

Great River Energy to end operations at Stanton Station

Great River Energy (GRE) has announced plans to retire the Stanton Station power plant by May 2017 because the plant is no longer economic to operate with current low prices in the regional energy market. Stanton Station is located near Stanton in Mercer County, N.D.

“Stanton Station has provided dependable electricity to Great River Energy’s member cooperatives for 50 years,” said David Saggau, GRE president and CEO. “The plant’s long and successful record was possible thanks to a talented staff and supportive community.”

“After careful consideration of several alternatives, it became clear that retiring the plant was in the best interest of our member cooperatives,” Saggau added. Recently, Stanton Station has been generating electricity on a limited basis due to economic conditions. During that time, it has often been more



David Saggau

affordable to operate other plants or purchase power from the regional market.”

“We are making every effort to minimize impacts on our employees and the community through this transition,” Saggau said. “We are providing Stanton Station employees with a number of support resources and services whether or not they continue working for Great River Energy at another location.”

GRE continues to operate the Coal Creek Station power plant, which is located northeast of Stanton, and the Spiritwood Station plant near Jamestown, N.D. Great River Energy is the majority owner of Midwest AgEnergy Group which owns and operates two ethanol plants and related facilities in North Dakota. GRE also maintains a number of transmission facilities in the state. “We remain a committed partner in North Dakota’s energy industry,” Saggau said.

Great River Energy is developing plans to decommission Stanton Station in a responsible manner that will safeguard the local environment and assure the safety and security of the lo-



cal community. Stanton Station, which began generating power in 1966, has a generating capacity of 189 megawatts (MW).

GRE is a not-for-profit cooperative which provides wholesale electric service to 28 distribution cooperatives in Minnesota (including Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric) and into Wisconsin. Those member cooperatives distribute electricity to approximately 665,000 member-consumers. Great River Energy generates electricity from a variety of resources, including coal, natural gas, and renewables. GRE is the second largest electric power supplier in Minnesota and one of the largest generation and transmission (G&T) cooperatives in the United States.

Visit “Electropolis” for history, science behind city’s electrification

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric’s wholesale power supplier, Great River Energy (GRE), is a sponsor of an exhibit at The Bakken Museum in Minneapolis entitled, “Electropolis.”

As part of this sponsorship, Steele-Waseca members can take advantage of a buy-one, get-one free admission deal by clipping out the coupon adjacent to this article and presenting it at the museum’s visitor services desk. Be sure to fill in Steele-Waseca’s name above the line on the coupon so they know you’re one of our co-op members. 21591

Electropolis is an exhibit on electricity in Minneapolis that combines science and history to engage children ages 4-8 and their families in educational play. It features a variety of fully-interactive stations where children can light up and power the Foshay Tower and also learn about circuits by connecting and lighting up a small city.

Electropolis presents young museum visitors with a combination of “how things were” and “how things work,”

framing basic principles of electricity within the history of electrification in Minneapolis.

The Bakken Museum, located at 3537 Zenith Ave. S., Minneapolis,

is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Visit thebakken.org or call 612-926-3878 for more information.

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE ADMISSION TO ELECTROPOLIS At The Bakken Museum

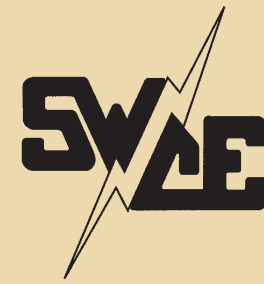
Name of cooperative
Valid through October 2016

Redeem at The Bakken Museum visitor services desk. Buy one admission and get one free admission of equal or lesser value.

Limit 1 coupon per household. Not valid with any other offers or discounts. Not for cash redemption.



The Bakken Museum – 3537 Zenith Avenue South – Minneapolis, MN 55416 – thebakken.org



the power of human connections

sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

September 2016

inside connections

- 2 Manager Connection
- 3 Church of All Saints Fall Festival
Fall Ham Supper in Medford
- 4 Cookin’ Connection
SWCE community solar update
Sparks in brief
Who found their account number
in the August 2016 Sparks?
- 5 Safely play Pokémon Go
Scam attempt on member
restaurants
St. John’s U.C.C. Germanfest
- 6 Ad Connection
4-Seasons Vacations
- 7 Ad Connection
- 8 GRE to retire Stanton Station
power plant
Electropolis at the Bakken
Museum BOGO coupon

calendar of events

September

- 5 Labor Day 35862
SWCE office closed
Minnesota State Fair ends
- 7-11 The Defeat of Jesse
James Days, Northfield
- 10-11 Mantorville Marigold Days
- 11 Patriot Day
Grandparents Day
- 16 National POW/MIA
Recognition Day
- 22 First day of autumn

