

**cfl/led coupon connection**



Save on your next purchase of GE ENERGY STAR® certified CFL and LED bulbs.

**UP TO \$5 OFF** on GE ENERGY STAR® CFL bulbs (up to \$100 purchase limit)

**UP TO \$3 OFF** on GE ENERGY STAR® LED bulbs (up to \$100 purchase limit)

Offer valid April 4 - August 31, 2016

Visit [energywisemn.com](http://energywisemn.com) for details and restrictions.

**ENERGY WISE MN**

**LIGHT UP**  
2016 LIGHTING PROMOTION

PROMOTION DESCRIPTION	REDEMPTION	PARTICIPATING STORES
 Offer valid April 4 - August 31, 2016	<b>COUPONS:</b> \$1 OFF GE ENERGY STAR® CERTIFIED CFLs OR \$3 OFF GE ENERGY STAR® CERTIFIED LEDs	ANY RETAILER where GE ENERGY STAR® CERTIFIED CFLs and LEDs are sold
 Offer valid April 4 - August 31, 2016	<b>IN-STORE:</b> Up to \$5 instant markdown on select GE ENERGY STAR® CERTIFIED LEDs	PARTICIPATING WALMART STORES Visit <a href="http://energywisemn.com">energywisemn.com</a> for store locations

**SWEEPSTAKES**  
 As part of the CFL Promotion, cooperative members can also enter the Sweepstakes for one grand prize of a \$500 energy credit. Details and participation information for the Sweepstakes are available at [energywisemn.com](http://energywisemn.com)

**NOTE:** Steele-Waseca members may not combine the co-op's CFL and/or LED rebates with the mark-downs and coupons of this promotion. However, members may combine the instant mark-downs at Walmart with the coupons on this page.

the power of human connections  
**SWCE sparks**  
 Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric August 2016

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**calendar of events**

- August**
- 2-7 Freeborn County Fair
  - 5 Rice County Relay For Life
  - 5-6 Dennison Days
  - 6 Claremont Hogfest
  - 12-14 Lonsdale Community Days
  - 19-20 Wells Kernel Days
  - 16-21 Steele County Free Fair
  - 19 National Aviation Day
  - 25 Minnesota State Fair starts
  - 27 3rd Annual Caleb Erickson Memorial Event in Waseca

**Litomysl Summer Festival**  
 at Holy Trinity Church  
 9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna  
 Sunday, July 31

10 a.m. Polka Mass  
 Festival 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 Food, games for all ages,  
 live music

Prune, Poppyseed & Apricot  
 "Buchtý"

Silent Auction & Used-a-Bit sale  
[www.litomysl.webs.com](http://www.litomysl.webs.com)

**Ideal weather compliments Coal Creek Tour**

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric Marketing Division Manager Doug Hughes and Marketing Educational Volunteer Katie Nelson hosted the 37th annual tour to Coal Creek Station and Falkirk Mine, June 14-16, near Underwood, N.D.



An aerial view of Coal Creek Station near Underwood, N.D. (Photo courtesy of Great River Energy)

Three days of travel, fun and educational adventure started Tuesday morning, June 14, with departure from Steele-Waseca's headquarters in Owatonna with Northfield Lines and Motor Coach Driver Mark Estrem.

On the bus ride to Bismarck, N.D., a preview of what would be seen at Coal Creek Station and Falkirk Mine was shown on DVD, which created various educational activities and contests for the drive to reach the Country Inn & Suites hotel in Bismarck, 21403

Upon arrival, the hotel hosted a welcoming room with snacks and refreshments. Everyone had some time to relax, go out to dinner at one of the many nearby restaurants, enjoy the mini-water park at the hotel, then all get together for fun group activities.

On Wednesday, June 15, the day started with breakfast prepared by hotel staff. The first stop on the tour was at

Coal Creek Station near Underwood. Station employees served as tour guides and delivered an informational and enlightening experience regarding the operation of the plant. Tour participants were escorted through Coal Creek Station in small groups and learned how the coal comes in from Falkirk Mine and utilized for electrical generation. Each group learned how fly ash from burned coal is collected and sold as a cement replacement or utilized for environmentally-sound products.

The Coal Creek Station tour gave participants a view from the 21st floor where the Blue Flint Ethanol plant could be seen. The plant utilizes waste steam from the Coal Creek plant as part of their yearly production of 65 million

(Coal Creek Tour continued on Page 7)



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric members and Coal Creek Tour enthusiasts took time to pose for a photo during their travel to North Dakota, June 14-16.

