

member connection

Are you covered if your electronics sustain damage after an outage?

A power outage or power surge—whether triggered by a storm, lightning, trees, animals, or vehicles hitting power poles—can damage computer equipment, TVs, and other appliances in your home. These events are all out of Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's control and the co-op does not compensate for any damaged equipment.

However, most homeowner's insurance policies cover losses from power interruptions caused by lightning, windstorms, and other such weather. Make sure you're familiar with your policy and what is covered. Call your agent if you're not sure about your specific cov-

erage and/or deductible.

You can help protect your own equipment by unplugging it during a power outage and by installing surge protection. Unfortunately, surge protectors will not save you from a low voltage event, or brownout. Dimming lights in your residence are a sign that you are experiencing a brownout, which over time can cause major damage to your appliances. During a brownout, the voltage goes down, but the amperage goes up. This potentially can cause appliances with motors, like refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners that do not have thermal protection to eventu-

ally overheat.

If you notice lights dimming or electronics cycling on and off, unplug any sensitive devices immediately to limit the strain they sustain from sagging voltage. By reducing power consumption, you will contribute to ending the brownout due to less usage on the electric grid.

"The majority of this summer's momentary power outages on our distribution system were generally the direct result of a lightning strike, or a fault occurring on the line due to weather-related issues, such as a tree branch dropping and hitting our energized line," stated Steele-Waseca Operations Division Manager Kim Huxford. "Momentary outages are directly due to breakers opening and closing a number of times which allows a fault to clear before the line burns down. This is a normal function in which the customer experiences loss of power, but only for a brief moment. Fuses on the other hand, blow once a fault is detected." Huxford said it then requires the co-op to send out a truck to have the line crew restore the power. 16260

"Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric does not and cannot guarantee power 100 percent of the time," stated Huxford, noting the co-op's insurance provider covers Steele-Waseca in an event where the co-op is directly responsible for causing damage to a member's equipment, but not for "Acts of God," such as the weather-related events which has dominated this year's events.

Finally, keep a small lamp or night-light plugged in and turned on during a power outage, so you'll know when power is restored. *SWCE*

State grants help livestock improvements on the farm

Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Dave Frederickson asks livestock producers to apply for a portion of \$2 million in grants available for on-farm improvements as part of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA's) Agricultural Growth, Research and Innovation (AGRI) Program.

"Livestock Investment Grants help farmers stay competitive and reinvest in their industry," said Frederickson. "Last year, we had 104 livestock farmers receive grants to improve their operations."

With funds awarded during the Fiscal Year 2015 Livestock Investment Grant, Jared Franke of Hayfield constructed a new beef barn to increase efficiency and allow the next generation to enter into the family farming operation.

Qualifying producers are reimbursed 10 percent of the first \$500,000 of investment, with a minimum investment

of \$4,000. Qualifying expenditures include the purchase, construction or improvement of livestock buildings or facilities. Fencing, feeding and waste management equipment are also covered. Producers who suffered a loss due to natural disaster may also apply. The grant will not pay for livestock, land purchases or debt refinancing.

Past applicants who did not receive an award need to reapply for the 2017 program. These grants are incentives to start projects, which must begin after Jan. 1, 2017. Applications for operations with farmers transitioning into livestock, beginning farmers, and those with a positive environmental impact receive priority. Details and grant guidelines are available at www.mda.state.mn.us/livestockinvestmentgrant. The application deadline is Dec. 16, 2016.

Free readjustment counseling for veterans available in Faribault

The St. Paul Veterans Resource Center will provide FREE and confidential readjustment counseling to veterans and their families experiencing issues associated with trauma.

Additional therapeutic services available are individual, couples, group, familial pre/post deployment, bereavement, and substance abuse programs.

The satellite office will be open at Bethel Ridge Church, 1401 Bethel Court, Faribault, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., on the third Friday of every month beginning Oct. 21, 2016.

Questions can be directed to Rita Marques, readjustment counseling therapist, by calling 651-644-4022 or 612-704-7236.

