

McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

October 2015

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Official publication of



Health Nut Pantry opens in Glencoe

Borrowed start-up money from Co-op's economic development loan fund



Janette Goettl, owner of The Health Nut Pantry, wants to share her success with natural foods to help other people get healthy. Her store carries locally-grown produce and natural products.



As you drive east on Hwy. 22 through Glencoe, you will notice that the former Gerry's Vision building is now home to The Health Nut Pantry. Janette Goettl has leased the approximately 1,150-square-foot store from Heidi Klockman, former owner of Gerry's Vision.

A lot of McLeod County residents have been waiting to get a natural food store started in the community. About a year ago a steering committee led by Janette Goettl of rural Brownton was trying to form a Food Co-op. After much effort, the group learned that it would take years of raising funds and recruiting enough members to successfully open a natural food cooperative. The members of the Glencoe Food Co-op voted to dissolve.

There were still a lot of local residents that wanted a store in town specializing in natural and healthful foods. There were quite a few people driving a great distance to shop at food co-ops in other communities. So Janette Goettl decided to open the natural food grocery store herself with the use of personal funds, loans from private investors, and an economic development loan from McLeod Cooperative Power. By developing the store as a

private venture, she was able to open the doors within six months of initial planning.

In response to a cancer diagnosis two years ago, Goettl went to an all-organic diet. Today she is thriving and healthy and wants to use her success with natural foods to help other people get healthy. Following her diagnosis she started researching and found out how important it is to eat healthy. She is currently studying to become a Certified Nutrition Counselor and eventually a Master Herbalist.

On Saturday, September 19, The Health Nut Pantry officially opened for business. It is located one block east of McLeod Cooperative Power in the former Gerry's Vision building on the corner of Hwy. 22 and Greeley Avenue in Glencoe. The store features fresh and organic food, and locally-grown fruits and vegetables.

The Health Nut Pantry carries bulk items such as nuts, flour, spices, teas and coffees. It offers supplements and vitamins, free-range eggs, organic milk, lactose-free milk and milk alternatives such as almond and cashew milk. The store has peanut butter and almond grinders; simply put raw nuts in the container, grind it, and it comes out peanut or almond butter (without any other additives).

Goettl's store offers locally-raised chicken, pork, and grass-fed beef, and uncured bacon. All meat is GMO-free and antibiotic-free.

Goettl cautioned that the cost of organic food is usually higher than standard grocery store fare. She said, "You can pay for it now or pay for it later with

Health Nut Pantry continues on page 8

Cooperatives are Unique (Seven Principles)

- Owned by the people who use their services.
- Not-for-profit entities that operate for the economic benefit of their members.
- Democratic organizations controlled by their members.
- Independent, self-help organizations.
- Provide education, training, and awareness on their form of business.
- Support one another for the benefit of their communities.
- Focus on developing and giving back to their communities.



Correcting neutral-to-earth voltage conditions

Electrical supply systems delivering power to farms, homes and businesses are grounded to the earth to make them as safe as possible and to ensure their reliability. Proper grounding of these electric systems is not only essential, but a requirement of the codes that govern both home and utility practices. Because electric current is designed to be carried by the grounded conductors (neutral conductors), these wires will have a small voltage associated with them. Objects that are bonded to the neutral conductors will therefore have a voltage on them.

A consequence of the electrical system in the United States is "stray voltage." Stray voltage is often defined as a small voltage (less than 10 volts) that exists on grounded objects that are within close proximity to livestock. If an animal touches a grounded object, such as a metal drinking cup, while standing on an ungrounded floor or on soil,



a current can flow through the animal's body. If the voltage level is high enough, the resulting current may be sensed by the cow. Stray voltage can result in a cow behavioral issue with the livestock operator. Hesitation to drink from a waterer, or enter a parlor, can be a behavioral symptom of stray voltage.

Although stray voltage is present on all distribution systems, humans usually do not notice it. However, livestock — especially dairy cows — are particularly sensitive.

The goal is to keep the voltage level low enough that it will not cause a problem on the farm. Stray voltage can also result from deteriorating and improper wiring, faulty equipment, or improper grounding. Because of high electric use, high humidity, silage acids and manure, a dairy farm is not the ideal environment for electrical wiring.

