


OCTOBER 2022

VOLTS & VIEWS

 **Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

NORTHSTREAM
Powered by  Roseau Electric Cooperative **FIBER**



**OCTOBER IS
NATIONAL
CO-OP MONTH**

Please join us at Roseau Electric Cooperative to help us celebrate!

Roseau Electric Cooperative
Co-op Appreciation Day
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18

**SERVING LUNCH
FROM 11 A.M. TO 2 P.M.**

Please join us for turkey on a bun, beans, chips & cookies.
Sign up for prizes and enjoy visiting with your co-op friends and neighbors!

VOLTS & VIEWS

OCTOBER 2022 – Vol. 67, No. 10

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Regular Business Hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Phone (218) 463-1543

OUTAGE CALLS:

Toll-Free 1-888-847-8840

MINNESOTA STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)

Northwest Angle, Kittson, Marshall,
Pennington and Roseau counties
and parts of Beltrami County:

Ronald Ditsch – 651-368-2195

Lake of the Woods County:

Curt Collier – 218-966-5070

Inspector list is subject to change at any time.

The State of Minnesota has high wiring standards, which are in the best interest of you and your family or business. Improper wiring can damage your home, your property and equipment, and injure or kill the people you love. Currently, the state does allow homeowners to do their own residential wiring; however, it is critical that the current electrical code is followed. 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. For more information visit dli.mn.gov and go to the electrical page.

Gopher State One Call
1-800-252-1166 or 811
www.gopherstateonecall.org



Anyone who plans to dig is required by law to notify the state of their intentions at least 48 hours in advance. All digging requires the 48-hour notification so that buried telephone line, television cable, pipelines, utility electrical lines, municipal water and sewer lines can be located to ensure that none will be severed or damaged.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Roseau Electric Cooperative is committed to providing its member-owners low-cost, high-quality, safe and reliable electricity with friendly, efficient and knowledgeable service.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



From the manager

Tracey Stoll, General Manager

Preparing for winter

It's that time of year — time for some clear communication on paying your electric bill. In anticipation of moving quickly through fall to winter, we published the Cold Weather Rule, including contact information for aid agencies, in last month's (September) newsletter. As of Oct. 1 (through April 30), you have some additional protection from disconnection of power if you qualify. If you missed that notice, and need to refresh your recollection of what it covers, you can access an electronic copy of past newsletters from our website.

Communication is the key. It is never our goal to disconnect your power — we're in the business of providing that service — but, on behalf of all members, we do require your payment for that service. You should always receive your bill (mailed or electronically) by the 10th of each month. Our payment due date is always the 21st of the month. If that schedule does not work for you to meet your payment requirements, we need to know about it — please call our office so we can document some workable payment arrangements.

We continue to have a very good working relationship with our most-used aid agency, Northwest Community Action, in Badger. If you qualify (or wonder if you qualify) for assistance toward your energy billing, there

is a process to follow. Although we can help you through most of this process, we cannot apply on your behalf. Again, communication and follow-through are the keys, as when we check on possible assistance for you, one of the oft-heard replies is that Northwest is waiting on information to process your application.

A good combination of benefits of membership, including electronic billing (email alerts), budget billing, and automatic payment options are available to help ease you through the winter months where, with electric heating loads, your billing becomes a larger budget burden than in summer.

“Big Truck Night” — recently held at your cooperative — where children (and parents) enjoy hands-on experiences with large agriculture, construction, and emergency use vehicles, is something we enjoy hosting. A car seat check station is set up, assisting area parents with keeping children safe. Again, the biggest hit this year was the Valley Med Flight helicopter. Thank you to Life Care Medical and your associates for using our facility for a very important, well-run event!

Please consider joining me for a sandwich and some conversation on Tuesday, Oct. 18. As always, any topic is fair game. We're here to help. Please keep the lines of communication open.

From the line

Mike Millner, Line Superintendent



I had a little frost on my truck windshield this morning for the third time this month, but finally the temperature dropped to 28 degrees. My wife Sharon and I made plenty of salsa and spaghetti sauce. We also froze plenty of carrots and green beans. Even though our garden had been planted later than normal, we had plenty of produce for our family and lots to share. I can't believe our summer is coming to an end.

