

member connection

Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative wins NRECA's "Cooperative Purpose Award"

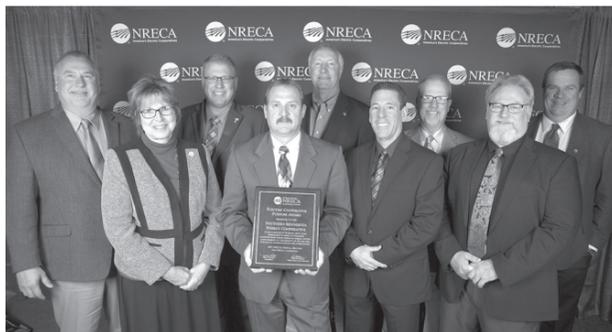
Steele-Waseca among the 12 cooperatives comprising SMEC

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), March 1, presented Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative (SMEC) the "Cooperative Purpose Award," for outstanding contribution to improving the quality of life and the purpose of the cooperatives in their community.

In 2013, SMEC was formed by 12 electric distribution cooperatives to be the single point of contact for the purchase of Minnesota electric service territory from Alliant Energy.

SMEC engaged their local community and business leaders through a grassroots campaign to educate them on the cooperative advantage. On July 31, 2015, SMEC's vision became reality as the cooperative welcomed more than 43,000 new members into the cooperative community.

More than 5,500 representatives from electric co-ops across the nation attended NRECA's annual meeting, Feb. 23 through March 1, celebrating their 75th anniversary in San Diego, California,



Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative (SMEC) was awarded the Electric Cooperative Purpose Award, March 1, at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's annual meeting in San Diego, California. Pictured with the award (left to right) is: General Manager Ron Horman, Redwood Electric Cooperative; President & CEO Elaine Garry, People's Energy Cooperative; General Manager Mike Heidemann, Brown County Rural Electric Association; President/CEO Brian Krambeer, MiEnergy Cooperative; General Manager Wade Hensel, BENCO Electric Cooperative; General Manager/CEO Tim McCarthy, Sioux Valley Energy; General Manager Syd Briggs, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric; General Manager Scott Reimer, Federated Rural Electric Association; and General Manager Adam Tromblay, Nobles Cooperative Electric.

and set NRECA's legislative and organizational agenda for 2017.

Co-op representatives also heard from NRECA officials, key public figures and business experts about issues affecting electric cooperatives and their consumer members.

NRECA is the national service organization that represents more than 900 not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives providing service to 42 million people in 47 states.

(Seeking former members continued from Page 1) business hours.

Anderson, Debra J.	Faribault
Anderson, Reuben F.	Bloomington
Bigelow, Jami A.	Owatonna
Costello, Chris	Nerstrand
Douglas, Glen D./Paula J.	Morristown
Ellingson, Dinah	Nerstrand
Evans, Craig D.	West Concord
Gaughan, Joy H.	Faribault
Greene, Cheryl K.	Faribault
Guenther, Gary G./Roxanne	Waldorf
Haley, Kerry B.	Owatonna
Hutton, Cecil R.	Dundas
Jones, Jeanette K.	Morristown
Juvland, Harlan K.	Faribault
Kenow, Nicholas R.	Ellendale
Kirkeide, Steve	New Richland
Kisner, Charles C.	Rochester
Knutson, Linda M./Rachel	Bl. Prairie
Koktavy, Ernest T.	Faribault
Lincoln, Daniel W.	Faribault
Lloyd, Chelsea L.	Ellendale
Machart, Ted	Owatonna
Miller, Mary Jo	Faribault
Moen, Jason	Claremont
Nordvik, Arlender G./Judy M.	Farmington
Stadler, Patricia	Faribault
Stiernagle, Steve	Minnesota Lake
Stoos, Jerrold E.	Owatonna
Weelborg, Mr./Mrs. Lowell R.	Faribault

If you wish to reduce clutter and add convenience, you may elect to receive an email that your bill is available to view online. Login to your online account at www.swce.coop, click on the "Alerts" tab, and check "Bill Notification," and "Electronic Only." Enter your email address and click "Update" to receive your bill notification by email instead of in the mail.