McLeod Co-op Power offers stray voltage investigations to its members at no charge. For more information call McLeod Co-op Power at 320-864-3148 or 1-800-494-6272.

Bills & payments being delayed by postal service changes

If you mail your payment in each month, please allow three or more days for delivery to make sure it arrives by the 28th due date to avoid a late payment charge. Changes at the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) mean we can no longer rely upon next-day delivery.

On January 5, the USPS lowered its service standards for delivery of First Class and Periodicals Mail. We verified through the USPS website that this change in service standards will mean longer processing time for First Class Mail. The USPS estimates that only 20% of First Class Mail volume is expected to be delivered overnight, and the remaining 80% will take at least 2-3 days, even from one address to another within the same town.

The Co-op recommends that members either sign up for the automatic bank draft program or make sure to mail payments several days before they are due. Many of our members use automatic bank draft as it is the most secure and cost-effective method of payment for both you and the Co-op. To sign up for our Bank Draft program you can contact our office at 1-800-494-6272 or download the pdf authorization form from our website. Visit our website at www.mcleodcoop.com, select Customer Service tab, and then select Payment Options to view the details of the Direct Payment Plan.

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All member story ideas and comments are welcome.
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McLeod Cooperative Power Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Farm Fatigue “Buckets of Thanks” Event

McLeod Co-op Power assisted the Glencoe and Hutchinson Area Chamber of Commerce organizations with their 14th annual Farm Fatigue “Buckets of Thanks” Event. The Agri-business committees of the two Chamber organizations gather food, wellness, and safety items from Chamber members. The donated items are packed in buckets (donated by Miller Manufacturing) and hand delivered to the local McLeod County farmers out in the field during harvest time.

This program has been an important way to let farmers know they are an important part of our community and economy. It also is a reminder to area farmers to be safe during harvest. About 300 buckets were delivered early in October by a variety of business volunteers. McLeod Co-op Power employees helped pack and distribute buckets this year.

August Outage Summary

During the month of August the Cooperative had a total of 33 outages, affecting 1,983 consumers. Seven outages were caused by farm machinery or motor vehicles, seven were related to trees in the lines, four were caused by squirrels, and two were caused by crop dusting airplanes.

The largest outage for August was Saturday, August 22. It was an Xcel Energy transmission line outage about 3:35 p.m. that interrupted service to both the New Germany and Hollywood substations in Carver County, causing 1,267 MCPA members to be without power for 43 minutes.

Due to strong winds on August 22, trees also caused other outages. Three outages north of Hutchinson put 438 members in the dark for 30 minutes to two hours, depending on which outage affected them.

Most outages affect only one or two members. They are frequently caused by small animals, trees in the line, equipment failure, or motor vehicle/machinery accidents. Larger outages affecting hundreds of members at a time are usually caused by transmission outages, storms, equipment failure to substation equipment, or accidents. Restoration time on weekend and evening outages, when line crews are called out from home, usually take a little longer to restore than outages when crews are already out working on the project.

Manager’s Message — by Carrie L. Buckley, General Manager



The Great Conservation Paradox

Have you ever wondered why MCPA encourages members to conserve energy when the Co-op is in the business to sell electricity?

The practice of utility conservation falls under the oversight of rules written by the Minnesota Department of Commerce and energy-efficiency laws passed by the Minnesota Legislature. These rules and laws drive conservation decisions for all electric utilities in the state.

The trend really took hold in 2007 after Minnesota passed the Next Generation Energy Act. Since then, state law mandates that all utilities reduce their energy sales by 1.5 percent of their annual revenues each year.

Utilities are required to spend money on conservation measures like rebates for energy- efficiency products and programs. We are also required to provide the state with proof that consumers are indeed conserving energy every year.

What makes it even harder is that last year’s energy savings don’t count this year. The clock, or the “count” if you will, starts over every year. Most business teachers would tell you this is not a sustainable way to operate or maintain a business.

Does conservation affect the Co-op’s electric rates?

Upward pressure is put on rates when members use less energy. The tipping point occurs when costs continue to rise and energy sales fall. That is not good for any business, including your not-for-profit electric cooperative.

Historically, growth in the number of consumers and growth in energy sales helped alleviate upward pressure on electric rates. Since 2007, growth has slowed to a virtual standstill and utilities are looking for different ways to recover costs and still meet the obligation to serve consumers with safe and reliable electricity.