17th Annual Christmas for Veterans Homemade Craft & Bake Sale

Saturday, Nov. 5, 2016
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Associated Church
800 Havana Road, Owatonna

All proceeds from the booth rentals, donations, and the "Adopt a Veteran" project goes to buy gifts for all of the veterans and Gold Star Moms living in a local nursing home in Owatonna.

Annual Oyster-Chili Supper

Aurora Lutheran Church
6329 SE 38th St., Owatonna, Minn.

Sunday, Nov. 20, 2016

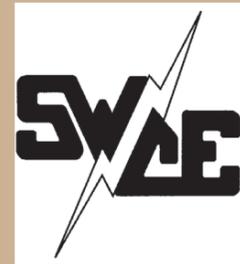
3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Homemade Chili & Oyster Stew

Oyster-Chili Combo \$10
Chili only \$ 8
Children (ages 6-12) \$ 5
Children (ages 5 & under) . . FREE

All you can eat!

Tickets available at the door
Bake Sale items available



the power of human connections

sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric November 2016

VETERANS DAY

Honoring All Who Served
We Thank You For Our Freedom!



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric wishes to remind our members the office will be CLOSED on Friday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day. Please mail your energy payment early to ensure the co-op receives it by the due date.

inside connections

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- 8 Outage reminders for electronics Farm improvement state grants Veteran services in Faribault Aurora Lutheran Church Supper Annual Christmas for Veterans

calendar of events

November

- 6 Daylight saving time ends
- 8 Election Day 23908
- 11 Veterans Day
- 24-25 Thanksgiving holidays
SWCE office is closed



Appointments for 2017 Nominating Committee announced

The Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric board of directors have announced appointments to the 2017 Nominating Committee (see adjacent list).

It is the nominating committee's responsibility to prepare the list of director candidates and post it at the cooperative's office at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting on Tuesday, June 6, 2017.

The election of directors will take place during the business portion of the annual meeting held at Steele-Waseca's headquarters located at 2411 West Bridge Street in Owatonna.

All Steele-Waseca members are eligible to serve as board directors. The governance role of directors can be summarized as being responsible for setting the overall policy and monitoring the business affairs of the cooperative.

If you are interested in becoming a director, you may call Debbie Eby at Steele-Waseca, and a director nomination form will be sent to you.

Or, if you know another member who would make a good director, and you want him or her to be considered, please contact the nominating committee member nearest you. However, before you make the request, be certain the person will accept the position if nominated.

Committee members are scheduled to meet at the cooperative office on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2016, and Friday, Jan. 20, 2017. The committee would appreciate any assistance you can provide in helping them select director candidates.

All Steele-Waseca members are eligible to vote each year for all expiring board director positions.

If you have a dual fuel heating system, be sure your off-peak controls are functioning and your backup system is prepared for the heating season. It is the member's responsibility to contact an electrical contractor should the system not be functioning properly.

District 7
Wayne/Mae Maas 334-2761
Gene/Joyce Wertheimer . 333-2191
Jerome/Diane Stenzel . . 317-9148

District 8
Pete/Melissa Bauer 334-4049
Kendall/Laura Strawmatt . 451-2959
Ron/Pat Brey 465-8557

District 9
Guy/Barb Jarvi 744-2711
Jane Middlestadt 451-6187
Lowell/Kathleen Miller . . 451-3887

The districts electing directors at Steele-Waseca's 81st Annual Meeting include:

• **District 7:** The Northeast and Southeast one quarters (NE & SE 1/4's) of Warsaw Township; the Northwest and Southwest one quarters (NW & SW 1/4's) of Walcott Township; the Northwest, Northeast and Southeast one quarters (NW, NE & SE 1/4's) of Wells Township in Rice County. (Represented by [John Beal](#))

• **District 8:** Kenyon Township in Goodhue County; Richland, Wheeling, Cannon City, Bridgewater, Upper Bridgewater and Northfield Townships, and the Northeast and Southeast one quarters (NE & SE 1/4's) of Walcott Township in Rice County. (Represented by [Ronald Sommers](#))

• **District 9:** Forest, Webster, Wheatland Townships, and the Southwest, Northwest and Northeast one quarters (SW, NW & NE 1/4's) of Erin Township in Rice County. (Represented by [Renee Malecha](#)) *SWCE*

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Website: www.swce.coop  Find us on Facebook
 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

Election Day is coming Tuesday, Nov. 8. Are you exercising your right

to vote?