Traveling Wall Faribault 2016

Vietnam Memorial Aug 31 – Sep 5

Come see us at Rice County Fairgrounds
“An educational and healing experience”
Wednesday August 31 - 3PM to 4PM: Arriving from Owatonna to Faribault
Thursday September 1 - 1PM: Soft Opening
Thursday September 1 - 6:30PM: Grand Opening
Monday September 5 - 1PM: Closing Ceremony
Open 24 hrs. Free parking and free visiting
Daily programs - Mobile Military Museum - Vehicles on display
Service Organizations - Veterans Lounge

ISupportTheWall.org

Cooperatives measure Minnesota’s solar potential

Southern solar installations outpace the north, while winter output stalls statewide

After two years of collecting output data and other information from the Maple Grove and 19 member cooperative arrays, Great River Energy’s (GRE’s) generation engineers have a better idea of what the Land of 10,000 Lakes is capable of in terms of solar energy production.

Great River Energy’s 250-kilowatt (kW) research and demonstration array at its Maple Grove headquarters tests the performance of three types of panels, while the 19 arrays across Greater Minnesota have a generating capacity of 20 kW each and provide statewide distributed generation information. All of the projects are helping GRE and its member cooperatives evaluate the impact of solar energy while providing up to 450,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of renewable energy annually—equivalent to powering about 38 homes.

The most data has been collected from the Maple Grove array, since it was completed in May 2014. The member projects wrapped up just after the

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric community solar production (per panel)

June 2015	47 kWh
July 2015	47 kWh
August 2015	42 kWh
September 2015	42 kWh
October 2015	26 kWh
November 2015	36 kWh
December 2015	35 kWh
January 2016	44 kWh
February 2016	50 kWh
March 2016	40 kWh
April 2016	43 kWh
May 2016	56 kWh
June 2016	60 kWh
July 2016	58 kWh

fall season in 2015 with arrays installed in cities as north as Lutsen and as south as Worthington.

Andy Bergrud, a senior engineering project manager at GRE, notes that one of the main findings is that the Maple

(Solar performance continued on Page 3)

Sharing Success

Steele County Food Shelf Director Stormy Trom (left) accepted a \$1,000 check, Aug. 4, from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric Executive Assistant Debbie Eby. Steele-Waseca participated in CoBank’s “Sharing Success” program. CoBank matches contributions from their cooperative customers to the nonprofit organizations of the co-op’s choice. CoBank, headquartered near Denver, Col., is a national cooperative bank providing loans and other financial services to rural power, water and communications providers along with agribusinesses in the U.S.



Published monthly by
Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric
2411 W Bridge Street, PO Box 485
Owatonna MN 55060-0485

Website: www.swce.coop
Email: swce@swce.coop
Fax: 507-446-4242



Board of Directors

PJ Duchene District 1
Geraldine Lienke District 2
Secretary/Treasurer
Duane Edwardson, *Chaplain* . District 3
Dennis Ringhofer District 4
Rodney Krell District 5
Gary Wilson, *President*,
GRE Director District 6
John Beal, *Vice President* District 7
Ronald Sommers District 8
Renee Malecha District 9
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Management

Syd Briggs *General Manager*

Division Managers

Darla DeVries *Office*
Douglas Hughes *Marketing*
David Lundberg *Finance*
Kim Huxford *Operations*

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*

As a member-owner of Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, you know how essential reliable and affordable electric service is to our everyday lives. It makes almost everything we do easier, even though we may take it for granted much of the time. But it might surprise you to know the program that first set rural America on the path toward electrification is still working with co-ops to power communities all across the country today.

The Electric Loan Program is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Utilities Service (RUS), which has been helping electric co-ops light up rural America for the past eight decades.

In its early days, the Electric Loan Program was the source of financial support to install utility poles and string power lines. Like co-ops themselves, it has changed with the times and now helps co-ops innovate by supporting smart grid and other technologies to ensure co-op members receive the best possible service.

In commemorating the 80th anniversary of the RUS, formerly known as the Rural Electrification Administration, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack earlier this year announced he would commit more than \$200 million from the RUS Electric Loan Program to build and upgrade rural electricity infrastructure in several states.