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Website: [www.swce.coop](http://www.swce.coop)  Find us on Facebook  
 Email: [swce@swce.coop](mailto:swce@swce.coop)  
 Fax: 507-446-4242

**Board of Directors**

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**Office Hours**

8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

**Operations Office Hours**

8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

**For Customer Service, Billing Questions and Power Outages Phone:**

507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514

**Before calling to report an outage**

1. Check fuses and circuit breakers in your home and on meter pole.
2. Check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
3. Look for possible causes such as a tree branch on wires, a broken pole, twisted wires, etc.

**To leave a non-emergency message whenever SWCE's Office is closed:**

Phone 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514  
 Press "2" and leave message including name, account #, and phone # you can be reached at the following business day.

**Call Before You Dig**  
**Gopher State One Call**  
**811 or 800-252-1166**

48-hour notice required for ALL underground cable locations

**manager connection**



By Syd Briggs,  
 General Manager

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric wishes to have our member-owners utilize electricity in the safest and most efficient way possible.

One way your co-op promotes efficiency is through rebates available to members when they purchase products or services that enhance efficient use of electricity.

The rebates available in 2016 are for central air conditioners and air source heat pumps (ASHPs), which do require a quality installation. To find a qualified installer, visit Steele-Waseca's website, [swce.coop](http://swce.coop), move your cursor over "FIELD SERVICES," click on "Save Money & Energy," then click on "Qualified Installers List," in the "Quick Links" box.

	A/C	ASHP
14.5-14.9 SEER	\$50	\$480
15.0-15.9 SEER	\$50	\$580
16.0+ SEER	\$50	\$630

Rebates for Energy Star® labeled ground source heat pumps (GSHPs) are \$400 per ton in 2016.

For members looking into electric thermal storage (ETS) heat, Steele-Waseca is offering a \$50 per kW (kilowatt) rebate up to 100 kW.

Steele-Waseca continues to offer a \$100 rebate for residential HVAC electronically commutated motors (ECMs), which offer a higher efficiency rating than typical electric blowers or condenser fan motors.

Ductless ASHPs with the Energy Star label are eligible for a \$300 rebate.

Energy Star labeled refrigerators and freezers are eligible for a \$75 rebate only if you recycle your old unit.

Dehumidifiers with the Energy Star label are eligible for a \$25 rebate.

Steele-Waseca members purchasing

any Energy Star labeled appliances during the year are encouraged to call Cindy Aamot at Steele-Waseca weekdays to report their purchase. Energy Star purchases help the co-op reach their Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) goal mandated in Minnesota's 2007 Next Generation Conservation Act. The statute sets an energy conservation goal for every gas and electric utility in the state equivalent to 1.5 percent of their annual retail energy sales.

Residential lighting rebates in 2016 include the following:

- Energy Star LED (light emitting diode) lights have a \$3 per bulb rebate or up to half the cost of a multi-pack (whichever is less). LED holiday light strings have a \$2 rebate or half the package cost (whichever is less).
- Energy Star CFLs (compact fluorescent lightbulbs) have a \$1 per bulb rebate or up to half the cost of a multi-pack (whichever is less). Make sure to submit all of the numbers around the product's UPC code.

Appliance and lighting rebates may not be combined with special promotional offers through Steele-Waseca and/or its wholesale energy provider, Great River Energy.

Steele-Waseca members who install a member-owned LED security light are eligible to receive a \$30 rebate (members on the Steele-Waseca security light program are not eligible to receive a rebate); air conditioning tune-ups conducted in 2016 are eligible for a \$25 rebate; swimming pool ASHPs are eligible for a \$400 rebate; and an Energy Star variable speed pool pump is eligible for a \$200 rebate.

If you have a rebate question or wish to request a rebate form, please call Cindy Aamot at Steele-Waseca weekdays between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Rebate forms are available on Steele-Waseca's website, [swce.coop](http://swce.coop), under "FIELD SERVICES," then click on "Save Money & Energy." 49850

Completed rebate forms must be accompanied with a copy of the receipt and submitted within 90 days of purchase. Please allow six to eight weeks for processing. The rebate will appear as a credit on your monthly Steele-Waseca bill.



Products with the Energy Star label have met federal government specifications regarding energy efficiency.

**ad connection**

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)

'93 17' SYLVAN BOAT, walk-thru windshield, ski & fish pkg, Minn Kota troll. motor, exc. cond., Mariner O/B, 100 hp, oil injected, full enclosure, incl. all-roller trlr, Garmin lake map dpth finder, \$6500. 210-1826.

HAY: 4'x6' large round (grass), 4'x4' sm. round (alf.), & sm. sq. (alf.). 838-5033/John.

KING CUTTER 72" 3-POINT REAR BLADE, \$160. 456-1976.

3-ACRE SITE: sm. barn, house & hog shed, Richland Twsp in Rice County, \$90,000. 612-827-6575.