We had a very busy summer, with lots of new construction mixed with line changes and fiber construction. Our crews ended up building 19 new services this last month. Even with interest rates going up, there seems to be plenty of new construction going on. We

have also been repairing and assessing high water damage at the Northwest Angle. Our crews still have to take care of several issues up there before the ice sets in on the lake. It has been a struggle the last few years to get transformers and other necessary line materials. I have had to carry three times more material than in the past, because when you need it, you just won't be able to obtain it.

I absolutely love this time of year, with small game and the deer archery season going at full swing. My most enjoyable evenings are spent in a tree stand in the woods. My wife would say it's with her. LOL. I'm torn between two seasons. I haven't put my boat away yet because I'm still hoping to get

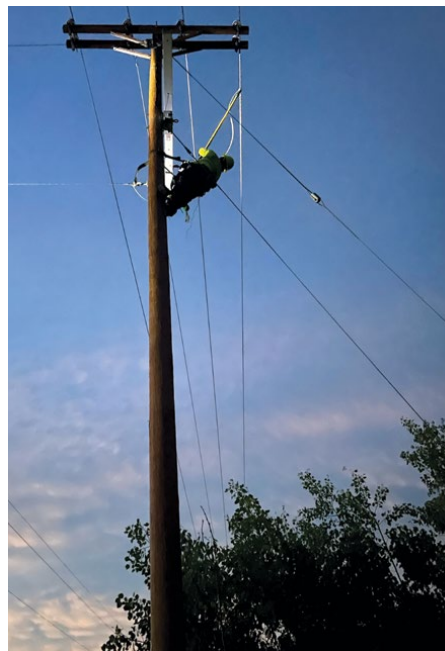
out a few more times with the fall walleye bite going on.

Before I go, I have several quotes that I would like to share with you: "The most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the government and I'm here to help," from Ronald Reagan. "There is no limit to the amount of good you can do if you don't care who gets the credit," also from Ronald Reagan. Finally, I try to live every day by this one: "I believe every human has a finite number of heart beats. I don't intend to waste any of mine," said by astronaut Neil Armstrong.

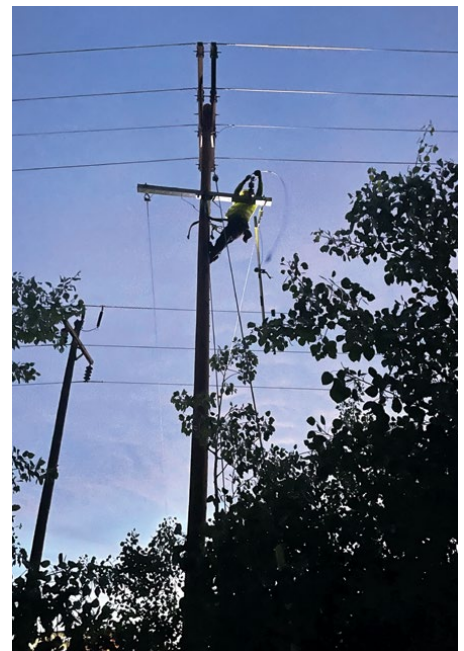
Have a safe and fun deer season with your friends and family. Until we meet again...Mike



Dillion Thompson repairing a power line south of Four Town.



Justin Olson replacing a fuse cutout after a lightning strike.



AVOID HIGH NATURAL GAS AND PROPANE PRICES WITH OFF-PEAK ELECTRIC HEATING

Minnesota and North Dakota households that relied on natural gas or propane to keep them warm through last year's cold season faced volatile prices that sent their heating bills soaring unexpectedly. One year later, natural gas and propane costs remain high – with the potential to climb higher through the winter.

If the possibility of another price spike has you nervous, there's an easy way to prepare now. Simply incorporate electricity into your heating system and enroll in Roseau Electric Cooperative voluntary off-peak program. You'll receive electric heat at nearly half the standard electric rate, which brings your cost for heating well below the cost for natural gas or propane. Plus, the off-peak electric rate has remained stable for nearly a decade, so there are no worries about sudden swings in the market that you didn't work into your budget.