The benefits of the loan program flow both ways: In fiscal year 2017 alone, loan repayments will help reduce the federal deficit by more than \$300 million. So it’s a win-win program—good for you and your co-op, and for U.S. taxpayers. 19983

Also important for electric co-ops is the RUS Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program, which helps co-ops invest in local community and economic development activities. Last year, REDLG loaned cooperatives \$32.5 million for projects that created 288 jobs, retained another 436, and awarded \$7.1 million in grants. Steele-Waseca has utilized the REDLG program to award over \$3 million in loans in our local area for economic development. These loans are not subsidized by our membership, which means we are growing our economy by investing our time and at-

tention. The return on our invested effort is invaluable as we provide a boost to the local economy. This program funds all kinds of efforts that allow co-ops to invest in the communities they serve. And similar to the Electric Loan Program, the REDLG benefits flow well beyond individual co-ops; they boost economic growth and create jobs at no cost to the federal government.

Co-ops’ relationship with RUS can best be described as a mutually beneficial, public-private partnership that continues to withstand the test of time. It’s so important, in fact, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), our national service organization, makes government funding of the RUS a top priority every year. At NRECA’s urging, 217 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and 37 members of the Senate have expressed written support for funding the RUS Electric Loan Program at \$5.5 billion in fiscal year 2017.

It has been said if you don’t learn from the past, you are bound to repeat it. With the Republican and Democratic National Conventions behind us (along with the Minnesota Primary Election), it is easy to take our right to vote for granted. Perhaps due in part to so many opportunities to exercise that right. There are national, state, and local elections for political offices. Then there are elections for social and other civic organizations. If you own stock, you are asked to vote in those elections. So it is understandable to see how “election fatigue” can take hold.

As we head into the final stage of what has been a divisive national election, it is a good time to remember that elections don’t have to be about name calling and bitterness. Co-ops can and do play a role in cultivating a civil society where people can practice democracy at the hyper local level. As a member of Steele-Waseca, you can be proud of every member that runs for the board of directors. Cooperative members have a great history across our country of qualified, respectful, and dedicated desire and service.

The beauty of belonging to a co-op is every member has a voice, but you must use that voice if you want to be heard on the issues that matter to you. The cooperative business model is a great one, it fosters engagement and creates strong communities. Let your voice be heard and take time to participate in all the elections.

ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)

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

INDOOR STORAGE FOR RVs & CAMPERS, south of Fbo, low prices. 412-1171.

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

PORT. DOG KENNEL, 24” wide x 34.5” long x 30” high, \$40. 451-1131.

SHOREMASTER BOAT LIFT, 1686, cradles, motor stop, new wheel & cable, \$750. 838-5803.

(2) 55-GAL. GAS DRUMS w/hoses & nozzles, drums painted red, free homemade stand. 390-8394.

WINTER STORAGE FOR RENT: boats, cars, campers, etc., reas. rates. 451-7528.

ALTO SAXOPHONE, new, \$350; **FLUTE**, new, \$225. 340-0506.

FORTUNE CREEK TRL LOTS, the covenant allows for a pole shed, starting at \$75,000. 838-5033/John.

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

NH 456 7’ HAY MOWER; NH 56 9’ HAY RAKE; JD C10 MOUNTED DIGGER; 3-PT ROUND BALE MOVER; BUCKET-MOUNT ROUND BALE MOVER. 339-1937.

3-ACRES IN RICHLAND TWSP, Rice County, incl. house, barn, hog shed & lean to. 612-827-6575.

GOAT FAMILY: 2-y-o buck & doe w/3-mth-old kid bil-ly, all are 100% Boer, exc. health, \$600. 384-7653.

PORT. STORAGE, 20’ & 40’ shipping containers, store your stuff on your property, rodent & moisture proof. 612-418-4375.

SADDLE, like new, beautiful. 330-5256.

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

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

ACE PTO MOUNTED SPRAYER PUMP, \$50; **(3) HAND OIL BARREL PUMPS** for 30- or 50-gal. drums, \$15/each; **(3) WOODEN GATES** w/hinges: (1) 38.5”x60” & (2) 38.5”x69.5”, \$35/ea. 465-8566.

GEORGE FOREMAN GRILLING MACHINE, used (1) time. 451-1977/Joe.

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.beaverlikestates.com. 438-9503.

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

SM. PUPPY BENCH, \$50; **3-WAGON WHEEL LIGHTS**, \$20; **WHITETAITS UNLIMITED COOLER**, \$100 (can be seen on Faribault online garage sale). 663-1275.