ANTIQUE BABY BUGGY, \$250; ANTIQUE BUFFET, \$200; ANTIQUE WHITE DRESSER w/mirror, \$200; 2008 SUZUKI DR-Z400S, \$4000; SWAG LAMPS, \$25/each. 383-1270.

1-ACRE WOODED LOTS w/lakeshore on Beaver Lk. Gravel cul-de-sac, southern exposure, utilities & common well to lots incl. Ready to build your dream home! [www.beaverlkestates.com](http://www.beaverlkestates.com). 438-9503.

14' FELLING FACTORY TILT TRLR, no ramps, 4-corner tie downs. 363-6310.

21" WALK-BEHIND HONDA MOWER, vry clean, \$200. 456-2017.

4-SECTION DRAG w/cart; JD 1450; 4 X 16 PLOW; 300' OF USED WOVEN WIRE. 744-2792.

PRO QUALITY HAY BASKETS, \$1200. 581-3686.

PASTURE GRASS, you cut & bale, approx. (5) acres in Merton Twsp Section 32. 213-4374.

CANCUN VACATION CLUB, (1) week, Sept.-Feb., private owner, based on availability, accommodates up to (6), \$1400. 213-8823 for details.

KATAHDIN HAIR SHEEP, never shear sheep again, great mothers, exc. disposition, great for hobby farmers, grazers & organic. 451-2722.

SHIPPING CONTAINERS, 20' & 40', store your stuff on your property, rodent & moisture proof. 612-418-4375.

MIXED GRASS HAY, small squares. 334-6377.

**Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) 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 SWCE as a result thereof, and agrees to indemnify and hold SWCE harmless from all costs, expenses, liabilities and damages resulting from, or caused by, any advertisement or reply thereto.**

(Coal Creek Tour continued from Page 1)

gallons of ethanol. With using the waste steam, Blue Flint Ethanol is one of the most cost-effective, energy efficient and environmentally friendly biorefineries in the nation.

The next stop was at nearby Falkirk Mine. Tour participants were able to see the gigantic equipment used to help supply about 8 million tons of lignite coal each year to Coal Creek Station.

Following lunch at Falkirk Mine, the final stop of the day was at Garrison Dam, the fifth largest earthen dam in the world, where electricity is generated with water. Lake Sakakawea, the reservoir created by the dam, is the third largest reservoir in the United States. The plant generates electricity marketed

MAYTAG DRYER, large capacity, LP, like new; ELEC. FRIGIDAIRE STOVE, great cond., new element. 330-0729.

USED PADDLEBOAT, can be looked at on Lake Mazaska, \$100/obo. 334-9196 or 491-0144.

SCREENED GAZEBO, 10'x10'; FRAMED BACKPACK & BED ROLL; METAL SNOWSHOES for up to 125-lb. person; PORTABLE BASKETBALL HOOP w/new net. 332-0294.

JD 3950 SILAGE CHOPPER, \$4000; (3) CHOPPER BOXES, \$1000/each; LAWN ACREAGE RAKE for lawn tractor or ATV, exc. cond., \$180. 451-0653.

JD 14T BALER, always stored inside shed, \$950. 390-0206.

300-GAL. FUEL BARREL, complete, \$200; (2) HYDRAULIC CYLINDERS, \$100. 456-8329.

GRASS HAY; MIXED ALFALFA GRASS; STRAW. 744-2871.

OWATONNA 83 MIXER MILL, like new, \$1200/obo. 262-0160.

HAY EQUIP.: side rake, sm. sq. baler, (3) racks, elec. elevator, 7' disc mower; 135-BU. MANURE SPREADER; MUSTANG 1200 SKID LOADER, stuck engine; 100-BU. FLARE BOX. 390-4076.

BEAVER LAKE PROPERTY, large lot, south side, 12x46 mobile home, 56' dock, shed, (2) large decks w/gazebos, turnkey. 438-3793.

SINGLE DISC, 3-pt; 6' DIGGER, 3-pt. 451-0885.

MASSEY FERG. 36 10' GRAIN SWATH, exc. cond. 491-0685/Kevin.

ALFALFA HAY, 2nd crop, sm. sq. bales, no rain. 330-3303.

WHEEL HORSE GARDEN TRACTORS, (1) w/mower deck & (1) without; HAYTRACT w/7-ton Minn. running gear. 676-3058.

HI-GEST 360 LOW LIGNIN TECHNOLOGY ALFALFA SEED avail. for late summer seeding, high resist. disease traits from Alforex Seeds. 676-7767.

by the Western Area Power Administration. The tour stopped for sightseeing at the Garrison Dam's lookout area.

To end the day, participants had the opportunity to enjoy swimming, dinner, a competitive game of "Energy Jeopardy," to win great prizes and an ice cream social.