Low voter turnout has been a topic of conversation for the last several election cycles. Since the 1960s, voter turnout during presidential elections has seen a steady decline in the percentage of eligible voters participating—with the occasional increase here and there. For Minnesota, those increases took place in 1976, 1992, 2000 and 2004.

In the 2016 primary election cycle, voter turnout in most states was around 20 to 30 percent, and was a record turnout for primary voter turnout. Minnesota, however, had one of the lowest percentages of voter turnout on record; around 7 percent of registered voters came to the polls during the 2016 primary election.

At the time, some speculated that it was due to the lack of statewide races, although some now think the reason for the decline is because the average American is not as engaged in politics as they have been in the past. It's a valid point as often times we may feel candidates are not speaking to the issues we care about. Or perhaps we don't feel like we understand enough about the candidates' stances on the issues, or even the issues themselves. But we can change this.

At Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, we have a history of encouraging participation and voting at our annual meeting. We also know the value of seeing grassroots civic engagement in our rural communities increase. We want to assist you in making informed decisions about candidates at all levels of government, not just the presidential race. And we want you to know more about the issues that could impact our local communities.

America's electric cooperatives are doing their part by informing co-op staff and members through *Co-ops Vote*, a non-partisan campaign with one simple goal: increase voter turnout at the polls Nov. 8. By visiting vote.coop, you can learn about your candidates, access voter registration information and more.

CO-OPS VOTE

A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

- Pledge to be a co-op voter
- Find key election information
- Learn about the issues
- Register to vote

VOTE.COOP

We encourage each person to review information on issues that affect all Americans, including those that impact the price of energy. Whoever wins will ultimately have a major role in developing policies that determine how safe, affordable, reliable and environmentally responsible America's energy production is for years to come. Before heading to the polls, carefully review the energy proposals of each candidate. Consider which plans will ensure continued access to fair and affordable electricity for you and your family. 19665

The future of rural economies depends on the ability to keep up with today's global economy. Just 55 percent of rural Americans have broadband internet at home. Quick access to information is crucial in finding a job, getting a better education and even gathering information needed to make major health decisions. With the right state and federal policies, broadband technology can become available to all rural Americans.

Incourage you to visit vote.coop and take the pledge to learn more about the issues that impact us locally. Let's work together to improve our communities by increasing voter turnout and changing our country, one vote at a time.

ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)

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

1959 JOHNSON O/B, 9.9 hp, runs great, comes w/ stand, \$220. 952-913-2078.

10 X 20 COLD STORAGE in Morristown, \$99/mo.; **6 X 8 COLD STORAGE** in Fbo, \$49/mo. 332-4638.

TRACTOR TIRES & RIMS: 13-6-38 Firestone Deep Tread, 20%; 20-8-34 Firestone Field & Road, 30%. 462-3698.

FIREWOOD, mostly oak, split & dry, you load & haul, \$125/pickup load. 684-9418.

NUWAVE INFRARED OVEN w/extender ring & pizza pan, used only a few times, \$25. 451-8888.

HOLLAND LOP/LIONHEAD RABBITS & BUNNIES, \$10/ea. 475-0957.

INT 720 PLOW, 5-20s, auto reset, new lays & coulters; **25' WIL-RICH CULTIVATOR**, field ready. 451-3501 or 390-5508/cell.

PORTABLE FISH HOUSE, \$100; **RUG** for fish; **FISH HOUSE WINDOWS, HEATERS & DOOR**. 664-9426.

