

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



—— INVITE TO OUR MEMBERS ——

RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE **GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, AT 2:30PM

412 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE SW, RED LAKE FALLS, MN — WEST LOT OF EXISTING BUILDING

ROOT BEER FLOATS TO FOLLOW IN THE EXISTING SHOP >>>



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CALL BEFORE YOU DIG 1-800-252-1166 or 811

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.



Who owns what?

by Stephanie Johnson

As July rolls in with longer days and rising temperatures, it also brings the increased potential for severe weather. Summer storms can arrive quickly and hit hard, sometimes causing significant damage to essential electric equipment throughout our community.

Red Lake Electric is always prepared to respond swiftly to outages and restore power safely, but it is also important for homeowners to understand which parts of the electric system are their responsibility and which are maintained by us at the cooperative. Understanding these key differences (21865 Michael D Keefe) can help speed up repairs and ensure everyone stays safe when the weather turns rough.

Red Lake Electric is responsible for maintaining and repairing the equipment and lines that run to your home, including utility poles, distribution power lines, electric meters and padmounted transformers. Red Lake Electric members are responsible for the equipment located between the electric meter and your home or business, including any underground service lines that lead into the structure and the service panel. If any equipment that you (the homeowner) are responsible for is damaged, please call a licensed electrician to conduct the repairs. A professional has the experience and know-how to assess and manage these types of repairs.

When severe weather damages electrical equipment, it's important to note that any necessary repairs to the homeowner's equipment must be conducted before Red Lake Electric crews can restore power to your home or business. By understanding the

equipment you are responsible for, the repair and restoration process will be smoother and faster.

Our community takes great pride in the beautiful trees and landscaping that contribute to the natural beauty where we live; however, regular trimming is essential to ensure reliable electric service and minimize damage from severe weather. Red Lake Electric regularly trims trees throughout our service territory to improve service reliability. If you spot a tree limb that is obstructing a distribution power line outside your home, please call Red Lake Electric so we can trim those limbs and maintain those lines.

By working together to understand the essential equipment (32169 Cass R Simmons) that powers daily life, we can all be better prepared to start the repair and restoration process if severe weather impacts our community.

New Facilities

Construction is underway for our new facilities located west of our current facilities along International Drive in Red Lake Falls. Construction is on track to be completed Oct. 31, 2026. We will be keeping you all informed with the progress of the new facilities through our newsletter, Facebook page and website.

Red Lake Electric would like to invite our members to the groundbreaking ceremony to be held on **Wednesday, July 23, at 2:30 p.m.** After the ceremony, root beer floats will be served in our shop area.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call our office or contact me directly.

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.

Co-op members enlightened by the power plant tour

On June 16 and 17, members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative and Clearwater-Polk Electric participated in a tour that included visits to Fort Mandan, the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, and the Milton R. Young Station.

The tour started with a stop at Minnkota Power Cooperative's headquarters in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Tour participants heard from Emily Windjue and Kaylee Cusack (Minnkota communications specialists), viewed the control center and took a tour of the warehouse. Minnkota's control center staff monitors Minnkota's transmission lines and load levels throughout northwest Minnesota and northeast North Dakota.

The second stop on the first day included a visit to Fort Mandan and the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Washburn, North Dakota. The historic site of Fort Mandan is located on privately owned land along the northeast banks of the Missouri, about 12 miles west of the city of Washburn. The exact location is unknown (24336 Maynard Solberg) and may be partially submerged by the river. A modern reconstruction of Fort Mandan and the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, managed by the North Dakota Department of Parks and Recreation, is located about 10 miles downriver.

The final destination of the first day was Comfort Inn and Suites in Mandan, North Dakota. Tour participants were treated to a delicious evening banquet, courtesy of Minnkota. The evening program consisted of a presentation on the role Minnkota plays in the generation and transmission of electricity for Red Lake Electric, Clearwater-Polk Electric, and nine other electric cooperatives in northwest Minnesota and northeast North Dakota.

The second day of the trip included a tour of the Young Station. The station includes two coal-fired electric plants. Minnkota receives about 250,000 kilowatts from Young 1 and 355,000 kilowatts from Young 2.