On Thursday morning, June 16, everyone was on the motor coach by 7:30 for the return trip to Owatonna. 23264

This tour serves as a mini-vacation for many participants. Doug Hughes along with Steele-Waseca encourages you to bring students and/or grandchildren ages 10-18 (up to three students at NO CHARGE), on this entertaining, educational, three-day adventure. At Steele-Waseca, we believe it is important to

TREK 720 MEN'S HYBRID, 21-spd, 700x35c, \$100; GIANT RINCON MEN'S MTB, 21-spd, 26x175, \$100. 330-3178.

ROOF REPLACEMENT & REPAIRS, SIDING & WINDOWS, barns & all outbuildings. 848-1477.

CABIN on French Lk, beautiful view, deck, patio, great muskie lake, a few steps down to your own dock, \$125,000. 334-6362.

'69 JOHNSON O/B MOTOR, 6 hp, short shaft, \$300. 744-4449.

(2) PARKER 400-BU. GRAVITY BOXES on 12-ton Gehl wagons; 400-BU. WESTENDORF GRAVITY BOX on 14-ton wagon. 676-0551.

800W DIGITAL GENERATOR, like new, \$125; KENMORE ELEC. RANGE, exc. cond., white, \$175 (delivery avail.). 649-7216.

SHINGLING & ROOF REPAIRS, licensed & insured, trusted since 2000. 271-9129.

1982 DODGE RAM, 2WD, \$1200; 1991 DODGE RAM w/flatbed, Cummins engine, 2WD, \$1600; ALF. HAY, \$3. 380-4291.

ANTIQUE VANITY, \$75. 583-6679.

2002 CHEVY Z71 PICKUP, incl. topper; TREE TRIMMING, REMOVAL & STUMP GRINDING, pro climber & aerial lift to U of M guidelines; TABLE HOCKEY GAME, 6'x3'x3'(high). 456-1609.

ALL-WOOD TWIN SIZE BED w/head & foot boards, \$30. 789-6596.

HEWITT ALUM. BOAT LIFT, 8' wide, 2500 lbs., canopy incl., \$1150. 456-4231.

HAY & STRAW ROUND BALES; HAY, sm. sq. & some old alf.; GRASS & ALF., new crop off wagon. 451-7489 or 414-2245/cell.

1979 FORD DBL BUCKET BOOM TRUCK, joystick in bucket, 50' Hi-Ranger, propane, everything works, \$5000. 521-0071.

educate our youth about the process involved to get electricity to them every day. This tour offers everyone to learn how electricity is generated by fossil fuels and water, and the value of each one. This makes a great family vacation or an opportunity for grandparents to take their grandkids on a trip, have fun and learn something new.

For more information on the Coal Creek Tour (which fills fast), contact Tour Host Doug Hughes at Steele-Waseca or by email at [mktg@swce.coop](mailto:mktg@swce.coop).

Photos and additional information are also available on Steele-Waseca's website, [swce.coop](http://swce.coop). You are encouraged to sign up this fall as the tour often fills up fast. 

## ad connection

### give away

**PLAYER PIANO** to a gd home, gd cond. 330-3856.

**FREE ONLINE CLASSIFIEDS**, you place & remove your own ad on SWCE's website, [www.swce.coop](http://www.swce.coop), these are separate from Sparks & will not appear in Sparks unless emailed to [sparks@swce.coop](mailto:sparks@swce.coop).

**BLACK KITTENS**. 451-7578.

### wanted

**HORSE BRIDLES**. 952-738-2781.

**WILL DO:** garden tilling, post-hole drilling, lawn grading, seeding, rolling, lawn mowing, thatching, aerating, erosion control, dirt leveling, seed & fertilizer broadcasting. 390-1567/cell.

**BARN OR OUTBUILDINGS**, I remove to re-purpose the lumber; **ANY OLD LOG BLDG**. 330-0258/Tim.

**CRAFTERS** for 17th Ann. Christmas For Veterans Homemade Craft & Bake Sale, Nov. 5, 8:30-3:30 @ Associated Church in Owa. Only homemade crafts, bakes gds & plants can be exhibited. 455-2755.

**JD 24T OR 336 BALER FOR PARTS**, need knotter; **10 HP SINGLE PHASE ELEC. MOTOR**. 330-3945.

**DEAD/ALIVE GARDEN TRACTORS**, will pay \$; **GARDEN TRACTOR LOADER**, attachments, weights & misc. 256-7299, eves/451-0546.

**JUNK & UNWANTED APPLIANCES**, free drop off, no TVs, computers &/or plastic dishwashers. 210-6728/Fbo.

**TO BUY A RAMBLER-STYLE HOME** in the Waseca area. 351-1041.

**JUNKERS & REPAIRABLES:** cars, trucks, most farm & constr. equip., top \$ pd for junkers.332-2300.

**HONEY PROCESSING EQUIP.:** elec. uncapping knife, tank, strainers, extract, pumps, sieves, bottles, pails, lids, glass & plas. containers. 451-5208/Owat.