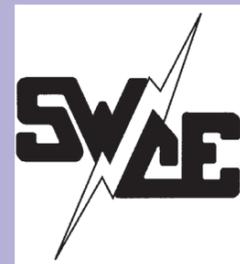


Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric is accepting sealed bids due by May 4, 2017, for this 1992 John Deere 310D loader backhoe, 4x4 Turbo with Extendahoe, 3656 hours, minimum bid—\$20,000. For more information, contact Steele-Waseca Line Supervisor Dan Meier. 1016295



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric is accepting sealed bids due by May 4, 2017, for this 1971 International 4500A Rough Terrain forklift, gas, 3112 hours, minimum bid—\$4000. For more information, contact Steele-Waseca Line Supervisor Dan Meier.

sparks • april 2017



the power of human connections

sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

April 2017

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SWCE seeking bids on equipment for sale

calendar of events

April

- 10** NRECA National Lineman Appreciation Day
- 14** Good Friday 27437
SWCE office is closed
- 16** Easter
- 18** Income tax filing deadline
- 20** Statewide Tornado Drill Day
- 21** "No Barriers" veteran nominations to SWCE office by 3 p.m.
- 22** Earth Day
- 26** Administrative Professionals Day
- 28** Arbor Day
Audition deadline for singing national anthem at SWCE annual meeting
- 30** Vietnam War ended on this date in 1975

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric 2017 board director candidates announced by Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee for Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric has announced their selection of candidates for the board of director seats up for election in Districts 7, 8 and 9 at this year's annual meeting, June 6.

The committee met on Nov. 8, 2016, at Steele-Waseca's headquarters in Owatonna. Cooperative Attorney Eric Mattison reviewed the duties of the Nominating Committee as stated in the bylaws. He also detailed policies regarding the activities and conduct of individual board members, and the qualifications for eligibility for service on the board.

Cooperative Board President Gary Wilson highlighted areas of the board of director position description with the committee. He also talked about potential questions a candidate may have, highlighting the time commitment in serving as a board director.

General Manager Syd Briggs explained the Nominating Committee Policy and the rotation system of keeping six experienced members on the committee and adding three new members each year.

A list of members in each district was handed out and reviewed. It was suggested the committee members from each district meet together to search for candidates and review the information given to them.

Committee member Melissa Bauer was nominated and approved by the committee to serve as Nominating Committee chairperson and report to the Steele-Waseca members in attendance for the annual meeting.

The Nominating Committee conduct-

Assistance sought to locate former Steele-Waseca members

Capital credit checks for the following former Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric members have been returned to the co-op because their mailing addresses are no longer accurate.

ed their second meeting, Jan. 20, at the co-op's headquarters in Owatonna.

Mattison reviewed the director duties, Standard of Conduct Policy and the qualifications for eligibility for service on the co-op's board of directors.

The Nominating Committee announced the following candidates will be on the election ballot for Steele-Waseca's 81st Annual Meeting, June 6, 2017, at the cooperative's headquarters located at 2411 West Bridge Street in Owatonna.

- **District 7:** Incumbent John R. Beal, Faribault.

- **District 8:** Dennis E. Schahn, Kenyon; and Incumbent Ronald D. Sommers, Northfield.

- **District 9:** Incumbent Renee J. Malecha, Dundas.

A profile of each candidate will appear in the May 2017 *Sparks* newsletter. Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor during the annual meeting with nominations closing at that time.

This year's Nominating Committee consisted of the following Steele-Waseca members: District 7—Wayne/Mae Maas, Faribault; Gene/Joyce Wertheimer, Sherburn; and Jerome/Diane Stenzel, New Richland; District 8—Pete/Melissa Bauer, Nerstrand; Kendall/Laura Strawmatt, Owatonna; and Ron/Pat Brey, New Richland; District 9—Guy/Barb Jarvi, Webster; Jane Middlestadt, Owatonna; and Lowell/Kathleen Miller, Owatonna. *SWCE*

If you know any of the following former members and can provide information about them, please call Teresa Hertle at Steele-Waseca during regular

(Seeking former members continued on Page 8)

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

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

Bright, brighter, brightest. These are all forms of the same word that is a

favorite of mine.

I enjoy living around people that make my life brighter. I am always looking for the brightest people to learn from; and I love bright colors and lights—especially around Christmas or during any celebration.