What’s it all about?

The conservation movement is about conserving energy and using it wisely. It’s not about saving money. When individual consumers practice conservation, it helps lower individual electric bills for a period of time, but it’s only a small snapshot in the big picture of time.

Some folks say that conserving energy will help lower the cost of electricity because it prevents the “next plant” from being built. But all the conservation in the world won’t prevent the onslaught of new electricity generation that will come online in the next 30 years because of the EPA’s Clean Power Plan.

The EPA is saying that something has to replace coal. And whether it’s a solar system on your rooftop or a wind farm in North Dakota, there is a cost to build, maintain, service and supply any electricity generation source. Those added costs will be reflected in what we all pay for electricity.

Which brings us back to the Great Conservation paradox.

A paradox is a statement that apparently contradicts itself and yet might be true (or wrong at the same time). It promotes critical thinking.

Don’t take us wrong. Conservation is not a bad thing. It has many positive outcomes, but if you are only “in it for the money,” don’t hold your cards too long. There is a cost to conservation.

If everyone conserves more and more electricity, there is still an obligation for all utilities to provide safe and reliable service. More and more cooperatives have either adopted or are moving towards a long-term rate philosophy that insulates the Co-op and the members from the uncertainty of politics, the ups and downs of sales that are dependent upon the weather, price volatility with seasonal energy markets and independent grid operators.

MCPA is currently doing a cost of service and rate study. Myself and your board of directors will be discussing the best long-term rate philosophy for our Cooperative. It is important that MCPA continues to provide safe and reliable service to our members, maintains the financial stability of our Co-op, and recovers our fixed costs fairly across all rate classes. I will keep you informed as your board decides the best method to accomplish these challenges.

Thanks to Mark Bakk and Mike Birkeland of Lake Country Power for their contributions to this article.

DC Diesel fills a needed niche for farmers, industries, airline

It's 3 p.m. Wednesday afternoon and it's going to take another five hours on the combine to get the last of the beans in before a late-season rain hits tomorrow. Out of the blue, the combine seizes up and you're not going to get another bean up.

What do you do? Call someone to pick you up and spend the next how many hours trying to repair the combine and hope the weather report is wrong?

Well, that was about the only option until 2010, when Mark Pollmann of Glencoe opened up a full-service diesel repair, parts and maintenance shop located between Forest City and Kimball.

"There's very little competition anywhere," Mark said. "It's such a specialized service."

Fortunately for farmers, users of industrial and other large diesel machinery and vehicles, construction companies and even Delta Airlines, DC Diesel LLC is available to repair emergencies in the field, scheduled repairs and maintenance, and supply diesel engine parts to those folks who prefer to do it themselves.

Trained in automotive mechanics at Ridgewater College in Hutchinson, Mark has spent most of his career repairing personal vehicles and working in the automotive parts industry. His last auto mechanic job was at Tangen Ford in Litchfield. Since then he co-owned and operated DC Parts just west of Dassel.

Mark lives in Glencoe with his wife, Holly, who is employed at the Hutchinson Hospital.



DC Diesel personnel (left to right): Tim Soukup, Sherri Winkelman, Zach Wright, Marie Williamson, owner Mark Pollmann, Amy Juelich, and Cameron Birkholz in front of a DC Diesel vehicle used to transport clients' loads.

Their son, Tyler and daughter, Ashley, live in St. Cloud and Norfolk, Virginia, respectively. However, he drives to rural Kimball to do business.

"I got to know the people in this area and enjoy working with them," Mark said.

"Working with them" includes rescuing stranded farmers with engine trouble, doing regular maintenance on company-owned diesel trucks and industrial equipment and selling diesel parts.

"We can handle any diesel-related repair, from minor to major."

But that's not all they do to fill a need.

"We also are a brokerage company for truck driving," Mark said. "We are the middle man between companies who have product to haul and drivers with trucks who will haul loads. We also have trucks of our own that we can use to haul for farmers or other businesses."

DC Diesel's biggest client is Delta Airlines.

"Some of their older equipment they'll bring out here and we'll work on it in our shop.



DC Diesel LLC, located northwest of Forest City near Kimball, are available to repair diesel engines in the field or at their shop.