1997 H-D ULTRA CLASSIC, 68,000 mi., runs & looks great, \$7500/obo. 210-2610.

200-BU. GRAVITY BOX WAGON, \$795. 465-8483.

28’ HAY BALE CONVEYOR w/transport, elec. motor & bale slide; **DEARBORN 10-1 2-BTM PLOW**, 3-pt, s/n 68039. 744-2792.

1997 NU-WA HITCHHIKER II 5TH WHEEL, 31’, (2) slides, 4-season, new brakes, 10-ply tires, alum. rims, kept indoors for winter & winterized. 456-7561 or 384-1906.

2012 RICHMOND 40-GAL. WATER HEATER, \$100; **2007 AMANA LP FURNACE**, 60,000 Btu, \$200; **AMANA AIR COND.**, 1.5-ton. 381-9849.

’48 JD D TRACTOR, runs gd,\$3000. 612-644-3822.

’88 16’ BLUE FIN SUPERHAWK BOAT & TRLR w/50 hp Force motor, Minn-Kota 55T troll. motor, boat cover & depth finder incl., \$1500/obo. 451-1505.

’15 MAURER HOPPER, new w/auto tarp, \$34,000; **’80 WILSON HOPPER**, \$7250. 456-1181.

USED AUTO PARTS: engines, transmissions, car & truck parts, 30-day warranties, bst prices. 332-2300.

LARGE ROUND BALES OF WINTER WHEAT STRAW, new crop, weed free, net wrapped. 330-1790/Kilkenny.

CABIN, French Lake, 80’ shoreline, fish out your front door, deck, patio, steel siding, big muskie lake, \$99,500. 334-6362.

40’ ELEC. HAY ELEVATOR on rubber; **(2) 12’ HAYRACKS; NH SIDE RAKE; MUSTANG 1200 SKID LOADER**, (2) buckets, but stuck mtr; **100-BU. FLARE BOX** on gd rubber. 390-4076.

1983 PACE ARROW CLASS A MOTORHOME, 36’, 454, bad roof, \$900. 649-0857.

MIXED FIREWOOD, seas. & all sizes. 332-7739.

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.

1970 14 X 70 GENERAL MOBILE HOME, (3) bdrm, (1) ba, to be moved, no axles, some windows replaced, incl. all appliances, \$7000. 456-4056.

1940 M w/pwr steering, nice shape, \$1700; **1953 JD 50** w/pwr steering, nice shape, \$3000. 451-0885 or 475-0666.

1997 WHEEL HORSE 520H LAWN TRACTOR, hyd. lift, comes w/48” front mounted angle broom, 42” tiller & underbody blade, \$1750. 330-3444.

JD MX8 MOWER, 3-pt. 581-0470.

SCHWINN WORLD SPORT, 27x14, 12-spd, \$100; **TREK 720**, 700x35c, \$100. 330-3178.

SM. 1-BDRM HOUSE FOR RENT in Fbo, renter pays own utilities, avail. 9/1/16. 332-8826.

14’ ALUMACRAFT F9 BOAT, 25 hp Johnson motor, Spartan trailer, exc. cond., \$2500/obo. 595-3912.

HAY & STRAW ROUND BALES; HAY, sm. sq.; **GRASS & ALF.**, new crop. 451-7489 or 414-2245.

OAK FIREWOOD, you pick up, \$175 a cord; **GAS FIREPLACE; RECEIVER** for 2006 Equinox, \$100; **WINTER STORAGE**. 451-8740.

JD 3950 SILAGE CHOPPER, \$4000; **(2) CHOPPER BOXES**, \$1000/each. 451-0653.

ALUM. PONTOON LIFT, 20’-24’, \$850; **SM. BOAT LIFT**, \$265; **CLASS A INNER LINER**, like new, stainless steel, 8’w8”, \$125. 491-4565.

HIGHLAND CATTLE: (3) young cows, (1) herd bull; **DORPER RAM LAMBS**, approx. 6-mths-old. 715-205-0411.

’91 FORD VERSATILE 946, 4WD, 4500 hrs, pwrshift, 20.8x38 tires, \$41,000/obo; **’02 LOFTNESS STALK CHOPPR**, 22’, 3-pt, 1000 PTO, \$8000/obo. 461-2681.