How the valuable off-peak program works:

Roseau Electric Cooperative members voluntarily sign up for off-peak, which allows Minnkota (your co-op's wholesale power provider) to temporarily turn off electric heating, water heating, vehicle chargers and commercial account service during times of high regional demand. During these "control periods," most consumers are automatically switched to a backup heating system, generator or stored heat so there is no interruption in comfort.

Electric heat system

An electric heating system on the off-peak program consists of an electric heat source as its main component and a supplemental heating source (such as fuel oil or propane) that will typically operate 250-300 hours per year during times of peak electrical demand in the region. The program can also be utilized in storage heat technologies, in which heat is collected and stored during low-demand times of day and deployed when needed.

Water heater

A water heater on the off-peak program will warm the contents of the tank during lower-demand times of day (often overnight), and that water will remain hot until it is needed in the home.

Popular electric options eligible for the off-peak program:

AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMP



- Can be used with a backup fuel source for off-peak program
- Eligible for low off-peak rate
- **Up to \$700/ton in rebates**

ELECTRIC PLENUM



- Backup energy source is necessary for the off-peak program
- Eligible for low off-peak rate
- **\$50 per kW rebate**

THERMAL STORAGE



- Backup fuel source is not needed for the off-peak program
- Eligible for low off-peak rate
- **\$90 per kW rebate**

ELECTRIC WATER HEATER



- Backup fuel source is not needed for the off-peak program
- Eligible for low off-peak rate
- **Up to \$900 in rebates**



Learn more about off-peak by scanning this code or call your cooperative at 218-463-1543.

2022 UNCASHED DIVIDEND CHECKS

We need your help. The individuals listed below were mailed a dividend check in early 2022. These funds remain unclaimed because either the individuals did not cash their check or because the U.S. Postal Service returned the letter with no forwarding address. If you know these individuals, please have them contact our office. Dividends will be distributed again in Spring 2023.

ALBERG, CHAD, WARROAD, MN
ALLEN, THOMAS P., INVER GROVE HEIGHTS, MN
ALLTEL COMMUNICATIONS, LITTLE ROCK, AR
ALTEN, VIRGINIA, GREENVILLE, KY
AMSBAGH, DENNIS, WILLISTON, ND
ANDERSON, JOSEPH H., WILLIAMS, MN
ANDERSON, ORLEEN, GREENBUSH, MN
ANDERSON, PEARL, GREENBUSH, MN
ANDERSON, RONALD L., INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MN
ARMSTRONG, ROY E., ROSEAU, MN
AUSTIN, GERALD, BRAINERD, MN
BARRY, KEVIN, ROSEAU, MN
BARTH, BRAD, WAHPETON, ND
BECKER, BRAD, MILFORD, IA
BERRY, YVETTE, WARROAD, MN
BIRD CONSTRUCTION, HOLLADAY, UT
BLOCK, CLIFFORD W., WOODSTOCK, IL
BOAST, KELLY, AUBURN, NY
BOWMAN, KIMBERLY A., APPLE VALLEY, CA
BRANDT, NATHAN W., MILTON, WI
BREWSTER, JANET, WARROAD, MN
BRONKHORST, KEVIN VAN, ST. CROIX FALLS, WI
BRUHA, JIM, OSCEOLA, WI
BUE, TERRI, WARROAD, MN
BULLOCK, THERESA, MOORHEAD, MN
BUTLER, GARY, SALOL, MN
CARDER, VICTOR, WARROAD, MN
CARLSON, LOIS I., BADGER, MN
CARLSON, MARK D., ANGLE INLET, MN
CARLSON, SHANE A., EAST GRAND FORKS, MN
CARMICHAEL, HEATHER, JACKSON, MI
CERMINARA, CRAIG, TITUSVILLE, PA
CHANDLIER, CYNTHIA, DULUTH, MN
CHANEY, MICHELLE, AUBURN, WA
COFFEY, JONATHAN B., ROSEAU, MN
COOLEY, STAFFORD, PAPILLION, NE
CRANDALL, LANCE, GREENBUSH, MN
CUMMINS, WAYNE, KARLSTAD, MN
DALLMAN, JAMIE, CODY, WY
DELL, TERRI N., LAKE OZARK, MO
DESONER, LEN, FREEMONT, WI
DIQUINZIO, SAL, INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MN
DOCKTER, DAN, EVERTON, AR
DOLNEY, MAX, BADGER, MN
DONOVAN, FRANCES, ROSEAU, MN
DORMADY, WILLIAM, ST. HILLARE, MN
DUNHAM, SHAWNA, ROSEAU, MN
DUNN, CHERYL, CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI
EGGEN, MARK, FOSSTON, MN
ELLEGAARD, MARK, FERTILE, MN
ELLINGSON, JILL, ROGERS, MN
ELLIS, BILL, WARROAD, MN
ELLIS, TRACY, WARROAD, MN
EMANUEL, WANDA, THIEF RIVER FALLS, MN
ENGBRETSON, MELISSA, VERNDALE, MN
ERICKSON, KENT J., ORO VALLEY, AZ
FALDET, GARY, ERSKINE, MN
FESSLER, HUBERT L., AUBURN, AL
FISH, MARK, GRAND FORKS, ND
FLICK, JANET, WARROAD, MN