Other clients include the City of Buffalo, who hires DC Diesel to maintain and repair their diesel generators; and Agri Systems of Litchfield, whose vehicles are maintained and serviced by Mark and his crew.

"I owe all of our success to the employees; the gals in the office and the techs working hard," Mark said. "We wouldn't be where we are today without them."

For more information or to take advantage of their services, you can find DC Diesel online at <http://dcdieselllc.com>, or call them at 320-398-9009.

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Protect your home and family from electrical fires

Each year, electrical failures and malfunctions cause 43,900 home fires, resulting in 438 deaths, 1,430 injuries, and \$1.47 billion in property damage. But many home electrical fires can be prevented simply by understanding basic electrical safety principles and following safe practices.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) have teamed up to offer safety tips to help protect your home and family:

- Safety should always be the top priority when working with electricity. ESFI recommends that a qualified, licensed electrician perform all home electrical work in compliance with local and national safety standards.
- Consider having your circuit breakers replaced with arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs), which provide enhanced electrical fire protection by detecting dangerous arcing conditions.
- Make sure all electrical panel circuits are properly labeled. Always replace fuses or circuit breakers with the correct size and amperage.
- Keep the area around the electrical panel clear so you can easily shut off power in an emergency.
- Every month, use the TEST button to check that ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) at outlets and AFCIs are working properly.
- Be mindful of warning signs of an electrical problem, such as outlets and switches that are



warm or make crackling, sizzling, or buzzing noises.

- Regularly check cords, outlets, switches, and appliances for signs of damage. Do not use damaged electrical devices.
- Do not use extension cords on a permanent basis, and never use them with space heaters or air conditioners.
- Avoid overloading outlets.
- Do not use lightbulbs that exceed the recommended wattage of the light fixture or lamp.

Despite your best efforts at prevention, a fire could still happen. Follow these tips to make sure your family is prepared to make a safe escape:

- Install smoke alarms inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home.
- Test smoke alarms every month by pushing the TEST button.
- Create a family fire escape plan that includes two ways out of each room.
- Pick an easy-to-find meeting place outside, a safe distance from your home.
- Practice your escape plan by having at least two fire drills a year. One fire drill should be at night while your family is sleeping.
- If anyone in your household is deaf, or if your own hearing is diminished, consider installing a smoke alarm that uses a flashing light or vibration to alert you to a fire emergency.

Industry News

CPP Puts Financial Squeeze on Co-ops

The carbon emissions reductions mandated by the Clean Power Plan (CPP) may force many rural electric cooperatives to prematurely close their coal-fired power plants, creating a multibillion-dollar debt headache for the nonprofit electricity providers, as well as the federal agency that loaned them the cash to build and update those plants.

Rural co-ops, which came into existence largely thanks to the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, serve 42 million people in the U.S., frequently in high-poverty areas. Given the need for the cheapest electricity possible, the fuel mix for co-ops is skewed heavily toward coal — about 70 percent of the electricity generated by generation and transmission co-ops and 58 percent of the electricity sold by distribution co-ops, according to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, a trade group.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan calls for existing power plants to slash their greenhouse gas emissions by 32 percent from 2005 levels by 2030. While compliance will be costly for all coal-heavy utilities, it could be especially costly for nonprofit, member-owned co-ops, advocates say.

"We would no longer have a working asset that is producing energy, but members would still have to pay that debt and we'd have to replace the generation," Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc. CEO Lisa Johnson said. "That would be leaving them to pay twice for the same amount of energy."

Source: Keith Goldberg | Law360

GRE's plan wins regulatory approval

Minnesota's second largest power company is back in the good graces of state utility regulators. Great River Energy (GRE), which serves 655,000 customers in 28 Minnesota electric cooperatives, recently won regulatory approval of its 15-year business outlook known as an integrated resource plan.

That's a big change from two years ago, when the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC), in an unprecedented step, rejected the utility's last plan. Such plans are required from utilities every two years to make sure they are serving customers and complying with state laws, such as renewable energy and pollution control requirements.

In its latest plan, Great River Energy said it will add wind and hydro power but won't retire any of its three coal-burning power plants. Environmental groups had urged closing the oldest coal burners to reduce emissions.