1995 FORD F-150, 4WD, fiberglass topper, chrome rims, ext. cab; **1989 YAMAHA MOTO 4 ATV**, 200 cc. 456-0296.

CLEANING SERVICES: clean, vacuum, laundry, etc. 461-9422.

GROUND BEEF, extra lean. 332-2120.

COLLIE PUPS; LAYING HENS; LAYING PULLETS; POLISH BANTAMS; LIVE BROILERS; FEEDER PIGS; PIGS TO BUTCHER; BREEDING GILTS. 676-5489.

ANTIQUE VANITY, \$75. 583-6679.

TRAILERS, 2-wheel; **RUGS**, brown, 12x20; **PLASTIC BARRELS**. 664-9426.

COMMERCIAL METAL SHELVING, var. sizes, some new in box, others in perfect cond. 527-2529.

EQUIP. TRAILER, 14’x7’, nice, tandem axle, tilt bed. 363-6310.

VACATION CLUB, (1) wk, Sat. to Sat., Sept. through Feb., private owner, sleeps up to (6), Cancun, Mex., \$1400. 213-8823.

CHEV. 350 ENG. w/trans., \$200; **FLUOR. LIGHTS**, (4) bulb, 4’ high output; **’01 POLARIS TWIN JET SKI**, 700 cc, \$2500; **ALM SNOWMOBILE TRLR**, 8x9, \$500; **2-WHL TRLR**, 5X12, \$250. 271-6592.

SCHEDULE GRID SOIL SAMPLING NOW; HIGH QUALITY AG LIME AVAIL., variable rate spreading; **NEW TITAN PRO CORN & SOYBEAN PRODUCTS FOR 2017.** 676-7767.

(4) KITCHEN STOOLS; TREADMILL; FAN BIKE; (2) CORNER CHAIRS; KING WATER BED; ANTIQUE ROCKING CHAIR; (4) OAK HI-BACK BAR STOOLS; TANNING BED. 383-1270.

METAL WELDING CART; (3) DH ROSSIGNOL SKIS; (2) ELEC. BASEBOARD HEATERS, 220V (all vry well priced to sell). 470-262-7696.

2009 JD X360 LAWN MOWER, 48” deck, 670 hrs, exc. cond., \$2600. 451-8334 or 475-0540/cell.

200-BU. GRAVITY BOX w/8-ton Minn. running gear. 685-4372.

OLIVER 1650 GAS TRACTOR, wide front w/cab, 4000 hrs, gd running/gd cond. tractor, incl. Badger Stanhoist loader; **INT SUPER A**, wide front, incl. Int. belly mower. 374-2163 or 208-9191/Glenn.

1998 SYLVAN SPORT TROLLER, nice boat, livewell, depth finder, front mount trolling motor, nice 25 hp Yamaha 4-stroke. 213-6979.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

SCRAPBOOK & RUMMAGE SALE, Fri., Sept. 23, 8-7 & Sat., Sept. 24, 8-4, discounted scrapbooking supplies, gift baskets, cards & misc., 2155 Union Lk Trl, Nfld, 1 mi. s. of Big Steer truck stop. 663-1569.

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.

ad connection

give away

TREES YOU CUT FOR WOOD. 461-3698.

FREE ONLINE CLASSIFIEDS, you place & remove your own ad on SWCE's website, www.swce.coop, these are separate from Sparks & will not appear in Sparks unless emailed to sparks@swce.coop.

BLK WALNUTS, you pick up, bring your own containers. 528-2383.

wanted

JANITORIAL WORKERS, PT day/evening, needed in local area, 10/hr. 412-1248/Laura.

FRONT-END LOADER & MOUNTING KIT for JD 950 tractor. 774-9072.

WOODEN CUP & SAUCER SHELF, holds (18) sets, in gd cond., circa 1970. 634-7988.

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

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.

USED WASTE OIL. 420-7429.

CDL CLASS A DRIVER for hopper freight, 5-state area, clean driving record, age 25+, gd medical card, \$0.35/mile & some hourly. 456-1181.

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

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

GERMAN SHEPHERD MALE PUP. 581-0470.

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.

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

CANNING JARS, all sizes, no need to clean before selling, reas. price. 334-7291.

PORT. BALE CONVEYR, gd con. with or w/o motor. 461-2681.

Sparks Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

Ads need to be received in our office by September 6 to ensure being printed in the October 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 6th will be printed in the November issue.

☐ 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.

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

DORPER OR KATAHDIN EWES OR LAMBS; BOER GOATS. 715-205-0411.