FOSS, RON, BAUDETTE, MN
FOSS, SAMUEL M., GLENCOE, MN
FOSS, SARAH, BADGER, MN
FOSTER, JAMIE, PRINCETON, MN
FRANK, RHONDA, WARROAD, MN
FRIESNER, CLYDE, WARROAD, MN
GARD, MARILYN, ROSEAU, MN
GEORGE, RICHARD, GRAND FORKS, ND
GLEASON, GERALD E., PORTLAND, OR
GUST, LILLIAN, GREENBUSH, MN
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HANSEN, KENNETH, MCINTOSH, MN
HAPPY SUDS, BADGER, MN
HARRIS, KIMBERLY, CROOKSTON, MN
HAUGEN, GAIL, WILLIAMS, MN
HAUGEN, MIRANDA M., GRAND FORKS, ND
HAZELTON, SHAWVANE, ROOSEVELT, MN
HEATH, ESTHER, THIEF RIVER FALLS, MN
HERMAN, DAREN, ISANTI, MN
HICKS, JEROME, ANCHORAGE, AK
HILL, DEBRA D., WARROAD, MN
HOCKSTEDLER, RYAN L., BLAINE, WA
HOEFS, LARRY, GRAFTON, ND
HOLTER, TRACY, WARROAD, MN
HOLTHUSEN, ELLEN, GRYGLA, MN
HOLTMAN, DOUGLA, CROOKSTON, MN
HOLWELL, JESSICA A., WEBSTER, WI
HONKALA, BRUCE, ROSEAU, MN
HORNER, JOSH, THIEF RIVER FALLS, MN
HOVEN, HOWARD, MENTOR, MN
HOWDAHL, AMANDA, WARROAD, MN
HOWDAHL, GREGORY J., GREENBUSH, MN
HOWDAHL, LILLIAN, GREENBUSH, MN
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JOHNSON, RICHARD H., ROGERS, MN
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JOHNSON, ROBERT W., BADGER, MN
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KASTNER, ALLAN, BEMIDJI, MN
KELSTRUP, EDWIN C., FRAZEE, MN
KENWORTHY, CHARLES, ROSEAU, MN
KILEN, HELEN, GREENBUSH, MN
KING, AMANDA, WARROAD, MN
KLICKER, KURT, WARROAD, MN
KNUTSON, JESSIE, WARROAD, MN
KRABBHOF, DON, RED LAKE FALLS, MN
KROSSA, DEAN, RED DEER, AB
KURILLA, TOM, CROOKSTON, MN
LAJOYE, TREVOR J., ROSEAU, MN
LANKFORD FARMS, WANNASKA, MN