There are many who make my life brighter each day, and the linemen at Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric fulfill that role in more ways than one. Many of you have had the pleasure of knowing some of our crew, and you know they are all quality individuals that care about their careers, safety, friends, and family, along with keeping a significant portion of southern Minnesota electrified. 22199

In recent years, the second Monday in April has been designated National Lineman Appreciation Day.

We take the time to thank our linemen who dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in our local communities. Steele-Waseca's line technicians maintain approximately 2,200 miles of line in the co-op's nine-county service area.

Steele-Waseca depends on our entire staff to keep the cooperative running smoothly, but on April 10, 2017, we honor all line technicians who often find themselves in dangerous and challenging situations, so our lives may be a little bit brighter and safer each day.

Steele-Waseca's linemen repair damaged lines and maintain critical infra-

structure for our member-owners. Without their hard work and commitment to the job, our co-op would not thrive. No matter the time—day or night, weekday or weekend—if the lights go out, so do they.

Perhaps you have seen them raising their bucket trucks in challenging weather conditions. They work around the clock near high-voltage power lines until electricity is safely restored to every member in our co-op.

In addition to aiding members in our local service territory, linemen are willing to practice the sixth cooperative principle of "Cooperation Among Cooperatives," when a neighboring community, county or state is in need after a major outage occurs.

In 2013, the U.S. Senate passed a one-time resolution designating April 18 as National Lineman Appreciation Day.

In 2015, the NRECA board approved a resolution which is still applicable today in recognizing linemen. It reads:

"Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on; Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure; Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen; Therefore be it resolved that NRECA recognize the Second Monday of April of each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day and make available to electric cooperatives, materials and support to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America's Electric Cooperatives."

At Steele-Waseca, we hope you will join us in thanking the many lineworkers—both locally and around the world—that light our lives. Remember, your power works 365 days a year because they do.



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ad connection

Coal Creek Tour update

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric has a limited number of openings available for the 2017 Coal Creek Tour, June 13-15. For more information, visit swce.coop (under OPPORTUNITIES) or contact Marketing Division Manager Doug Hughes by emailing, mktg@swce.coop, or calling 507-451-7340 or toll-free 800-526-3514. Member parents and/or grandparents are reminded they may bring up to three students between the ages of 10 and 18 at NO CHARGE. **SWCE 17255**