1982 HONDA GOLDWING GL, 1100cc, shaft drive, clean engine, air ride, hand grips, runs grt, back rest, 28,735 mi., \$1850/cash/obo. 835-2814/Waseca.

1981 WHITE TRACTOR, 2-70 Field Boss w/forks & loader, 4547 hrs, \$7000. 412-1388.

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

INDOOR STORAGE for RVs & campers etc., south of Fbo, low prices. 412-1171.

100-YR-OLD HAND-CRANK WINDUP ANTIQUE PHONOGRAPH w/(75) old-time Bohemian records, \$300. 334-5759.

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

(2) 55-GAL. BARRELS, \$15/each; **LEVI'S CARPENTER PANTS**, 34W, 30L. 210-6728/Dan.

BALDOR MOTOR, 1.5-hp, single ph. 334-9333/Fbo.

ANTIQUA BABY BUGGY, \$250; **2008 SUZUKI DR-Z400S**, \$4000; **VENTED LP FISH HOUSE**, new, \$135; **PULL-BEHIND DRAG**, \$225. 377-7705.

PAULSON TRACTOR LOADER w/7' bucket currently on AC WD45, gd cond. 676-6715.

50" SWISHER SNOWPLOW for 4-whlr. 323-1566.

STORAGE SPACE FOR RENT: boats, campers, RVs, cars, snowmobiles, etc., cement floor building. 383-4707.

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

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. 438-9503.

XL BATHTUB, new, never used, 71"x43"x20" (deep), \$300. 744-2818.

7-YR-OLD REG. NORWEGIAN FJORD GELDING, broke to ride & drive. 456-8329.

REG. BELTED GALLOWAY CATTLE: heifers, cow/calf pair, bull. 456-0121.

1994 FORD F-250 XLT EXT. CAB, 4x4, Turbo diesel, auto. trans., 150k mi., \$1500. 952-652-2933.

2007 YUKON DENALI, 84,600 mi. 612-840-8720 or 952-652-2926.

DICKENS' VILLAGE SERIES RETIRED COLLECTIBLES, many lighted pieces, sets & accessories. 456-4992.

2008 CHRYSLER PACIFICA, 134,000 mi., 3rd row seating, runs gd, great shape, \$4700. 456-5773.

HAY, round bales stored inside. 213-1277.

(3) HAY BUNKS, custom made, will sell as a set or individually, they also can be used to haul extra stuff, 65"(L)x34"(H)x14"(D), 69"(L)x34"(H)x14"(D) & 32"(L)x32"(H)x12"(D), \$600/cash/obo. 456-3905.

ALF. GRASS HAY, 3rd cutting, small sq., no rain. 645-8755.

USED AUTO PARTS, ENGINES, TRANS., car & truck parts, 30-day warranty, best prices. 332-2300.

1957-58 FORD FENDER SKIRTS, \$70; **(4) '57 '14" HUBCAPS**, \$45; **1955-56 DOG DISH SET OF (4)**, \$100. 413-2659.

GRASS & ALF. HAY, no rain, sm. sq.; **HAY & STRAW**, large round bales. 451-7489 or 414-2245.

CARS & TRUCKS, gd, used. 332-7001.

20-GA. BELGIAN BROWNING, 3" auto, ven rib, like new cond., \$975; **BROWNING 22**, auto w/scope; \$310; **REMINGTON 11-87 SPORTSMAN**, 20-ga. slugs only w/scope, \$625. 202-9692.

WHIRLPOOL UNDERCABINET 900W MICRO-WAVE, like new, white, \$100; **KENMORE ELEC. RANGE**, exc. cond., white, \$150. 649-7216.

TILT TRAILER FOR CARS, solid loaders, must see, \$3250. 363-6310.

D-17 w/loader & chains, new 3-pt. 380-4291.

CABIN on French Lk, (2) bdrm, siding, woodburnr, dock, 80' shoreline, leased land, \$99,500. 334-6362.