**UNWANTED BIKES & LAWN MOWERS**, \$ paid on delivered. 330-3178.

### for sale

**FLARE BOX**, great shape, \$675; **SONY CAR STEREO**, (4) speakers, AM/FM/CD/MP3, remote in box, \$150. 455-3881.

**MINI STORAGE UNITS**, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

## All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

**ROTO-HOE 550 CHIPPR/SHRDR**, on pull type cart, 6 hp Tecumseh motor, recently serv., like new cond., older model, runs grt, starts easy, \$250. 330-3856.

**LOFTNESS STALK CHOPPER**, 6 row 30, gd knives, new gear box in 2014, overall gd shape. 475-2149.

**FP LOVING FAMILY GRAND DOLLHOUSE**, (10) rooms of furniture, the family & red convertible car, \$200/obo. 239-2289.

**SHINGLING, LIGHT CONSTRUCTION & TREE REMOVAL**, free estimates. 456-0296.

**20" CHROME WHEELS & TIRES**, exc. cond. w/universal bolt holes, \$1100. 438-3753.

**INDOOR STORAGE** for RV or other large motor vehicle, boats, etc., near Mdfd, low prices. 412-1171.

**COLD WATER PRESSURE WASHER** on cart, 3 gpm@1000 psi, 115V, single phase, TT9071 pump, 2.3 hp, \$795; **EVAPORATIVE COOLER**, VAL 6 RKF 503, \$1995. 583-2703.

**STORAGE:** vehicles, boats, campers & RVs, Waldorf area. 380-1609/Chad.

**COUNTRY HOME FOR RENT**, (4) bdrm. 451-3678.

**DUMP TRUCK AVAIL.** for all of your hauling needs: rock, dirt, etc., 15-ton cap. 456-7774.

**MANY RODS & REELS**, all in gd cond. 456-7542.

**SPRAY FOAM INSULATION**, installing closed or open cell foam. 412-7179/Jeremy.

**PASTURE FOR RENT**, fenced, rural Dundas. 952-270-5562.

**SEABURG HOME STEREO WALNUT CABINET**, holds (50) program able LP records, \$100/obo. 334-8465.

**USED AUTO PARTS, ENGINES, TRANSMISSIONS**, best prices around. 332-2300.

**CLIMATE CONTROLLED UNITS** for rent, 11'x9' to 16'x10'. 332-4623.

**2013 GOLDEN BUZZAROUND SCOOTER**, new batteries, seldom used, like new. 685-4392.

**GRASS HAY BALES**, small square. 612-756-1131.

**4-TRUCK GRIP TIRES**, 11-00-20, 90% thread, \$250; **2-TIRES**, 14.9 x 28, on AC rims, \$700. 330-3945.

**RENTAL**, Izaak Walton League Bldg., 4 mi. south of Owat., seats 100, full kitchen, grill, Wi-Fi, \$100. 451-7946.

**8' POP-UP CAMPER**, sleeps (5), waterproof, \$500. 330-5670.

**1956 FORD 960 TRACTOR**, runs great, new tires, has Vaughn loader, \$2500; **TIRE CHAINS**, 13.6 x 28, \$175. 330-3444.

**MIXED FIREWOOD; BOAT/CAMPER STORAGE; APPLE TREE FIREWOOD; OSTER PET/HORSE CLIPPERS; (6) CATTLE PANELS; (18) T-POSTS**. 676-1141.

**HOME REPAIRS:** plumbing, decks (repair or replacement), window & door installation, drywall (repair or installation) & more, quality wrk, exc. references, affordable prices. 581-6562/John.

**FORD 8N**, front dist., 3-pt hitch, gd cond., \$1995. 334-3511.

**5" 5-TON BEAM TROLLEY**, \$200; **WELDING SUPPLIES**, new & used; **GREEN BEANS**. 319-3794.

**CAMPER FRIDGE**, 3-way (AC, DC, propane), wrks great, \$150. 332-0200.

**BEACHFRONT VACATION CONDOS FOR RENT** in Fort Myers Beach, South Padre Island & Mexico, visit [www.sandysbeachfrontcondo.com](http://www.sandysbeachfrontcondo.com) for details & photos. 612-865-9604/Sandy.

**SCHWINN AIRDYNE EXER. BIKE**, like new, \$350; **PRO SOUND SYSTEM**, 3-way speakers, cords & amplifier, \$1000. 744-4271.