The next segment of the tour included a visit to the open-pit lignite coal mines of BNI Coal. BNI has the contract to supply the lignite for the Young Station. Combined, the two electric generating plants consume over 4 million tons of lignite coal annually. BNI has very large equipment that is used in the lignite mining process. Equipment used for stripping the overburden is called a dragline.

Mother Nature was very cooperative, allowing an excellent (30069 Jason R Homme) visit/tour of the open-pit lignite coal mines and BNI's dragline, Liberty, which is equipped with a 77-cubic-yard bucket.

Being able to see the process firsthand gives participants a much better understanding and often a better appreciation of what is involved in the generation and transmission of electricity. It is a complex process to get energy from a coal field in southwest North Dakota to an appliance in northwest Minnesota.



SCHOLARSHIPS

2025 RECIPIENTS

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 24 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!



Guy Bergeson
Angel & Skip Bergeson
Red Lake County Central



Carlie Casavan
Kathy & Ryan Casavan
Lincoln High School



Owen Chervestad
Jill & Aaron Chervestad
Red Lake County Central



Kendra Christianson
Paula & Keith Christianson
Red Lake County Central



Morgan Coan
Deanna & Robert Coan
Goodridge High School



Javyn Eidelbes
Mya & Jared Eidelbes
Lincoln High School



Kale Farbo
Jill & Robby Farbo
Lincoln High School



Quinn Graves
Megan Halvorson
& Kenneth Graves
Red Lake County Central



Mackenzie Funk
Kristin & Curtis Funk
Crookston High School



Jaxon Hams
Lisa & Jon Hams
Lincoln High School



Anika Hanson
Ester & Ehren Hanson
Lincoln High School



Emily Hanson
Jessica & Kjell Hanson
Lincoln High School



Daphne Harmoning
Lesley & Mike Harmoning
Lafayette High School



Kaitlyn Helmeke
Jonette Ryan & Randy C Nelson
Marshall County Central



Grady Hockstedler
Pam & Richard Hockstedler
Marshall County Central



Brock Knott
Jannelle & Jason Knott
Lafayette High School



Aidan Loiland
Allison Bacon & Jeremy Loiland
Marshall County Central



Ashlyn Nelson
Alyssa & Quinten Nelson
Goodridge High School



Everett Nelson
Kayla & Kyle Nelson
Lincoln High School



Joey Nesseth
Brandi & Benjamin Nesseth
Crookston High School



Randi Rowley
Donna Hasby & Randy Rowley
Lafayette High School



Chesney Salo
Courtney & Jason Salo
Goodridge High School



Brayden Ste. Marie
Kelli & Andy Brateng
& Travis Klinkhammer
Lafayette High School



Jamisen Wilson
Jerilyn & Jim Wilson
Goodridge High School

UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

The following people have refunds due to them. Checks mailed to their last-known address have been returned by the Postal Service. These former members may contact Red Lake Electric by calling the office at 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068 or via email at info@redlakeelectric.com.