ISSUES OF THE WEEKLY PUBLISHED STEELE COUNTY PHOTO NEWS, published every Thurs. from March 31, 1938 through April 9, 1975 for historical research. 451-7290.

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

FARMLAND TO RENT in the Owat. area.213-6979.

ACCORDION, 12-bass or 72-bass style for beginner. 334-8154.

for sale

1999 VIKING SAGA 2107 POP-UP CAMPER, frig., sink, stovetop, furnace & (2) LP tanks, beds on both ends & table/lounge area turns into bed, \$2350. 412-1246/Terry.

(3) BORDER COLLIE PUPS, males. 351-3854.

GRAIN BIN METAL FLOOR STANDS, used to hold up aeration floors, (275) hvy duty stands come out of a 30' bin, \$150 takes them all. 330-3856.

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

2004 VENTURE CAMPER, exc. cond., 12' bed w/(2) 5' slide outs, indoor/outdoor cooktop, refrig., gas furnace, awning w/enclosure, additional 10x10 tent, extra 20# tank, \$3095. 334-5799.

JD 640 3-WHL RAKE, exc. cond.,\$2500. 380-9580.

ANTIQUE CHICAGO WENDIOR REED ORGAN, late 1890s-early 1900s, walnut case, exc. keyboard, plays well, \$200 cash. 451-7626.

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

1991 BUICK LeSABRE, 3800 engine, new tires, Sony stereo, needs LR control arm (parts incl.), runs great, gd gas mileage, \$695. 455-3881.

RIDING LESSONS: \$45/hour, 10x @ \$35/hour, 20x @ \$25/hour, Shieldsville Twp, Kilkenney; HORSE BOARDING, Kilkenney, \$300/month. 332-2176.

OLD BARN WOOD, over 100-ysr; BUTCHERED CHICKENS; HAY, 2nd crop in Aug.; HANDMADE PICNIC TABLES w/benches.451-3249 or 456-7215.

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

'95 FORD TAURUS, vry well maintained, all receipts to prove recent work, new water pump, serpentine belt & radiator, 137,500 mi., \$950. 456-7757.

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

'85 HVY DUTY TRLR, 8'x16', twin 7500-lb. axles, \$1800; COMPUTER DESK & HUTCH, \$100; 1996 BUICK PARK AVE., needs transmission wrk, \$1000. 456-9145.

(6) 15,000-BU. GRAIN BINS AVAILABLE TO RENT, 3-mi. north of Blooming Pr. just east of Hwy 218. 202-4089/Chuck.

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

DUAL PURPOSE BRED COWS, grass fed; JULY 2016 CALVES; TREEING FIEST PUPPIES. 465-8593/Brad.

OLDER LOFTNESS 8' PTO SNOWBLOWER, hydraulic spout & large, single-stage auger w/hvy-duty chain, needs PTO work, \$295. 317-2910.

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

CABIN, Beaver Lake, big lot, 2-bdrm, move-in ready. 383-2056.

USED TUFF H-WTR PR. WSHR, 3.5 gpm @ 3000 psi, 11 hp Honda, GED, \$2295; USED ALKOTA 2102 H-WTR PR. WSHR, 2 gpm @ 1000 psi, \$1895; RADIANT HEATER, VAL 6 KBE5L, \$2395. 583-2703.

GIGANTIC SHED SALE: antiques, tools, fishing equip., crafts & misc., Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 8-4 @ 2076 SE 28th St., Owat. 451-5172.

(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.

SMOKY MOUNTAINS BY MOTOR COACH, Oct. 10-17. Eight days, 13 meals, Grand Ole Opry, Dollywood, Smoky Mtn National Park. \$1,129 per person based on 2 per room.

HOLIDAY BRANSON BY MOTOR COACH, Oct. 31-Nov. 4. Five days, 8 meals, 6 shows, Christmas Lights, Steamboat Museum. \$849 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.

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



member connection

(Solar performance continued from Page 1

Grove array is representative of the average annual performance of the member sites.

“The statewide average is very similar to Maple Grove’s output,” Bergrud said. “As expected, the southern arrays perform slightly better than the northern arrays, but the difference in annual capacity factor from the Maple Grove site has only been about half a percent.”

The Maple Grove array’s annual capacity factor average is 13.6 percent, which falls in between the installations at Cooperative Light and Power (13.2 percent) in Two Harbors, and Goodhue County Cooperative Electric Association (14.2 percent) in Zumbrota. These percentages indicate how much energy output the panels produced, on average, compared to its full nameplate capacity throughout the year.