WHITE 2-155 TRACTOR, \$11,500; **'80 WILSON HOPPER**, \$7250; **'04 CORNHUSKER BIG TUB**, all alum., \$20,000; **'97 FORD 3/4**, 4-spd w/Blizzard 10' plow, \$6500. 456-1181.

DMI COULTER CHAMP CHISEL PLOW, (7) 4" twisted shanks. 789-6617.

5 HP BRIGGS & STRATTON MOTOR, 3/4" horizontal shaft, runs gd, \$50; **TIRE CHAINS**, 12"(W) x 72"(L), will fit lawn tractor tires approx. 23"-24" diameter, never used, \$75. 465-8566.

1968 CHEV. C10 TRUCK, 2WD, 327, 4-spd, \$2000; **NI 325 PICKER**, narrow row, 8-roll husker, \$1800; **HMDE TRAILER**, 8'x18' tandem axle w/5' dovetail, 16.5 tires, 8-bolt wheel, \$1500. 456-9327.

SUZUKI 500 QUAD RUNNER, 4-wheel drive, exc. cond. 475-1392.

ANTIQUE VANITY, \$75. 583-6679.

REG. QH MARE, 1/2 Palomino, 1/2 Grulla, grt conformation, 1-owner, 14-y-o; **FL 3-HORSE SLANT TRLR** w/wknd pkg; **SEARS FOOD PROCESSR; MEAT/FOOD GRINDER**. 589-9259.

MISC. DUCK & GOOSE DECOYS, land & water; **MOJO DUCK; MOJO GOOSE; OLD TOWN CANOE**, red. 903-413-9002.

CONVENTIONAL CORN HYBRIDS, germ tested for 2017, 94-105 RM. (3) hybrids w/Agrisure Artesian(R) non-GMO trait for droughty soils, buy (3) hybrids & save \$5/unit, cash or JDF. 676-7767.

ARIENS SNOWBLOWER, 921 Series, 28", 2-stage, 250cc Briggs, used vry little (like new), elec. start, \$750; **BRIGGS 8-HP HORIZ. SHAFT ENGINE**, \$125. 227-5750 or 227-2565.

(3) DOWNHILL ROSSIGNOL SKIS; (2) ELEC. BASEBOARD HEATERS, 220V. 470-262-7696.

200-BU. DAKON GRAVITY BOX; JD RUNNING GEAR. 685-4372.

BLK WOMEN'S COLUMBIA WINTER COAT, Omni Tech, size XL, new, \$50. 684-3913.

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.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric is accepting bids to lease 16 acres of tillable land exclusively for farming purposes. The lease would begin April 1, 2017, and terminate March 31, 2020. Rents shall be payable on April 1 of each year. Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric reserves the right to reject all bids. If interested in receiving a bid request form, please email Debbie at: deby@swce.coop or phone Debbie at 507-446-4207 or 800-526-3514. Bids must be received at Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, 2411 W. Bridge St., Owatonna, MN 55060 by 3:30 p.m., Dec. 16, 2016.

MINNESOTA STRAY VOLTAGE GUIDE
 A Guide Addressing Stray Voltage Concerns

In 2015, Minnesota developed a [Stray Voltage Guide](http://www.minnesotastrayvoltageguide.com) outlining the steps farmers, licensed electrical contractors, utilities and their advisors can take to discover and resolve stray voltage concerns on livestock farms. It is focused on dairy farms, but the processes and procedures are relevant to all types of livestock and livestock housing facilities. To download a copy, visit www.minnesotastrayvoltageguide.com.

ad connection

give away

KITTENS: Manx bobtail, males, good house pets. 583-2173.

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.

EVERGREENS FOR FIREWOOD, 1-2' diameter trunk, not many branches, you cut & haul. 676-1141.

CAT &/OR KITTENS. 573-1959.

UPRIGHT PIANO & WURLITZER ORGAN w/full pedal board. 251-6621.

wanted

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

CHISEL/RIPPER PLOW, high clearance, non-plugging for cornstalks, able to pull w/100 hp tractor. 455-3881.