ABRAHAMSON, TIMOTHY J. AKER, AMANDA OR S. M. ALCOZER, ARTURO ANDERSON, DAVID ANDERSON, TRAVIS S. ANDERSON, DUANE A. ANDERSON, ARDA ANDERSON, SARAH R. ASP, GRANT L. AUBOL, DUANE AURORA LOAN SERVICES BACON, DAN BAKKE, TRACY F. BAKKEN, GILMER BARTH, ANDY D. BARVELS, SHERYL BASHER, VALERIE BASKI, CHARLIE C. BEDA, KELLY OR CHRISTOPHER BENEDICK, JODY J. BERGMAN, JAMES BLOMQUIST, JASON BOGESTAD, GARY B. BOHM, MARK OR MELANIE BORDERS, MICHAEL S. BORNHOLDT, JOHN E. BRAUSEN, TOM OR TAMMY BRAVO, VIRGINIA BRAY, JEROME L. BRENNY, RAYMOND J. BROWN, DEREK I. BRULE, GLORIA BUDNICK, YVONNE BURIAN, MARLIS A. BUSTRECK, BETTY CAMARA, AUNDREA CARLSON, WALTER D. CARLSON, KIM CASAVAN, JENNIFER L. CLIBURN, CINDY COLDWELL BANKER CONNER DENAULT, LEONA CONWAY, JOSHUA CRITSER, VERENA CURREY, ROLLAND CZABIEWSKI, KELLI DAHLIN, DANIEL DALE, DANNY OR MICHELLE DEBOER, CLARICE J. DEITER, ROBIN DELAGE, MELONI V. DELANEY, RITA DELCASTILLO, NITA DELEON, FRANK DENAULT, LEONA M. DEROSIER, ANTHONY DISSE, JAMES DONARSKI, LEO DORN, LARRY J. DORR, ROBERT J. DUFFY, SARA DURHEIM, MONA R. DYRDAL, DAVID E. EASTHOUSE, FLORENCE ECKERT, MIKE EISERT, MAXINE L. ELLISON, JOHN F. ENGVALL, JIM	ERICKSON, WAYNE OR AMY FAIRBANKS, ANTHONY FALDET, ALVINA FOSTER, MICHAEL FREEMAN, DAN FULLER HANSEN, ERMA FYHRIE, TROY L. GALIZIA, DAWN M. GARCEAU, BRIAN GARDNER, MEXETTA R. GOULET, JOY GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH GREISEN, JEFFREY S. GRIFFIN, JAMES R. HAHN, ANDY D. HAHN, JAROD HAWK, TINA M. HAYES, JAMES HAZUKA, ROBERT D. HEART O'LAKES REALTY HELKENN, WILLIAM M. HELM, TERRY HENDRICKSON, CHARLES B. HENNAGER, DUANE E. HESTER, JONADENE D. HILL, BRANDI OR DUANE HODNE, HARRIET I. HOFFMAN, JOHN C. HOUSKER, GARY HUSCHLE, CODY OR JACKI IHRKE, DARLENE IVERSON, KEVIN JENSURD, DONALD JIMISON, TRACY F. JOHNSON, DEAN JOHNSON, SUSIE JOHNSON, KENT D. JOHNSON, ALAN N. JOHNSON, DAVID L. JOHNSON, CINDY KAPPES, JERRY KAPPES, JULIE KASPER, STEVEN KELLER PAZDERNIK, ROSALENE KETCHUM, COLETTE KIM LEONARD C.S. KJELLBERG, PATRICIA KLADE, ROBERT J. KLASEN, LOUISE KLITZKE, WILLARD KNUTSON, ELODA KOESTNER, JOAN KOPARI, JOHN B. KRUEGER, SALLY KUZNIA, JANELLE LANCTO, JEFFREY LANKFORD, KEITH LARSON, NATHANIEL LASKY, BRIAN LICHTSINN, NORMAN W. LIEN, JEFF A. LINDAHL, CRAIG LINDSTROM, BARBARA J. LIZAKOWSKI, ANITA LIZAKOWSKI, BRAD LORENTZEN, KEITH R. LOUKAS, JOHN G. LUND, DENNIS D. LUNDON, JOY	LUNDQUIST, BILL J. MACK, JEROME MAGNELL, PENNY FOSTER, MICHAEL MAKI, JOHN MANDERUD, IDA MARIOTTI, TONY R. MARTELL, GAVEN MEINE JR., WILLARD D. MELVIE, GAYLAN