- (For Sale ads continued from Page 6)
- JD 336 BALER** w/thrower, makes sm. sq. bales, has elec. controls, vry gd cond. 330-2068.
 - LAYING HENS; (4) 16" TIRES.** 612-703-1316.
 - TIRES & RIMS:** JD 20.8-34, JD 13.6-38, Firestone w/30% tread, best offer. 462-3698.
 - 1995 FORD F-150,** 4WD, fiberglass topper, chrome rims, ext. cab; **1989 YAMAHA MOTO 4 ATV,** 200cc; **SHINGLING; LIGHT CONSTRUCTION; TREE REMOVAL** (free estimates). 456-0296.
 - KUERIG B60,** like new, \$49. 456-2060.
 - FORTUNE CREEK TRL LOTS,** the covenant allows for a pole shed, starting at \$75,000. 838-5033/John.
 - ALUM. FEATHERLITE TRAILER,** 8x10, exc. cond., \$900. 744-5133.
 - BLK ANGUS BEEF:** qtrs, halves or whole avail., semi-organically & locally raised. 330-2452/Matt.
 - 1959 JD 530,** narrow front, Paulson loader, 2-btm plow. 952-652-2473.
 - BEACHFRONT VACATION CONDOS FOR RENT** in Fort Myers Beach, South Padre Island & Mexico, visit www.sandysbeachfrontcondo.com for details & photos. 612-865-9604/Sandy.
 - COLD STORAGE** in Fbo, 6x8, \$49/mth; **COLD STORAGE** in Morrilstwn, 10x20, \$99/mth. 332-4638.
 - SCHWINN RANGER,** girl's, 24x1.75, 21-spd, F.S. Fork, \$100; **SCHWINN LE TOUR,** men's, 27x1.25, 10-spd, alloy wheels, \$100. 330-3178.
 - USED AUTO PARTS, ENGINES, TRANS., CAR & TRUCK PARTS,** 30-day warr., bst prices. 332-2300.
 - CALIF. CARNOLIAN PKG BEES,** early April delivery to Owat., 2 lb/\$117, 3 lb/\$132. 456-0753.
 - HYDRAULIC LOADER** to fit older Oliver tractors with/wo PTO pump; **H & S 860 BLOWER,** exc. shape. 451-0628.
 - HVY DUTY ELEC. 1-RPM MOTOR** for turning a lighted sign, turntable, etc., new, weatherproof w/hvy duty mount, \$195. 213-8823.
 - GEHL C40 DISC-TYPE SILO FILLER** w/alum. sides, shield & pipe; **CANARY GRASS HAY.** 744-2871.
 - 16' STARCRAFT FISHING BOAT** w/steering column, 16' Shorelander trailer, 35 hp Johnson, elec. trolling motor & depth finder. 688-9410.
 - 70" WOODS BELLY MOWER,** gd cond., \$1000/obo. 451-6695.
 - 1963 INT 560 TRACTOR,** gas, narrow front w/loader, 95% rubber, gd paint, 3712 hrs, \$5500. 339-0135.
 - FETERL AUGER,** 10-60 w/swing hopper; **IH 720 PLOW,** 5-18, new coulters, lathes & shins. 475-2118.
 - BUNNIES,** 6-wks by mid-April, bred does; **HERITAGE RASP. PLANTS,** \$20/doz. 465-8593/Brad.
 - ANTIQUA SAND LOCK BOX,** lock w/padlock, has handles, 12.5"(L), 7"(H), 8.75"(D), \$50. 838-8565.
 - JD MT TRACTOR,** wide front, (2) plows. 456-4100.
 - MIXED GRASS HAY,** sm. sq., no rain. 334-6377.
 - 1996 H-D ELECTRA GLIDE FLHT MOTORCYCLE,** blk, incl. H-D lift, (1) owner, 38,000 mi., \$5695. 339-2144.
 - JD 2440 TRACTOR** w/146 bucket, 2711 hrs, diesel, gd shape, like new tires, \$10,000; **JD 603 ROTARY CUTTER** w/operator's manual, \$600. 456-4149.
 - GUNS:** Rem. 722, Win. 25, Browning A5, Rem. 572, Rem. 870, Mauser 8mm; **14' ALUMACRAFT,** depth finder & trailer; **1984 CUTLASS CIERA** w/4.3L V6 diesel, 98% rust free. 451-0996.
 - LAWN ROLLER,** 18"x36", poly pull behind lawn mower type. 451-0653.
 - FIREWOOD,** mixed hardwoods & sizes, \$40/pickup load. 332-7739.
 - ROOFING,** have been offering roof shingling since 2000, licensed & insured, free estimates. 271-9129.
 - GOAT KIDS** of high quality, come pick out your 4-H or FFA project, starting at \$175 & up. 456-6828.
 - ALUMACRAFT DOMINATOR,** Mercury 50 hp, lots of extras, \$4000; **GUTTERS,** 20' lengths, \$10/each; **RADIAL ARM SAW,** \$50. 838-8568.
 - JD 7000 6RN PLANTER,** no fert., \$3000; **JD 40' SPIKE TOOTH DRAG,** \$600; **HYDRAULIC CYL.,** 4x24, JD brand, \$100; **4-TON HYDRAULIC PORTA PWR,** w/attachmnts (for body wrk), \$100. 330-3945.