**BLK ANGUS BEEF:** qtrs, halves or whole avail., semi-organically & locally raised. 330-2452/Matt.

**ALUM. PONTOON LIFT**, 20'-24', \$850; **SM. BOAT LIFT**, \$265; **CHIMNEY**, Class A, like new, stainless steel, 8' w/8" inner liner, \$125. 491-4565.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

### travel

**ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FESTIVAL**, Sept. 28-Oct. 5. Eight days, 10 meals, Balloon Festival activities + much more! \$1,799 per person based on 2 per room.

**NEW YORK HOLIDAY TOUR (AIR INCLUDED)**, Nov. 9-13. Five days in New York City's Times Square, Radio City Rockettes, Lion King & more. \$2,299 per person based on 2 per room.

**CUBA LAND & CRUISE (AIR INCL.)**, Nov. 12-20. One night Miami, 7 nights cruising on Adonia. Havana, Cienfuegos & Santiago land tours incl. Starts at \$5,299 pp based on 2 per room (balcony).

**HOLIDAY BRANSON BY MOTOR COACH**, Nov. 17-21. Five days, 7 meals, 6 shows, Christmas Lights, Steamboat Museum. \$769 per person based on 2 per room.

**Call 4-Seasons at 800-328-4298 and reserve space today! Be sure to tell us you are Steele-Waseca members!**



## youth tour connection

# Singh, Hansen highlight their Youth Tour experience

by Karsten Singh and Abigail Hansen, Steele-Waseca 2016 Youth Tour delegates

I had an amazing experience and six action packed days! Our first day of touring we saw 11 monuments in D.C., and then we headed to Arlington Cemetery where we saw the changing of the guard of the unknown soldier. Later we visited the Smithsonian museums. We returned to our hotel to hear a presentation about cooperatives. That was just one day of activities, the week had just started!



Karsten Singh

The following day we went to Mount Vernon, home of our first president George Washington. Then we headed to the Marine Corps Museum and we finished off the day with the NRECA Youth Night, which included many great and inspiring speakers.

Our third day of touring we visited several museums including the National Archives and the Holocaust Museum, which was very somber. That night we got to see opening night of *Kinky Boots* at the Kennedy Center for the Arts. We finished off the day at the Iwo Jima Memorial, what a full day!! 1012991

Wednesday was our day at the Capitol. We met with several lawmakers including our two Minnesota Senators. We really got an insider view of our political process. We finished off the day with a dinner and dance for all the delegates from over 40 states.

Thursday was our final day in D.C. We said goodbyes to our new friends and headed back to Minnesota. What a great week, one that I will never forget. I would really like to thank Steele Waseca Electric Co-op for sponsoring me to attend this Youth Tour. I learned so much about our Nation's Capitol and met lots of great people.

Before going on the 2016 Minnesota Rural Electric Youth Tour this past June, when I heard "youth tour," I would imagine a bunch of rambunctious high school kids stuck on a bus together for a week.



Abigail Hansen



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric 2016 Youth Tour delegates, Karsten Singh of Northfield (front row, fourth from right) and Abigail Hansen of Owatonna (third row, third from right) were among 40 delegates from Minnesota participating in the annual Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 11-16. The Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) coordinated the travel and activities for the state delegation. The Youth Tour is hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

My experience on the Youth Tour to Washington D.C., was nothing like that. It was an experience I will never forget. All of us who went on this trip care about the future of cooperatives and their role in our country. The speakers we heard in Washington only solidified this. We all care about each other and our potential. Throughout the week all 40 of us grew to be unified, and we want the best for each other. Finally, all of the youth on the 2016 Youth Tour are invested in America's future.

We spent a day on Capitol Hill speaking with representatives, senators, and other staff members. I think the 40 of us could all agree that through this day we found where we can make a difference in politics. I realized that my voice for co-ops can be heard. All I need to do is put in the effort.

Throughout the week we toured several monuments, memorials, and museums. These put my view on our country's current issues into perspective. I became aware that throughout America's existence people have pulled together and worked to better our country. It really inspired me to take a close look at what I'm doing today to continue striving for the best of America.

Now when I hear "youth tour," all I can think about are the amazing people I met on my youth tour. I think of the inspiring monuments and buildings that commemorate the leaders

who went ahead of me. I think of the speakers I heard that taught me how I can make an impact for cooperatives in America. I think of how I was changed by that trip.



**Sparks Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members**

Ads need to be received in our office by **August 5** to ensure being printed in the September Sparks. Please print neatly or type your ad of **20 words or less** on this form. We reserve the right to edit ad copy to allow space for more ads. Ads received after the 5th will be printed in the October issue. 24966

For Sale       Wanted       Give Away

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail to: SWCE, PO Box 485, Owatonna MN 55060-0485, or fax to: (507) 446-4242 or email your ad to: [sparks@swce.coop](mailto:sparks@swce.coop).