The PUC accepted Great River's plan in a 5-0 vote in early September. Even so, the utility's reliance on coal to generate 67 percent of its electricity faces more scrutiny under the federal Clean Power Plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions. That separate regulatory process will play out in North Dakota, where the coal power plants are located.

GRE Press Release

Protect What Matters Most



PROTECT YOUR HOME AND FAMILY AGAINST:

FIRE
A monitored smoke sensor allows us to call the fire department immediately if your fire alarm sounds.

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Notice to Members who are behind in your bill payments

The Cold Weather Rule may not protect you!

Make plans now to pay your bill to avoid being without electricity this winter.

McLeod Cooperative Power regularly disconnects the electrical supply of members who do not pay for the electricity they use. While we dislike to have to disconnect members, it would not be fair to our other members if we allow certain members to use electricity for free while our other members pay.

The Cold Weather Rule was adopted to protect some people from having their primary source of electric heat disconnected between October 15 and April 15. However, this law doesn't mean there won't be disconnections. The law says that a person must be making regular payments or have set up a payment plan and be honoring those arrangements to avoid being disconnected. If you are behind in your payments and are counting on the Cold Weather Rule to protect

you from making any payments during the winter, think again. McLeod Cooperative Power will be doing disconnections this winter in accordance with the law.

Please read the full Cold Weather Rule summary below. The list of agencies who can provide assistance to qualifying residents having trouble paying their bill is on this page and is also listed on the back of any electric bill with a delinquent balance.

It is up to the member to make payment arrangements or seek assistance to avoid disconnection. Please do not wait. The sooner you contact us, the greater the chance you will have electricity all winter long. Call today at 320-864-3148 or 1-800-494-6272 for details about applying for shut-off protection or to make a reasonable payment arrangement.

Cold Weather Rule Summary

The Cold Weather Rule, which is part of the Public Utilities Act, prohibits utilities from disconnecting a residential customer for nonpayment during the coldest months of the year if the customer has met the requirements under item 1 below. Your Cooperative strictly adheres to that law and offers sources of help for those unable to pay their bill. The law reads as follows:

1 An electric cooperative must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a home between October 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit and all of the following conditions are met:

- Your total household income is less than 50 percent of the State Median Income.
- You have entered into a payment schedule and are reasonably current with your scheduled payments.
- You have contacted MCPA and have set up a payment arrangement.

If all of these items are not satisfied the electricity may be shut off due to non-payment.

2 Before disconnecting service to a residential customer during the cold weather months, the Cooperative will provide the following information to the customer:

- Notice of the proposed disconnection.
- A statement of the customer's rights and responsibilities.
- A list of local energy assistance providers.
- A statement explaining available time payment plans and other options to secure continued utility service.
- Inability to pay forms are available upon request.

3 Any residential customer whose service is disconnected on Oct. 15 may be reconnected if:

- The outstanding balance is paid.
- A mutually acceptable payment schedule is arranged.

Our members are important to McLeod Cooperative Power. We would rather work with you to set up a plan to pay your bill than disconnect your service.

4 The Cooperative will not disconnect service to a residential customer who has not responded to a disconnection notice

without first investigating whether the dwelling is actually unoccupied. This investigation shall include a personal visit to the dwelling. If the unit is found to be occupied, the Cooperative will immediately inform the occupant of his or her rights under this policy.

5 If an involuntary disconnection is to occur between Oct. 15 and April 15, then the disconnection will not occur on a Friday or on the day before a holiday.

6 Any disputes over a residential customer's inability to pay for service, income eligibility, reasonableness of payment schedule or any other issue which a customer could raise under the Cold Weather Rule shall be referred for hearing, after reasonable notice, to the Cooperative's Board of Directors. The Cooperative and the customer shall have the right to present evidence and be heard in person at that hearing. The Cooperative's Board of Directors shall issue a written decision within 10 days after the hearing. No disconnection shall occur while a dispute is pending.

7 The Cooperative will notify all members, prior to Oct. 15, of its Cold Weather Rule. Names and contact numbers for energy assistance providers are listed on this page.