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.

10 HP SINGLE PHASE ELEC. MOTOR. 330-3945.

LOOKING TO RENT FARMLAND for 2017 & beyond. 456-6521.

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.

ESTATES, COLLECTIONS, FISHING OR HUNTING EQUIP., willing to purchase your collection/estate or setup an online auction. 279-0431/Mark.

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

GRASS HAY FOR HORSE, needs to be totally dry, about (50) bales. 446-8866/Joe.

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

BARN OR OUTBUILDINGS, I remove to re-purpose the lumber, also looking for any old log building, old tin &/or lumber. 330-0258/Tim.

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

USED OIL, 200-gal. or more. 420-7429.

for sale

FLARE BOX, \$675. 455-3881.

(4) 1961 CHEV. IMPALA HUBCAPS, 14", \$100; **(4) 1968 PONTIAC CATALINA HUBCAPS,** 14", \$100; **WOMEN'S VINTAGE SPATS:** wool, dark tan 4-button & blk 10-button w/button hook. 838-8565.

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

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

CANCUN, MEX. VACATION WEEK FOR RENT, Nov. thru March, (1) unit sleeps up to (6), the other unit sleeps up to (4), private party, nice! 213-8823.

SM. 1-BDRM HOUSE FOR RENT in Fbo, remodeled & new bath, renter pays own util., \$550/mth. 332-8826.

FIREWOOD, Walcott Town Hall area, fill your pickup, \$40. 332-7739.

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

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

CLIMATE CONTROLLED UNITS FOR RENT, 11'x9' to 16'x10'. 332-4623.

OLD RECORD CABINET, (4) shelves, contains several old records. 334-3253.

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

USED TUFF HOT WATER PRESS. WASHER, 3.5 gpm @ 3000 psi, 11 hp Honda, GED, \$2295; **VAL 6 KBESL RADIANT HEATER,** \$2395. 583-2703.

HAY: 4'x6' lrg round grass, 4'x4' sm. round alf. & sm. sq. alf.; **FORTUNE CRK TRL LOTS,** the covenant allows for a pole shed, starting at \$75,000; **7.6 ACRES ON GONVICK AVE.,** \$79,900. 838-5033/John.

HEAT & GLO FIREPLACE, Model 6000XLT, LP, fan, log set, 3' vent & cap, oak surround & mantel, \$495. 456-2060.

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

MULTI-CHURCH CHARITY BAZAAR, Nov. 5, Steele County Fairgrounds Community Center, 8:30-1:30, crafts & baked goods. 451-8547.

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

CABELA'S 3-MAN HUB SHELTER & MICS ICE ROD/REELS; (2) **MR. HEATER BUDDYS,** bst offr. 202-2536.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

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

CABIN on Cedar Lk, Fbo, leased land, (1) bdrm, dock, (2) sheds, pontoon, lift, \$60,000 (serious inquiries only). 456-9755.

9 X 12 SHED, great for garden shed or feed storage. 360-4870.

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

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

2-46" & 1-34" WDN HORSE DBL TREE EVENRS, **2-SINGLE TREE 42" EVENRS,** **2-HORSE HARN. HAMES,** **3-HORSE HOOF TRIMMRS,** **1-BRDL & 3-DRFT HORSE LEATHR HALTRS,** \$150.330-1154.

ELEC. FENCER rated for 100-mi. of fence, 6-Joule energy output, \$95; **RED SNAP'R VOLTAGE TESTER,** \$10. 412-1246/Terry.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

travel

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.

MN TWINS SPRING TRAINING IN FLORIDA BY MOTOR COACH, March 2-12, '17. Eleven days 19 meals, 2 Twins games, Nashville tour, Coca-Cola tour & more. \$1,699 pp based on 2 per room.

PANAMA CANAL CRUISE (AIR INCL.), March 14-30, '17; 17 days, all meals on cruise, San Fran., Mex., C. America, full canal transit, S. America, Aruba. Starts at \$4,399 pp based on 2 per room.

