Stacy Bierman - President, Thief River Falls: Pamela Vettleson - Vice President, Plummer; and Laura Kasprowicz - Secretary/Treasurer, Thief River Falls. Ex-officio directors are Bonnie Christians of Crookston and Stephanie Johnson of Gatzke, representing Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Grant applications are available at the Red Lake Electric Cooperative office or by visiting their website at redlakeelectric.com. The next deadline (28248 Wayne E Scholl) for Operation Round Up grant applications is March 1, 2024.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Walk Safely

- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks. Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross.
- Put electronic devices down, keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street.
- · Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewes street crossings.
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Teach children to never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.
- Join kids under age 12 for trick-or-treating. If kids are mature enough to be out without supervision, tell them to stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trickor-treat in groups.

Costumes for a Safe Halloween

- Decorate costumes and bags (21844 Brian Bugge) with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.
- Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of masks, which can
 obstruct a child's vision.
- Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.
- When selecting a costume, make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls.

Drive Extra Safely on Halloween

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
- · Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
- · Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
- Get rid of any distractions like your phone in your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.
- Turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances.
- Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- Be especially alert for kids during those hours.

Source: safekids.org

1. Publication Tide	2. Publication Number	3. Filing Date
Volts & Jolts	663-400	9/22/2023
4. Issue Frequency	5. Number of Issues Published Annually	6. Annual Subscription Price
Ten Times Year 7. Complete Malling Address of Known Office of Publication (flior pri	10	\$1.00
 Complete Making Address of Known Office of Publication (Not pri 	riter) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4%)	Kelli Brateng
PO Box 430 Red lake County Red Lake I	Falls MN 56750-0430	Telephone (include area code) 218 - 253 - 2168
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business t	Office of Publisher (Not printer)	
PO Box 430 Red lake Falls MN 56750-0-	430	
Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor. Publisher (Name and complete mailing address)	and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)	
Fubilisher (Name and Complete making address)		
Red lake Electric Cooperative Inc PO Box	430 Red Lake Falls MN 56750-	0430
Editor (Name and complete mailing address)		
Kelli Brateng PO Box 430 Red lake Falls	MN 56750-0430	
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)	1411 30730-0430	
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 Publication Tr 	lio		14. Issue Date for Circu	vlation Data Below
Volts &	Jol	s	September	2023
Newslet		of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Sing Issue Published Nearest to Filing D
a. Total Numb	er of	Copies (Net press run)	4379	4374
	(1)	Mailed Cutside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	3595	3589
b. Paid Catalistion (By Mail and	(2)	Mailed In County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	785	785
Outside the Mail)	(2)	Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®		
	(4)	Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail [®])		
c. Total Paid 0	Not 9	rution (Sturn of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	4379	4374
d. Free or Nominal Pate	(1)	Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541		
Distribution (By Mail	(2)	Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		
and Outside the Mail)	(3)	Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)		
	(4)	Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Camiers or other means)	50	50
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Clashibution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		50	50	
f. Total Distrib	f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)			4424
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (rage #3))		10	10	
h. Total (Sum	of 15	and gr	4439	4434
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PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 2 of 4)

16. Electronic Copy Circulation		Average No. Copie Each Issue During Preceding 12 Mont	Issue Published
a. Paid Electronic Copies	•		
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) = Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	>		
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 155) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	>		
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c × 100)	>		
I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above	a nomina	price.	
7. Publication of Statement of Ownership			
The publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be	e printed	Publ	cation not required.
in the October 2023 issue of this publication.			
8. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner			unte
Kelli Brottena			1/22/2023
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Red Lake Volts & Jolts • October 2023 7



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