G. MESABA AIRLINES MEYER, MARK MEYER, FRANCES MILLER, BRENDA MILLER, AUDREY S. MOORE, KATHLEEN MORAN, DALE A. MURRAY, JOHN M. MYERS, ROBIN NAESETH, LOWELL NELSON, JAMES R. NELSON, BRENDA NELSON, KURT D. NEUMAN, JEREMY OR HEATHER NOEL JR., GEORGE NORDHEIM, SANDRA NORDHEIM, RORY NORMANDIN, DORIS NORTHERN PCS NORTH-HOLT ELECTRIC INC. NUNN, SANA ODE, WAYNE U. O'DELL, TRACY M. O'HARA, PEGGY OLBERG, BRANDEIS J. OLIPHANT, JON OLSON, EMMA C. OMLID, SID PAPER, VERSO PATTERSON, LOUIS PAULSON, ROY OR CARMEN PAULSON, RICHARD PAULSON, CORIANNA PEARSON, MALAINNA D. PETERSON, MILTON L. PETERSON, KIM PETERSON, CORY L. PETERSON, MARK PINKERTON, RICHARD PITTMAN, AMY OR RUTHIE POOLE, LISA M. PRESTON, JEANETTE RDR INC. REED, PAT A. REESE, GEORGE OR EVELYN REESE, AMBROSE N. REIMCHE, CHRISTIAN OR JOAN REUTER, TIMOTHY RICHARDS, PAUL RINGLING, CINDY RITTER, C. ERNEST OR ERIC ROBY, AREATHO ROCKWELL, WILFRED R. ROED, CHARLES OR DENISE RONDORF, KATHERINE ROPPE, LAURA ROTH, ZETTA ROULAND, LYNN G.	ROUTIER, ROY OR ROSIE RUDE, GAIL S. SALENTINE, DAVID SANDS, JEFFREY E. SCHENKEY, ANDY SELF, ROBERT SHARP, STACY SHEFLAND FLYING SERVICE SHEIK, RICHARD D. SHERWOOD, DAWN M. SIECKERT, JAMES M. SIMENSON, GEORGE R. SIMPSON, LUCILLE SKOGSTAD, DENNIS SLYT, RICHARD SMITH, CATHY OR ANDREW SNEGIREV, MARK SOARES, ED OR DOROTHY SOLHEIM, JERRY OR BETH SPAULDING, MICHAEL SPENST, BETTY STARK, CARL STATELY, RAMONA STEN, MARGARET D. STENNES, BURTON STEVA, SHELLEY STINE, LAUREL J. STOCKWELL, CINDI STRANDBERG, RYAN STROM, MARSHALL SUKO, IRA J. SWANSON, JASON C. SWANSON, PEGGY SWANSON, WELDON SWANSON, WESLEY C. SWANSON, CHARLES SWICK LOVENA, MYRTLE TERRELL, ABBY THIBERT, JOANN THOMPSON, ROGER C. TOUPIN, NATHAN TRICKLE, JAMES R. VANDEHEY, ANNETTE VANROOY, MARVEL VARNADO, HEATHER A. VERGAL, PHILIP J. VERIZON WIRELESS VETTLESON, SETH VEZINA, LOIS VILEN, JOSEPHINE VOS, AARON T. WALLS, JOHN G. WARK, MACKENZIE WATERWORTH, ANDREW P. WEGGE, DEAN WELLETING, TWILA WESTMAN, KRISTI WHYTE, DUANE WIK, STANLEY WILDE, JARROD OR KARI WILKINSON, REBECCA OR JOHN WILLS, JENNIFER L. WINDAHL, MILO WINTER, KEITH A. WISETH, MARILYN WISETH, BRADY YOOS, FRED C. YOUNGMAN, PAUL
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OPERATION ROUND UP®
GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Organizations involved in community projects and charities are encouraged to apply for funds from Operation Round Up at this time. Completed grant applications are due in the Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) office by **Friday, Sept. 19, 2025**.