MONUMENTS OF WASHINGTON, D.C. (AIR INCL.), March 31-April 4, 2017. Five days, 8 meals incl., D.C. tour, Memorials, Mount Vernon, Arlington. \$1,399 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

Reservations being accepted for 2017 Coal Creek Tour, June 13-15

If you're seeking ideas for a three-day getaway in 2017, reservations are now being accepted for Steele-Waseca Co-operative Electric's annual Coal Creek Station Tour to Underwood, N.D.

This mini-vacation lets you get away and leaves the planning to us. Mom and/or Dad or Grandma and/or Grandpa, have you ever thought it would be fun to take the kids or grandkids on an outing where everything is planned out, meals included, have fun, learn and be worry free?

The tour includes the Coal Creek Station, Falkirk Mine with side tours of the Blue Flint Ethanol Plant and the High Voltage DC Converter Station.

The three-day tour is scheduled Tuesday, June 13, through Thursday, June 15, 2017. Travel in the comfort of a motor coach from Steele-Waseca to Bismarck, N.D., then stay at the Country Inn & Suites, which also has a water park for the kids. Each morning the hotel provides a full buffet breakfast.

During the trip to North Dakota, short educational DVDs will be played on the motor coach to give travelers a preview about what they'll see during the tours. There are fun on-the-bus games with questions and answers about information in each DVD throughout the trip for great prizes.

The tour on Wednesday, June 14, will include the Coal Creek Station to learn about the process of utilizing coal to generate electricity. Next is to observe the HVDC (High Voltage Direct Current) Terminal. It's here participants will see the equipment where 22,000 volts of alternating current (AC) from the generators is converted to

400,000 volts of direct current (DC).

From the 21st floor of Coal Creek Station, you will be able to view the Blue Flint Ethanol Plant which generates over 65 million gallons of ethanol per year by using steam from the Coal Creek power plant rather than utilizing additional boilers and burning natural gas, making Blue Flint one of the most efficient ethanol plants.

Participants will also visit the Falkirk Mine to observe the open-pit mining process for lignite coal and the huge drag lines that uncover the coal. You'll learn how the land is restored to its original landscape and farmland crop production levels after the coal is mined. If the weather permits, tour participants will be able to walk in the coal field and pick their own coal.

The tour price per Steele-Waseca member and their guest is \$310 per adult. One of the cooperative's goals for STUDENTS is to offer an educational opportunity about the electrical industry to our membership's young people. This is a great way for parents and/or grandparents to bring up to three students between the ages of 10 and 18 on this tour at NO CHARGE! Additional students may attend for a minimal additional charge of \$150 per student. Students must be accompanied by an adult. For non-member adults, who are not guests of a Steele-Waseca member traveling on the tour, the cost is \$620 per adult.

For members wishing to travel for a second or additional time, the cost is \$620. However, if you bring a guest who is a Steele-Waseca member, who has not been on the



Tour participants in 2016 were divided into smaller groups for a guided tour of the Coal Creek Station.

tour previously, the price will remain at \$310 per adult to encourage promotion of the tour.

This tour will fill up fast, so to pre-register or obtain additional information, contact Marketing Division Manager Doug Hughes by emailing, mktg@swce.coop, or calling 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514. To learn more about the tour, visit Steele-Waseca's website, www.swce.coop. On the home page move your cursor over, "EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES," then click on "Coal Creek Tour." There are limited seats left to fill, so sign up now.



Parents and/or grandparents may bring up to three students, ages 10 to 18, at no charge. 101580



Your billing statement this month has a special line listing the amount of your electric sales less power costs in 2015. This is shown as **2015 PATRONAGE BASIS**. Capital credit equity you've been allocated for 2015 is shown as **2015 ALLOCATION**. Also listed is the **CAPITAL CREDIT BALANCE**, which is the amount of your remaining accumulated equity. Please save this month's billing statement if you will need any of those amounts for tax preparation. Only inactive accounts receive separate statements of equity.