Bergrud noted that the Maple Grove array saw slightly better summer performances in its second year of operation, which may have been caused by less cloud cover in the sunnier months. The array saw 17 percent “ideal” days in 2015—those days with sunshine and clear skies—versus 10 percent in 2014. Also in 2015 were less recorded “erratic” days—when clouds either don’t clear out or cover the sun on and off throughout the day. That percentage went down from 70 percent in the array’s first year to 62 percent in year two.

“These figures still represent that our ideal days are a low minority of the time,” Bergrud noted. “Knowing this



Great River Energy's solar garden is located at their headquarters in Maple Grove. (Photo courtesy of Great River Energy)

information helps us from a grid management perspective in understanding how solar production tends to behave in our region.”

The Maple Grove array’s time-of-day generation percentages are also representative of the 19 member projects. In the summer months, solar production begins at about 6 a.m., exponentially increases throughout the morning and early afternoon (peaking at 13.75 percent at noon) then it tapers off during the early evening, with no production after 7 p.m. 118208

Overall, Bergrud said, the average annual output for each of the arrays is slightly lower than the 15 percent capacity factor expectation they had going into the projects, but it represents “one of the realities of solar in Minnesota.” One of the project team’s biggest take-aways going into the third year of solar

generation on the GRE system is how much of an effect frequent, rapid power swings have on the output—again, due to Minnesota’s tendency to have more cloudy days over pure sunny days. An understanding of the sudden shifts in power output caused by cloud interference is an important lesson learned for utilities to find ways to properly manage the grid as more solar and other renewable energy resources are interconnected to the electric system.

“We still see the value in incorporating energy storage for these projects to see if that gives us the ability to minimize the impacts from these power swings or use the energy that is produced from the array at a time that better coincides with our members’ peak load,” Bergrud said.

Church of All Saints
New Richland, Mn

Fall Festival

Saturday, September 17, 2016

Mass at 4:00 P.M.

Turkey Sandwich Supper with augratus, beans, coleslaw, dessert from 5:00 to 6:30 P.M.

Tickets \$8, Children under 5 \$3
Take out meals available - Saturday 507 465 8381

Family Fun 3 to 7:30 P.M. under the Big Tent
Silent Auction Bingo Raffle Country Store
Outdoor Games
Handicap Accessible

FALL HAM SUPPER
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
MEDFORD, MN
108 SW 3rd St.

Sunday, September 25, 2016

MENU: “Family Style”
Ham (raisin sauce available)
Homemade mashed potatoes/gravy
Whole kernel corn
Coleslaw
Rolls & Pickles
Assorted Pies
Coffee/Milk

PRICES:
Adults \$12.00
Children (6-12) . \$4.00
Pre-school FREE

Serving Time: 4:30 - 7:00 PM

Our church is physically impaired accessible
www.tlmedford.org

cookin' connection

Mountain Dew® Apple Dumplings

Audrey Blouin

Owatonna

- 1 stick butter
- 1 c. white sugar
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 can Mountain Dew soda
- 1 tube crescent rolls
- 2 apples (decorated & quartered)
- 1 tsp. cinnamon

Wrap each quarter of apple into a crescent roll and place in baking dish. Pour melted butter, sugar and vanilla over them. Pour half a can of Mountain Dew over the ingredients in the baking dish and bake at 350° until golden brown.

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 58 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during July 2016. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop. The latest members to subscribe: Deerfield Town Hall, Owatonna; Lee/Susan Robbins, Blooming Prairie; and Greg Reuvers, Dundas.

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.

August issue of Sparks



Numbers found:

Mr. & Mrs. William J. Grunklee
Lynne D. Reeck

Numbers not found:

Jeremy M. Cumberland
Trevor A./Jordan N. Lewer
Leonard J./Laurie A. Winter

KEEP
LOOKING!

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. 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.

• **July temps** – The average high temperature for July was 81° F, while the average low was 63° F. They compare to last year's average high of 80° F and average low of 61° 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. 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

Electrical safety warning for “Pokémon Go” players

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric and other electric companies are urging everyone to be cautious when using the new “Pokémon Go” app and to stay away from all electrical facilities.

The new smartphone-based augmented reality game sends players to real world places to “catch” Pokémon. Unfortunately, they're also appearing at electric substations and transformers, drawing players into dangerous situations.