Operation Round Up is a program adopted by RLEC headquartered in Red Lake Falls. Members choosing to “round up” their monthly electric bill payment provide funds for this effort. Today 97% of RLEC members now choose to contribute pennies each month to enhance their communities.

Funds will be donated primarily to nonprofit organizations to help fund specific projects or programs. Since the program began in 1993, \$696,171 has been granted to community organizations and charities. Money is donated for the betterment of the community within the outside service area boundaries of RLEC.

The Red Lake Electric Trust Board of Directors determines grants. Board members are Stacy Bierman, Thief River Falls; Pamela Vettleson, Plummer; Laura Kasprovicz, Thief River Falls; Stephanie Johnson, Gatzke; and Bonnie Christians, Crookston.

To apply for Operation Round Up grant, organizations should contact the RLEC office in Red Lake Falls at **218-253-2168** or **800-245-6068**. A short application must be completed and submitted along with a financial statement from the organization.

Grant application forms are available on the cooperative’s website: **www.redlakeelectric.com**

For more information contact Stephanie Johnson, General Manager of RLEC, at **218-253-2168** or **800-245-6068**.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

MINNKOTA TRANSMISSION LINE
INSPECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR FALL

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Red Lake Electric Cooperative’s wholesale power provider, will be inspecting its transmission line structures in preparation for upcoming project work. EXO, a contractor, will be assisting Minnkota personnel in the pole testing. All inspections will be completed using ATVs/UTVs. Minimal land disturbance is anticipated.



The purpose of these inspections is to ensure that electricity can be delivered safely and reliably to your area, as well as prioritize project work. If you have questions, please visit **minnkota.com** or call **701-795-4000**.



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

Blueberry Cheesecake Bars

INGREDIENTS

Graham Cracker Crust:

- 1 ½ cups graham cracker crumbs
- 6 tablespoons butter, melted
- ¼ cup granulated sugar

Cheesecake Layer:

- 16 ounces (2 packages) cream cheese, softened
- 2 large eggs, room temperature
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ¼ teaspoon salt

Blueberry Sauce:

- 1 ½ cups fresh blueberries, divided
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch

Brown Sugar Pecan Topping:

- ¾ cup brown sugar
- ¾ cup pecans, chopped
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup butter, melted

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C) and line a baking pan with parchment paper for easy removal.
2. Combine graham cracker crumbs, sugar, and melted butter; press into the pan to form the crust.
3. Bake crust for 10 minutes until golden, then cool completely while keeping the oven on.
4. Beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth; add eggs one at a time, followed by vanilla extract.
5. Pour cheesecake filling over cooled crust, spreading evenly (31834 Jeremiah J DeBoer) without disturbing the crust.
6. Spoon and swirl blueberry pie filling on top to create a marbled effect.
7. Bake for 30–35 minutes until edges are set and center jiggles slightly.
8. Cool at room temperature, then chill in the fridge for at least 4 hours, or overnight.
9. Lift bars using parchment paper, slice into squares and enjoy!

6 WAYS TO SAVE ON YOUR SUMMER ELECTRICITY BILL

The summer heat can sometimes feel impossible to beat. Your air conditioner (A/C) is working overtime to try and keep your home or business cool and comfortable. The harder your A/C is working, the higher your electricity bill could be. Help out your home and your wallet by trying these six simple ways to save on your summer electricity bill.



CHECK YOUR AIR CONDITIONER

Regularly inspecting your A/C unit can ensure it is functioning as efficiently as possible. Vacuum air vents regularly to remove dirt, dust and pet hair buildup. Replacing a dirty A/C filter every month or two can lower your energy usage. If you suspect your A/C unit is in need of service, be sure to reach out to a certified HVAC technician.



UTILIZE YOUR CEILING FANS

Don't let the savings a fan could offer breeze past you! A ceiling fan works great when paired with your A/C unit. The wind chill effect created by a fan allows you to keep your thermostat four degrees higher without a change in comfort.



AVOID USING YOUR OVEN

You heard us right! A conventional oven can heat a house or apartment and force your A/C to keep up. This summer, bust out the crockpot and fire up the grill to enjoy some delicious summertime meals while also saving on your electricity bill!



CLOSE YOUR BLINDS

The best thing you can do to avoid sunbathing in your living room is to keep the blinds closed on southern- and western-facing windows. Open northern-facing windows to allow natural light into your home without heating it up.



SWITCH TO LED LIGHT BULBS

An LED light gives off significantly less heat (29812 Jennifer B Reigstad) and uses 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs. Soak up those cool savings by switching your home or business over to LED bulbs.



UNPLUG

If you aren't using it, unplug it. Computers, toasters, gaming devices and other gadgets all generate a small amount of heat in a room. Unplug to save on your electricity bill all year-round.