LARSEN, JEFF, WARROAD, MN
LEE, BRENT N., WARROAD, MN
LEE, RALPH, THIEF RIVER FALLS, MN
LIND TOWN HALL, GREENBUSH, MN
LOKEN, TAMMY, WARROAD, MN
LOUKAS, JOHN, ST. CLOUD, MN
MATELSKI, EMILY, MOORHEAD, MN
MATTISON, JAMES, STURGEON LAKE, MN
MAUDAL, DOUGLAS D., CATHLAMET, WA
MCCOURT, MARC, ROSEAU, MN
MCKEEVER, CHARLES, ANGLE INLET, MN
MUIRHEAD, PATRICK, SCOTSDALE, AZ
MICKELSON, MICHAEL L., FERGUS FALLS, MN
MILNE, GERRY J., OSCEOLA, IA
MOLASH, LISA, WARROAD, MN
MOOSE RIVER CAMP - WEST, ROSEAU, MN
MOSACH, BEN, GREENBUSH, MN
MUIRHEAD, CHAD, MADISONVILLE, KY
NASH, RICHARD J., ST. PAUL, MN
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NESS, HEIDI L., MOORHEAD, MN
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RIPLEY, BARBARA, ST. PAUL, MN
RITTENHOUSE, DANIELLE, ROSEAU, MN
ROBERTSON, VIVIAN, WARROAD, MN
ROBINSON, TERRY V., ROSEAU, MN

ROSS, DONALD E., WARROAD, MN
RUSTAD, BJARNE A., WEST FARGO, ND
RUTLEDGE, JIM, BADGER, MN
S & F FARMS, PRINCEVILLE, IL
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SANTL, KENNETH D., ROSEAU, MN
SCHIRMER, TIM W., BAUDETTE, MN
SCHLANGEN, CINDY, RUSH CITY, MN
SCOTT, HEATHER N., SALOL, MN
SHEPARD, ANDY W., SALOL, MN
SHORE MASTER, FERGUS FALLS, MN
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SKEENS, MICHAEL, ROSEAU, MN
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VETTESON, LISA, ST. CLOUD, MN
VOIROL, LAVERN, CHANNING, MI
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WAAK, JONATHAN E., WARROAD, MN
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WILLIAMS, PATTI J., APPLE VALLEY, MN
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ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER?

Last winter was brutal.

Countless blizzards and extreme cold weather were made worse by rapid increases in the price of home heating fuels, such as propane, fuel oil and natural gas. With the price of those fuels expected to remain high, it's a good time to consider switching to off-peak electric heating. Off-peak provides your home or business with comfortable, efficient heating, while also protecting you from heating fuel price spikes. The off-peak electric heating rate is remarkably stable in comparison to the alternatives.

So, how does it work? The off-peak program is voluntary for members who allow for their electric heating system to be temporarily controlled and switched to an automated backup resource (like propane or electric storage) during times of peak demand for electricity in the region. In exchange, members receive a discounted electric heat rate, which is about 50% less than standard electricity rate.

Here are a few things we want you to know before the winter season begins.

1. There's still time to switch to off-peak heating

Call our Energy Services Department at 218-463-1543 to discuss your options for adding off-peak electric heating equipment to your home or business. The process is typically simple and straightforward, and your electric cooperative provides great rebates, incentives and other programs to significantly lower installation and equipment costs.

2. There is a potential for earlier-than-normal off-peak load control hours

From now until mid-December, Minnkota Power Cooperative, your electric cooperative's wholesale power provider, will have its largest power plant offline for scheduled maintenance. With this plant not producing electricity, Minnkota may need to utilize off-peak load control to avoid costly electricity purchases from others on the grid. The savings from this practice are passed on to you through the low off-peak rate.

3. Fill your propane or fuel oil tank

Be sure to fill your propane or fuel oil

tank as soon as possible, and make sure your tank is large enough to hold an adequate supply. If your propane tank gets low during extreme cold temperatures, it may not work properly. Remember, prices typically rise as demand increases during the heating season.

4. Check your furnace

Make sure to change your furnace filter regularly. Contact a heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) professional to inspect/maintain your system as needed. Early attention to maintenance can help prevent failures in the heart of heating season.

Members have had to spend more on energy to heat their homes and for transportation this past year, but the good news is that the price you pay for electricity is forecasted to remain stable. If you have questions about how to save on your winter heating bills or are having issues making payments, please contact our offices. We are here to help and can connect you with the right resources, no matter the situation.