Sparks Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

Ads need to be received in our office by **November 7** to ensure being printed in the December 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 7th will be printed in the January 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.

cookin' connection Potato Casserole

Lavonne Krause

Morristown

1 bag cubed hash browns or Potatoes O'Brien
 1 can mushroom soup
 1 can cream of chicken or celery soup
 1 c. shredded cheese
 1/4 c. milk
 2 T. melted butter
 1/2 c. French fried onions
For topping: paprika & 1/2 c. shredded cheese

Mix ingredients together. Pour in greased (or use non-stick spray) large baking pan or casserole. Bake 1 hour at 350° or until bubbly. Sprinkle with topping of cheese and paprika. Bake another 10 minutes and serve.

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 38 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during September 2016. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, 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.

October issue of Sparks



Numbers found:
 Mike/Dana Edwards
 Mr./Mrs. Norris D. Jacobson
 Thomas A. Tranby
Numbers not found:
 Jeffrey D. Amy
 Jace G. Nelson



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 Butterfield at our office between 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 446-4204 / 800-526-3514.

• **September temps** – The average high temperature for September was 74° F, while the average low was 56° F. They compare to last year's average high of 76° F and average low of 57° 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 Butterfield between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at 446-4204 or 800-526-3514. 24178

• **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

Be aware of electrical dangers during flooding

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), floods are one of the most common hazards in the United States.

The prospect of an electrical accident is probably not on top of your mind when you are dealing with flooding in your home, but it is the first thing you should think of before you step into a flooded area. If there is any danger the water could be energized because of contact with electrical equipment, do not enter the area. You could be in serious danger of electrocution.

Here are some additional suggestions from Safe Electricity® to help keep you and your family safe during a flood:

• Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you cannot reach your breaker box safely, call your electric utility to shut off power at the meter.

• Never use electric appliances or touch electric wires, switches, or fuses when you are wet or when you are standing in water.

• Keep electric tools and equipment at least 10 feet away from wet surfaces. Do not use electric yard tools if it is raining or the ground is wet.

• Never drive into flood waters because it is very difficult to tell by sight how deep floodwaters are. It only takes six inches of water for your car to lose control and stall. Your car could be swept out of control and into electrical dangers.

• Do not enter flood waters on foot or in a boat. Flood waters hold unknown dangers. The water could be energized or could sweep you into electrical equipment. Just six inches of moving water can knock you off

your feet.

• If you see downed power lines or damaged equipment, stay away, warn others to stay away, and notify the authorities.

If you are in a flood prone area, one action you can take to be better prepared is to have a sump pump with a back-up battery in case the power goes out and an alarm to alert you of flooding.

Safe Electricity also recommends installing ground fault interrupters (GFCIs) on outdoor and indoor outlets in areas of the house that are prone to flooding such as the basement. GFCIs should also be installed in rooms with heavy water use such as the laundry room, bathroom and kitchen.

For more information on avoiding electrical hazards, visit SafeElectricity.org.

**ALERT TODAY, ALIVE TOMORROW:
HEADS UP FOR FARM SAFETY**

Stay safe around downed power lines. Consider all lines, equipment and conductors to be live and dangerous.

If you are inside farm machinery that makes contact with a downed power line, know what to do!

If you can drive safely away from the power source without bringing down the utility pole and lines, travel at least 40 ft. before exiting.

If you are unable to drive the machinery due to injury, obstacles or it is inoperable, do NOT exit. Call for help and warn anyone nearby NOT to approach.

If the vehicle is on fire, or you must exit for other safety reasons, follow these steps:

1. Jump clear of the vehicle. Do not let any part of your body or clothes touch the ground and the machinery at the same time.
2. Land with feet together and hop away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electric shock.
3. Keep going until you are at least 40 ft. away.
4. Call for help. Make sure no one gets within 40 ft. of the downed line.
5. Do not re-enter the area or vehicle until emergency responders and your electric co-op crews determine it is safe.