 - AB CORN DRYER/HOLDING BIN,** 1500-bu., frame on wheels, \$2000; **BIG MANURE SPREADER,** exc. shape, \$1950. 451-2531 or 475-0299/cell.
 - (2) 3000-GAL. POLY WATER TANKS,** \$250/each. 456-3136.
 - 2007 BOBCAT S175 HIGH FLOW** w/cab, heat, forks, receiver plate & backup camera, 1535 hrs, \$19,000; **HARROW DRAG,** 5x5, \$125. 651-357-8191.
 - 2013 KAWASAKI MULE 610 XC UTV,** 4x4, 257 mi., 28 hrs, plus extras, like new, \$8000. 213-7978.
 - COLEMAN POWERMATE 3750 GENERATOR,** used very little, \$200. 323-1566.
 - IH HYDRO 186 TRACTOR,** 5300 hrs, 50 hrs on overhaul; **ALLIED 595 HYDRAULIC LOADER;** **JD 640 RAKE.** 380-9580.
 - JD 495A 4-ROW CORN PLANTER,** \$50; **JD 71 CORN SHELLER** w/dragline, always shedded, gd cond., \$250. 744-5277.
 - GRASS HAY,** sm. sq. bales, \$2.25/ea.; **NH SIDE RAKE** on rubber, \$1300; **14' HAY RACK,** gd rubber & wood, \$400. 390-4076.
 - KATAHDIN HAIR SHEEP,** ewe & ram lambs, never need shearing, great mothers, calm disposition, great for beginners, hobby farms & organic. 451-2722.
 - ALF. GRASS HAY,** no rain; **CANARY GRASS HAY;** **ALF. GRASS HAY,** some rain, \$1.25/bale. 451-7489 or 414-2245/cell.
 - GEESE; ROUEN & MUSKOVY DUCKS.** 390-0206.
 - CABIN,** French Lake, leased land, 80' shoreline, deck, patio, dock, \$99,500. 334-6362.
 - INT DISC,** 18.5', 20" discs; **2011 ARCTIC CAT 700 SIDE-BY-SIDE.** 475-2029.
 - CABIN 23** on Beaver Lake by Ellendale, north side. 259-2492.
 - 2009 CHEV. SILVERADO 2500HD,** 4x4, ext. cab, 6.6 Duramax diesel w/Allison trans., backup camera, remote start, trailer tow gooseneck pkg, new tires, 169,xxx mi., \$18,500. 210-5596.
 - DORPER RAM LAMBS.** 715-205-0411.
 - ENGLISH BULLDOG PUPS.** 330-0635.
 - JD 6620 TURBO** w/443 head, went through shop at 4391 hrs, now at 4500 hrs, have paperwork, vry nice, \$10,000. 581-8866.
 - 2006 H-D FLH TRIKE,** Lehmann kit, 95" motor, screaming eagle heads, blk & silver, 9000 mi., \$15,000. 334-4175.
 - ESTATE SALE:** furniture, HH, discounted scrapbooking stickers & supplies, women's clothes & jewelry, much misc., Apr. 13/2p-7p, Apr. 14/8a-7p & Apr. 15/8a-4p, 2155 Union Lk Trl, Nfld. 663-1569.
 - ALFOREX ALF. & FORAGE SEED** avail. for spring seeding, \$ or qualifying JDF purchase. 676-7767.
 - WINE GLASS RACK,** decorative, wooden hanging rack, (7) slots for up to (28) stemmed glasses, measures 27.5"x19.5", can send pics, \$35. 456-9192.
 - MUSCOVY DUCKS,** ready for butchering or setting, \$10/each. 446-0090/leave message.
 - ASPARAGUS,** organic. 334-9733.
 - NH 1495 HAYBINE,** diesel, self-propelled, air-conditioning, vry gd cond. 339-1302.
 - 25' ERCOA PONTOON BOAT** w/alum. canopy & full winter cover, 65 hp Evinrude w/pwr tilt & trim motor runs but needs wrk, \$1950. 334-8613.
 - SHIPPING CONTAINERS,** store your stuff on your property, 20' & 40', moisture & rodent proof, free delivery within 50 mi. of Owat. 612-418-4375.
 - MAYTAG FRONT LOADER WASHER,** 2.4 cu. ft w/ matching dryer, stackable, Model MAH-24, like new, used vry little, \$700 (free delivery avail.). 649-7216.
 - (3) HAND OIL BARREL PUMPS,** \$15/ea.; **BRIGGS & STRATTON MOTOR,** 5 hp, hoz. shaft, \$35; **ACE PTO SPRAYER PUMP,** \$50; **TIRE CHAINS,** 12"x72", \$75. 465-8566.
 - 1987 CHEVY S-10,** 4WD, (1) owner, topper, \$800. 334-5245.
 - GOULDS SUMP PUMP,** 0.33 hp, 38 gpm, newer cast iron pump, \$100. 456-5213.
 - CAT 920 FRONT WHEEL LOADER,** \$12,500; **A-C D17** w/loader & chains, \$2750. 380-4291.
 - 1957 DODGE PICKUP,** short box, restored, new tires, brakes & exhaust, \$14,500. 451-3462.
 - ALF. HAY,** 4th crop, sm. sq., no rain. 330-3303.