Energy Assistance Providers

Kandiyohi, McLeod & Meeker Counties

Heartland Community Action Agency

PO Box 1359, 200 4th St. SW
Willmar, MN 56201
218 Main St. S., Suite 108,
Hutchinson MN 55350
Toll free: 800-992-1710
McLeod: 800-829-2132

McLeod County area

McLeod County Social Service Center

1805 Ford Avenue North
Glencoe, MN 55336
(320) 864-3144
(320) 484-4330 (Hutchinson
Toll-Free)
1-800-247-1756 (Toll Free)

Renville County area

Renville County Energy Assistance Program

105 S. 5th Street, Suite 203H,
Olivia, MN 56277
320-523-2202
1-800-363-2533

Sibley County area

Sibley County Public Health & Human Services

111 8th Street
Gaylord, MN 55334
(507) 237-4000
1-866-396-9963

MN Valley Action Council

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706 N. Victory Dr.
Mankato, MN 56001
(507) 345-6822
1-800-767-7139 (Toll Free)

Carver County area

Scott-Carver-Dakota Community Action Agency

712 Canterbury Road South
Shakopee, MN 55379
(952)-496-2125

Wright County area

Wright County Community Action

130 West Division Street
Maple Lake, MN 55358
(320) 963-6500

Why do thousands of MCPA members participate in load management programs?

Most members that sign up for load management programs are looking to lower their electric bill or find a cost-effective alternative to fossil-fuel heating costs. They want to heat their water, or heat and cool their home with off-peak electricity.

For most members it is a significant financial savings. Off-peak rates are currently less than half of the general service electric rate and are often cheaper than fossil fuel competitors.

Not everyone is aware that each member who participates in load management is helping keep the costs down for the Co-op and the rest of the members as well. Load management participants purchase more kilowatts (at the off-peak rate) and are controlled over billing

peaks, thus reducing the Co-op's demand charges from our power supplier.

We would like to thank the thousands of members participating in the storage space heating and water heating programs, dual fuel, cycled cooling and other off-peak programs. We also encourage members who are not yet participating in load management programs to call the Co-op and inquire if there are programs that would be beneficial for their family. The Co-op's energy experts are available to help members determine if specific off-peak programs would save them money and work well for their home. There are currently rebates available on many of the programs when you sign up. Call 1-800-494-6272.

Can I save money with a new washing machine?

Tougher federal standards kicked in requiring all washers made after March 6, 2015 to use even less water and energy. That means the newest Energy Star-qualified washing machines will use 25 percent less energy and 40 percent less water than washers not carrying the Energy Star, according to Energy Star. There are big differences in water and energy efficiency and performance. Some washers do a poor job of washing, are tough on fabrics, or noisy. Do your homework. Go to Consumer Reports or other product rating organizations to find out which products perform best.



Top or front-loader?

Analysis from Consumer Reports magazine concluded: Top-loaders with center-post agitators typically cost less and wash the fastest, but performance is often unimpressive. High-efficiency top-loaders hold more laundry, use less water, and extract more of it. That cuts drying time, saving energy and money. Front-loaders generally use the least water and spin the fastest, resulting in the most savings. But with front-loaders and HE top-loaders you may have to make a few changes in the way you do laundry.

MCPA News Ads — Free want ad service for members.

Please limit your ad to nine words. Use the coupon printed here or available at McLeod Cooperative's front desk to submit your ad. Ads will be printed for one month only. Please submit a new ad if you want it published more than one month. Include your name and address, which will be used for identification purposes only. Ads must be received by October 28 to be included in the November issue. Thank you!

Please run this ad in the next MCPA News

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Remember to limit your ad to nine words!

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____

Clip and Send to: McLeod Cooperative Power, ATTN: Classified Ads
P.O. Box 70, Glencoe, MN 55336

Please check
ad category

- Giveaway
- For Rent
- For Sale
- Wanted

For Sale - Miscellaneous

- Kawasaki 1969 650SS. Total restoration, new paint, tires, battery. 320-587-8841
- HO, N, Z scale trains and many other accessories. 320-583-0704
- 1992 Chevy Astro van, AWD, 147,000 miles. \$500/obo. 320-522-2814
- 1968 Johnson outboard 6 hp motor, 6 gallon camo can. \$275. 612-718-7188
- Delta 1 1/2 hp dust collector. Like new. \$225. 952-467-3050
- Gas clothes Dryer. \$100. 320-587-8386
- Three old Sears school desks. 320-587-8386
- 6 X 6 X 12 dog fence plus large dog house. \$100. 612-803-4475
- Baldor 30 h.p. 3 ph motor. Little use. \$500. 320-583-3530