## cookin' connection

### Raspberry Jell-O Salad

Diane Vosejka

Lonsdale

- 1 c. hot water
- 1—3 oz. pkg raspberry Jell-O
- 1 c. apple sauce
- 2 small containers of fresh raspberries

Dissolve raspberry Jell-O in hot water. Add apple sauce and fresh raspberries. Pour into a small shallow square pan and refrigerate.

Please use a 3 x 5 card when submitting your recipe. The member whose recipe is published will receive a \$7 energy credit.



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's solar subscribers will see a 60 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during June 2016. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, [swce.coop](http://swce.coop).

## Was your account number in Sparks?

Each month five account numbers are printed in *Sparks* and a total of \$35 in energy credits is divided among however many of those numbers are found. For example, if all numbers are found, a credit of \$7 will be applied to the members' following month's electric bills; or, if only one number is found, that member receives the full \$35 credit. Members finding their numbers who have a load management receiver on their dual fuel, electric water heater, air conditioner, or genset will receive an additional \$7 credit. When you find your number, phone our office no later than the 7th of the month following receipt of the *Sparks*, or the amount will be forfeited.

## July issue of Sparks



**Numbers found:**  
Lee/Diane Felicetta

**Numbers not found:**  
Randall J. Borke  
Steve H. Kopachek  
Franchon Pirkl  
Valley Grove Church



## Sparks in brief . . .

- **Want easy energy payments?** Sign up for **EnergyPay Plus**, our automatic payment plan, or **Energy Prepay**, our discounted advance payment plan. Contact our office for details. You may also pay your bill online at [www.swce.coop](http://www.swce.coop). By entering your Steele-Waseca username and password you can also view a 13-month history of your account.

- **If you have changed or added phone numbers**, please contact SWCE to update your contact information.

- **Need a new water heater?** For information about our Marathon Electric Water Heater Program, phone Cindy Aamot at our office between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., 446-4204 / 800-526-3514.

- **June temps** – The average high temperature for June was 80° F, while the average low was 60° F. They compare to last year's average high of 78° F and average low of 59° F.

- **ENERGY STAR® Rebates** – In 2016, all ENERGY STAR refrigerators/freezers (with recycling), dehumidifiers, central air conditioners, air and ground source heat pumps, compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs), light emitting diode (LED) holiday lights and bulbs purchased are eligible to receive rebates (may not be combined with special promotions). Rebate request forms must be submitted within 90 days of purchase. Rebate forms are available at [www.swce.coop](http://www.swce.coop). For more information or to receive a rebate request form, phone Cindy Aamot between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at 446-4204 or 800-526-3514.

- **Steele-Waseca's tree service contractor** – Carr's Tree Service, Inc., is contracted to do SWCE's tree trimming. To report a tree concern, phone:

**507-451-7340 / 800-526-3514**

**STEELE COUNTY TIP LINE**

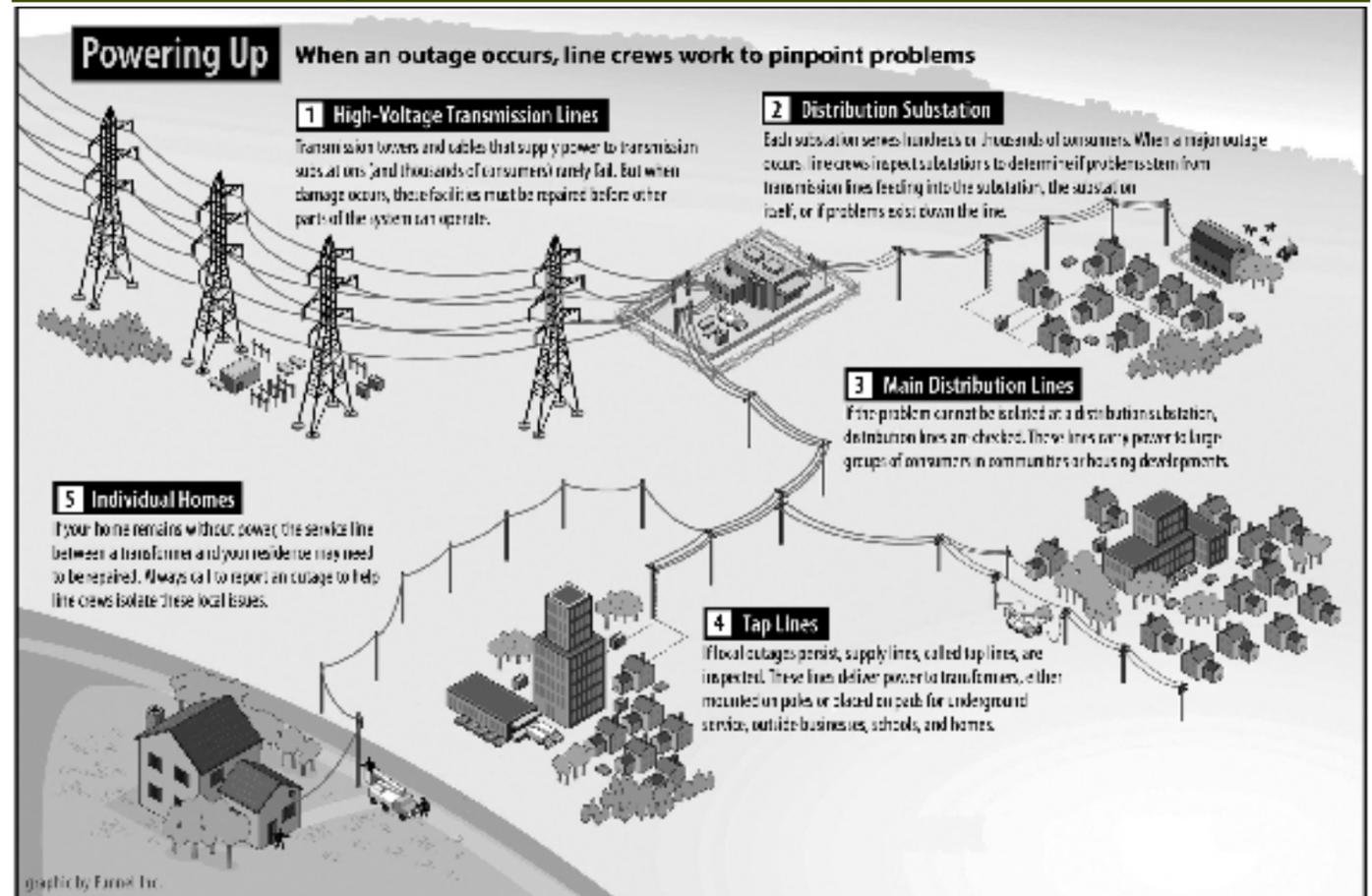
**866-878-7964**

TO BE USED TO REPORT ANY CRIME OR SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY ANONYMOUSLY

COVERS ALL OF STEELE COUNTY INCLUDING THE CITIES OF:

**OWATONNA ELLENDALE BLOOMING PRAIRIE MEDFORD**

## health & safety connection



When electricity goes out, most of us expect power will be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm causes widespread damage, longer outages may result. Co-op line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark.

## Keeping food safe during a power outage

Courtesy: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

The loss of power from high winds, snow or ice could jeopardize the safety of your food.

Knowing how to determine if food is safe and how to keep food safe will help minimize the potential loss of food and reduce the risk of foodborne illness.

Always keep meat, poultry, fish, and eggs refrigerated at or below 40° F and frozen food at or below 0° F. This may be difficult when the power is out.

Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to maintain the cold temperature. The refrigerator will keep food safely cold for about four hours if it is unopened. A full freezer will hold the temperature for approximately 48 hours (24 hours if it is half full) if the door remains closed. Obtain dry or block ice to keep your refrigerator as cold as possible if the power is going to be out for a prolonged period

of time. Fifty pounds of dry ice should hold an 18-cubic foot full freezer for two days. Plan ahead and know where dry ice and block ice can be purchased.

Digital, dial, or instant-read food thermometers and appliance thermometers will help you know if the food is at safe temperatures. Keep appliance thermometers in the refrigerator and freezer at all times. When the power is out, an appliance thermometer will always indicate the temperature in the refrigerator and freezer no matter how long the power has been out. If you're not sure a particular food is cold enough, take its temperature with a food thermometer.

**May I refreeze the food in the freezer if it thawed or partially thawed?** Yes, the food may be safely refrozen if the food still contains ice crystals or is at 40° F or below.

As for food in the refrigerator, **never**

**taste it to determine its safety.** Discard any perishable food (such as meat, poultry, fish, eggs and leftovers) that have been above 40° F for two hours.

Among the foods that will be safe if above 40° F for over two hours: hard cheeses (Cheddar, Colby, Swiss, Parmesan, provolone, Romano), processed cheeses, grated Parmesan, Romano, or combination (in can or jar), butter or margarine, opened fruit juices, opened canned fruits, fresh fruits, dried fruits, peanut butter, jelly, relish, taco sauce, ketchup, mustard, olives, pickles, opened vinegar-based dressings, bread, rolls, cakes, muffins, waffles, pancakes, bagels, and raw vegetables.

Opened containers of mayonnaise, tartar sauce, or horseradish need to be discarded if the refrigerated temperature is above 50° F for over eight hours.