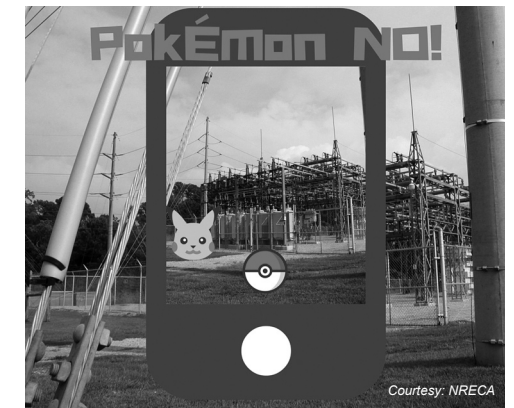
Electrical equipment is very dangerous and should not be considered gaming locations. Electric companies urge gamers, customers and the public to stay away from substations, all power lines and equipment on utility poles,

and underground electrical facilities commonly identifiable as those green boxes in neighborhood yards.

Never attempt to enter substations, go over a fence or climb utility poles to try and reach transformers. Serious injury or death can occur.

Electric utilities cannot control where the Pokémon appear, so players should make sure they catch their Pokémon from a safe distance. Any game or activity that distracts people from the possible dangers around them, and potentially brings them in proximity to electrical equipment and power lines is a major concern.

If someone sees activity where a person is trying to get into a substation or climb an electrical pole, you are en-



couraged to call 911 first, then call the utility office. For Steele-Waseca members, that is 507-451-7340 or toll free 800-526-3514.

Co-op member restaurants targeted in July scam

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric Officials were notified July 9 of two member restaurants and a third restaurant, who is a member of Dakota Electric Association, reported phone scams at their respective establishments.

The scam caller claimed to be with Xcel Energy and demanded a payment through a reloadable money pack or a service technician would be sent out to disconnect their power. In two of the three reported scam attempts, the scammer provided the member with a work order number. Fortunately, none of the restaurants were victimized as they each refused to pay.

According to the Minnesota Attorney General's Office, scam artists often instruct consumers to send money by wire transfer or reloadable money packs. Sending money in these forms is the same as sending cash as it is nearly untraceable, and once the money is sent,

it is generally gone for good.

Scam artists aim fake invoices, phony debt collection notices, and spam emails at unsuspecting consumers hoping they will pay before checking their records. You should never send money or provide personal information to unknown or unfamiliar people or entities.

Never provide your private information in response to an unsolicited call, email or text. If something doesn't seem right, tell the person you're not interested. Don't be afraid to hang up the phone, or to not respond to future calls, text messages, or emails from the person. Hanging up or closing the door isn't bad manners if you think you're being scammed.

At Steele-Waseca, letters are initially sent to members who have a past due balance that would warrant a potential disconnection. Secondly, a phone call from a contracted agency working for

the co-op calls to remind members of their past due balance.

If someone calls you demanding an immediate payment or asking for your banking information, immediately hang up the phone and call your local law enforcement authorities. By reporting any suspicious call, it allows authorities to gather information regarding the phone number that is calling and attempting the scam. In addition, please contact Steele-Waseca so the co-op is aware of the situation.

Don't be fooled by caller ID numbers as scammers can “spoof” numbers and appear to be calling from someone else's phone number—when in fact, they are not. 24621

If you have any questions regarding the status of your account, please call Steele-Waseca at 507-451-7340 or toll-free at 800-526-3514.

St. John's U.C.C.

Germanfest

19086 Jacobs Ave., Faribault, MN
Morning Worship Service at 10:00 AM

Sunday, September 25, 2016

German Buffet

Serving: 11:00am-2pm and 4pm-6pm
(No Reservations Needed)

Live Old-Time Music

Performed by:
“Tim Chlan and friends” 11am-1 pm
“Ray Sands Band” 1-3 pm
And “The Stuttgart Three” 3-6 pm

3:00 PM Polka Praise Service

From Faribault, Exit I-35 to Hwy 60, go 8 mi. east to CR 24, follow CR 24 for 2 mi. north to church. From Kenyon, follow Hwy 60 west to CR 24, follow CR 24 2 mi. to church. From Northfield, follow Hwy 246, 11 mi. to CR 27, follow CR 27 for 2 mi., then follow CR 24 1 mi. south to church.

For more information call:
Telephone: (507) 789-6635 or (507) 334-6550

Tickets: Adult...\$12.50 Ages 5-12...\$5.00 4 and under...Free