- 2-55 gallon barrels. \$10/each. 320-327-2472
- Burlap sacks w/colored printing or plain. Cheap. 507-964-2339
- 30 wood fence posts. All sizes. \$1.40/each. 320-587-7746
- Two wheel bicycle with jr seat and basket. 320-587-7746
- Ceramic greenware unpainted/unfired. Lots of Christmas items. 507-834-6333
- Stove works pickup camper (1980s?) good condition. 320-587-4446
- Lennox heat pump 13HPX. Like new. 320-420-4900
- Halloween/Thanksgiving towels, 3-D pillows, scrubies, baby quilts. 612-770-2791
- Embroidered dish towels 31 in X 35 in, set of 7. \$30. 320-510-0122
- US Stove 130,000BTU wood/coal furnace w/ extras. Nice. 320-587-5651

For Sale - Farm

- 1970 John Deere 3020 diesel cab dual hydraulics, 4,600hrs. \$15,000. 320-864-4494
- 10-ton Minnesota running gear. Adjustable hitch, good tires. \$750/obo. 320-583-4546
- Keweenaw 9 tooth chisel plow, 3pt hitch. 320-587-2280
- 7 in X 51 ft Allied auger, pto belt drive. 320-848-2660
- 86 big round bales meadow hay. \$25/each. 320-327-2450
- Ducks & geese live or dressed. 952-649-7661
- 45 ft X 9 in silo blower pipe. BO. 320-395-2861

Cleaning out your garage, attic or spare room? Try listing it for free in the MCPA classifieds.

These want ads are designed to help members buy items from or sell items to other members, or rent their property to members. They are not designed to advertise services or for-profit business pursuits. That is why we do not offer a services column and do not accept advertisements for commercial businesses.

Disclaimer – McLeod Cooperative Power Association (MCPA) assumes no liability for the content of, or reply to, any item posted. The party posting any advertisement assumes complete liability for the content of, and all replies to, any advertisement and for any claims against MCPA as a result thereof, and agrees to indemnify and hold MCPA harmless from all costs, expenses, liabilities and damages resulting from, or caused by, any advertisement or reply thereto.

Southern Minnesota Co-ops Complete Purchase of 43,000 IOU customers

At the end of July, Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative (SMEC) closed on a \$127 million deal to acquire areas previously served by investor-owned utility Alliant Energy. In the process, SMEC's dozen participating electric cooperatives welcomed more than 43,000 new consumer-members into the fold.

SMEC was formed in September 2013 to purchase Alliant's Minnesota distribution assets as the power company decided to pull up stakes in the state and focus on its operations in Iowa and Wisconsin.

"It took exceptional cooperation among all 12 cooperatives for this historic acquisition to become reality and CFC was a key partner in helping make it happen," said Brian Krambeer, president and CEO of Tri-County Electric Cooperative in Rushford, Minnesota, one of the systems involved, who also chaired the SMEC executive committee. "The acquisition provides us new economies of scale to spread our fixed costs over more members. This move is the single biggest positive action we can take to offset a portion of cost pressures arising from environmental compliance, integrating renewables, declining energy sales and general inflation."

The service territories of Alliant Energy and the 12 cooperatives had overlapped. North Star State cooperatives included in the transaction are BENCO Electric Cooperative, Mankato; Brown County Rural Electrical Association, Sleepy Eye; Federated Rural Electric Association, Jackson; Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services, Albert Lea; Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative, Jordan; Nobles Cooperative Electric, Worthington; People's Energy Cooperative, Oronoco; Redwood Electric Cooperative, Clements; South Central Electric Association, Saint James; Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, Owatonna; and Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Rushford. Also taking part was Sioux Valley Energy based in Colman, South Dakota, which serves members in Minnesota.

As part of the sale, 41 employees were added to cooperative ranks. In addition, Alliant Energy will supply wholesale power to the 12 cooperatives for their new members under a 10-year agreement.

"Expanding the not-for-profit cooperative business model through acquisitions of neighboring municipal electric systems or investor-owned utility territories not only benefits electric cooperatives everywhere, but also allows money that once flowed to distant stockholders to remain closer to home," said CFC CEO Sheldon C. Petersen.