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

ANTIQU. PUMP ORGAN, wrks, nice cond. 475-0776.

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.

wanted

FISH HOUSE OR SM. BLDG for warming shed. 461-1865.

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

OLDER KAWASAKI MOTORCYCLES, looking for the '70s, will pay gd \$ for 500 & 750cc triples. 210-0210.

(2) TIRES, 16.9-34, tread 1/3 or better. 664-9426.

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

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

TAPE CASSETTE TO DVD DISC RECORDER. 451-7578 or 676-7179.

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

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

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

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

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

(1) GOOSE, to befriend our male Emden goose. 612-940-1395.

TO BUY DEER OR ELK ANTLERS. 952-292-1352.

MINN. BUTTER BOXES, "those I do not have." 684-2101/Ron.

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

SHINGLES to fix roof. 358-5230.

250+' OF CHAIN-LINK FENCE, posts & attachments (if possible). 456-0216.

BOER GOATS, adults or kids; **DAIRY GOATS**; **STAINLESS CHIMNEY VENT PIPE.** 715-205-0411.

DANA 60 FRONT AXLE, Dodge or Chev.; **MUD BOGGER OFF-ROAD TIRES.** 451-7091.

PERSONS LOOKING FOR HELP AT HOME: housekeeping, meal prep, gardening, current local ref. 412-7045.

OLD SCRAP MACHINERY & METAL, paying \$. 612-703-1316.

GEHL 21" HAMMER MILL, Model 95 or 120, reas. priced or parts machine. 744-5353/leave message.

for sale

WHIRLPOOL WINDOW A/C UNIT, Model AC-M122XHO, 10,000 Btu, you pick up, \$50; **GE UNIT**, Model A6S05LAG1, 5000 Btu, you pick up, \$25. 475-0138.

2007 JD GATOR, gd cond., \$3960. 381-1160.

CASE IH 16" MOLDBOARD, part 179314A1, new, Norway diamond finish, \$175/obo. 451-5131.

TRI-AXLE DUMP TRUCK AVAIL. for delivery of rock, gravel, dirt, etc., 15-ton capacity. 456-7774.

NEW STEEL ROOFS & SIDING for all ag bldgs. 213-9095.

SONY CAR STEREO w/speakers, AM/FM/CD/MP3, remote control, new, \$150; **TV CONVERTER**, \$50; **FLARE BOX**, exc. shape, \$675. 455-3881.

(2) TRUCK TIRES, P265/75R16, half tread left, \$100. 952-652-2661.

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

LOTS, 2 mi. west of Fbo, util. to lots incl., tarred road, free house plans (if needed), starting at \$49,900. 334-6105.

HOUSE CALLS TO SERVICE YOUR GRANDFATHER CLOCK since 1999. 334-2010/Mike/lv. msg.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

INDOOR SUMMER STORAGE for fish house, RVs, etc. 412-1171/leave message.

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

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

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

'98 SYLVAN SPORT TROLLER, nice boat, livewell, depth finder, front mount trolling motor, nice 25 hp Yamaha 4-stroke, \$3800/obo. 213-6979.

WHITCO HHS10 C-WATER PR. WASHR, used, 10 gpm@1500 psi, 230V, single ph., \$3295; **AALADIN H-WATER PR. WSHR**, used, 4 gpm@2300 psi, 230V, LP, temp control, single ph., \$2495. 583-2703.

'96 19' CRESTLINR w/115 hp Johnson mtr; (2) troll. motors & Shorelandr trlr, \$9000; **'97 17' BAYLINR 1750 CAPRI** w/Merc. 130 hp I/B mtr (nds wrk) & Es-corts trlr, \$1800. 213-0225.

2012 CHEVY MALIBU 2LT, 2.4L, new tires, battery, brakes, pads, rotors, heated seats, remote start, 76,000 mi. 456-1629.

GEHL 940 CHOPPER BOX, 16', Minn. running gear, \$2250. 456-8639.