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	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	5476	5529
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions	1606	1607
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions	3870	3922
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails		
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail		
c. Total Paid Distribution	5476	5529
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies		
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies		
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS	75	75
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail		
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution	75	75
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	5551	5604
g. Copies not Distributed	10	10
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	5561	5614
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)	99	99

16. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Jeremy T. Lindemann, Editor, 10/01/22

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15. Extent and Nature of Circulation: Newsletter

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a. Paid Electronic Copies		
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 15a))		
c. Total First Distribution (Line 15b + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 15a))		
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (15b divided by 15c × 100)		

16. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Jeremy T. Lindemann, Editor, 10/01/22

PROBLEMS PAYING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?

Energy assistance may be available!

If you are receiving a low income or suffering from a temporary financial shortfall, the following agencies may be able to assist you with your electric bill. We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid.

Northwest Community Action

PO Box 67
Badger, MN 56714-0067
(218) 528-3258 or 800-568-5329
nwcaa.org

Bi-County Cap, Inc.

6603 Bemidji Ave. N
Bemidji, MN 56601-8669
(218) 751-4631

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OPERATING STATISTICS

	Monthly		Year to Date	
	August 2021	August 2022	August 2021	August 2022
Members	6,612	6,644	6,612	6,644
kWh purchased	10,833,546	10,509,182	102,032,462	105,066,233
% change		-2.99%		2.97%
Revenue	1,429,446	1,419,059	12,128,281	12,751,275
Cost of power	861,568	84,231	7,399,100	7,744,423
Other expenses	578,517	1,299,084	4,458,481	4,502,061
Operating margins	(10,639)	35,744	270,700	504,791
Nonoperating margins	20,944	10,673	122,041	51,731
Patronage dividends	-	-	179,055	169,747
Total margins	10,305	46,417	571,796	726,269

member connection

ENERGY TIP

Cooler weather is on the way! Heating requires more energy than any other system in your home, typically making up about 42% of your energy bill. With proper equipment maintenance and upgrades like additional insulation and air sealing, you can save about 30% on your energy bill.

Source: energy.gov

GRYGLA FALL FESTIVAL WINNER

Beth Abrahamson

Meco Lock & Go Tabletop Electric Grill

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 18

Co-op Day

October 21

Electric bill is due

November 6

Daylight saving time ends; "fall back" one hour

November 11

Veterans Day; office is closed

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday

8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Phone 218-463-1543

AFTER HOURS/OUTAGE NUMBER

Toll-free 1-888-847-8840

(main outage call center)

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

1-800-252-1166 or 811

PAY BY PHONE

1-877-999-3412

SMARTHUB

<https://roseauelectric.smarthub.coop/>

WEBSITE

www.roseauelectric.com



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TO STAY UP TO DATE!

@RoseauElectricCooperativeInc

DON'T FALL FOR CYBER SCAMS

For many of us, the fall season is associated with falling leaves, falling temperatures and falling onto a couch with a warm and cozy blanket. But one thing you shouldn't fall for is cyber scams. October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month and Roseau Electric Cooperative wants to share four ways to help protect you from cyber risks. There are several things you can do to be safer online in both your personal and professional life.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

to protect yourself from cyber risks

USE TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION



Adding layers of security to access your online accounts has proven to be one of the best ways to protect yourself from malicious cyber activity. Two-factor or multi-factor authentication allows users to confirm who they really are online. Two-factor authentication may come in many forms, including a confirmation text code, an email or even a separate authenticator app.

CONSIDER USING A PASSPHRASE



A new practice for creating strong passwords includes using "passphrases." A passphrase is usually longer than a typical password and includes at least 14 characters with spaces between words. An example of a passphrase would be "secure passw0rds w0rk Great!". Since passphrases are longer and composed of more characters, they are stronger than typical passwords.

DON'T GET TRICKED BY A LINK



Open links and attachments sent to you with caution. If you receive a text message or email that is too good to be true or threatens you if immediate action isn't taken, it is more than likely a scam. If an email comes from a friend or co-worker that seems odd, call the sender and see if they really meant to send the message. Taking the time to verify this information can keep you from being tricked by a link!

INSTALL SOFTWARE UPDATES



Make sure to complete all software updates promptly. Often the updates include protection against the latest security risks. Remember that updates come from apps and not from emails or social media links. If you get an email saying you have a software update, check the app's website to verify if there is one available.