MCPA has fund to help create new jobs in this area

McLeod Cooperative Power has an Economic Development Loan Fund established to assist with gap financing for business projects in McLeod, Renville, Sibley, and Carver Counties.

Back in 2005, McLeod Cooperative Power applied for a USDA grant on behalf of the Buffalo Lake Economic Development Authority to build a grocery store and bakery in downtown Buffalo Lake after the 2003 tornado destroyed many of the Main Street businesses. The Cooperative's Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund was established from that grant and as the loan funds have been repaid

over the years the fund has been built back up to where money is available to be loaned out for new projects. This is how the Co-op helped with gap financing for the Adult Training & Habilitation Recycling Center in Watertown.

McLeod Cooperative Power is committed to revitalizing the rural communities in our service area. It is our goal to utilize this revolving loan fund for job growth and economic health of our area. Applicants or projects do not need to be electric customers of McLeod Cooperative Power to apply for funding. Review and approval of loan applications and amounts rests with McLeod Cooperative Power.



The bakery in Buffalo Lake opened in September as the Sweet Home Bakery. It is located next to Main Street Market in downtown Buffalo Lake.

Buffalo Lake Bakery has new operators

It has been more than ten years since the bakery and grocery store opened in their new building in Buffalo Lake. This was one of the projects funded by MCPA's economic development loan fund.

On September 11, the bakery had a grand opening and re-opened as the Sweet Home Bakery by new operators Jason and Lisa Brandt. Prior to June of 2015 the bakery had been operated as the Down Home Bakery.

Credit is given to the Buffalo Lake Economic Development Authority which undertook the construction project and ownership of the building. They have also repaid the entire economic development loan to the Co-op's loan fund so we can now loan those funds to other start-up or expanding businesses.



Packaged natural flours, juices, canned and other grocery products fill the shelves.

Health Nut Pantry *continued from Page 1*

your health." Goettl recommends to her customers that they should "count chemicals, not calories," opting for the natural ingredients and healthy products.

The store features an organic lunch salad bar from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sometime soon she also hopes to expand it to a soup and sandwich bar. You can eat in or take out. Seating is available. Salads are paid for by the pound. Regular hours for the grocery store is Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The store features gluten-free items, some vegan items, baby items, beauty items, organic make-up, and books on health and natural healing. You can cut a slab of bulk Zumar goat's milk soap, or purchase lotions and other goat milk products distributed by Eddie's Nigerian Dwarf Goats of rural Glencoe. Healthy household cleaners and detergents are on the shelf too. Goettl hopes to keep expanding her inventory and will attempt to add products her customers want her to offer (they just need to ask).

The Health Nut Pantry has water in BPS-free bottles, with



An organic lunch salad bar is available for eat-in or take-out 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Grass-fed beef and other meat products, eggs, yogurt, fresh juice, cheese, and dairy products are available in the refrigerated and freezer sections.

a center to refill gallon BPS-free containers.

McLeod Cooperative Power partnered with Goettl and her investors in a low-interest economic development loan. The Co-op has a fund that helps new or expanding businesses with their job creation and business needs.

See the article on this page for more details on the Co-op's economic development revolving loan fund.



Energy Efficient Lighting Products



Energy Saving Devices & Products



Water Saving Products



Weatherization Products

Energy-saving products available at MCPA online store

If you need to purchase weatherization materials such as seal kits for doors and windows, door sweeps or outlet kits to better insulate your home, go to McLeod Co-op Power's online store. The link to the store is on the home page of MCPA's website at www.mcleodcoop.com.

You can also purchase energy efficient light bulbs, shower heads and water-saving products, appliance-monitoring devices, thermostats, thermometers, power strips, and other energy-conservation items. Visit the store to see if they have the products you are looking for.

Our partner who operates the online store, ships you the products, and handles any warranty issues is a cooperative in Indiana. They were formed by a group of rural electric co-ops who needed access to these products for their members.

McLeod Cooperative Power has a \$5 per bulb rebate available for the most popular LED light bulbs purchased by our members. When you click on the store link on our home page, you will go to the list of bulbs eligible for the \$5 rebate. The rebate is applied at checkout and will significantly reduce the cost of your order.