2002 CHEVY Z71 PICKUP, incl. topper; **TREE TRIMMING, REMOVAL & STUMP GRINDING**, pro climber & aerial lift to U of M guidelines; **FRONT CHROME BUMPER** for an F-650, new. 456-1609.

CABIN at 17436 Gary Trl #24, French Lk, fully furnished, new roof, dock, (2) storage sheds, leased land, \$74,900. 789-5395.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

travel

NAT'L PARKS, May 12-22. Deluxe motor coach, 10 nights, 14 meals, 52-mile Durango Silverton train ride, admission to Badlands, Mt Rushmore, Grand Canyon & more. \$1,499 pp dbl occupancy.

DOOR COUNTY & MACKINAC ISL., July 9-15. Deluxe motor coach, 6 nights, 13 meals, guided tours of Door Cty, Mackinaw City Carriage Ride on Mackinac Isl., & more. \$1,109 pp dbl occupancy.

GIRLFRIEND GETAWAY, Galena, Ill. Aug. 19-22. Deluxe motor coach, 3 nights, 6 meals, Riverboat dinner cruise, Blaum Bros. Distillery tour, interactive cooking class & more. \$579 pp dbl occupancy.

GREAT AMERICAN HISTORY TOUR, Sept. 19-26. Deluxe motor coach, 7 nights, 10 meals, Chic. Gangster Tour, admission to all museums, battlefields & nat'l parks. \$1,425 pp double occupancy.

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



member connection



National Lineman Appreciation Day is April 10

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric wishes to recognize our line technicians for their dedication in serving the cooperative and its member-owners. They include the following with their Steele-Waseca experience (front row kneeling left to right): Assistant Foreman Kevin Kjersten, October 2012; Line Technician Apprentice Carlos Cruz, September 2016; Line Technician Jake Jablonski, September 2013; Line Technician Marshal Madery, September 2016; and Line Technician Adam Davis, July 2013. Standing (left to right): Line Foreman Don Bos, May 1991; Line Foreman Jim Wolters, June 1976; Assistant Foreman Troy Pederson, June 1999; Line Foreman Jack Schwab, November 1992; Line Foreman Nordean Hartle, June 1992; Assistant Foreman Matt Rohman, May 2007; Line Technician Pete Hines, October 2012; Line Technician Chad Henderson, July 2015; and Line Technician Ben Hrcir, May 2012.

Newest linemen enjoying Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric experience

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's newest line technicians have been with the co-op since September 2016 and their experience is living up to their expectations.

"My experience has been great," said Line Technician Apprentice Carlos Cruz, who joined Steele-Waseca Sept. 26. "Couldn't ask for a better place to work for."

"Ever since I got a lineman job, I have always wanted to work at Steele-Waseca," said Line Technician Marshal

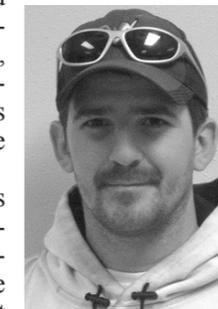
Madery, who joined Sept. 19. "I heard it was a great place to work, and wanted a place where I could go to work, learn new things, and enjoy being there."

Relatives, and friends of their respective families, influenced Marshal and Carlos in pursuing a line technician career.

"My brother's friend is a lineman," said Marshal. "He told me many things about his job, and that he really enjoyed it. That's when I became interested in becoming a lineman."



Carlos Cruz



Marshal Madery

"My father-in-law and brother-in-law are both linemen and I love being able to help people," said Carlos.

Cruz is originally from Milton-Freewater, Oregon. His parents are Carlos Sr., and Teri Lynn, and he is a middle child with two sisters. He graduated from the community's McLoughlin High School in 2003. Carlos would eventually move to Minnesota where he received his lineman training at Minnesota West Community & Technical College in Jackson. 1008015

Carlos previously worked two years at Owatonna Public Utilities (OPU) and presently lives in Owatonna with his wife, Makenzie, and their two daughters, Emilia and Alexia. In his free time,

(Newest line technicians continued on Page 5)

Sparks Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

Ads need to be received in our office by **April 5** to ensure being printed in the May 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 June 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

Coffee Cake

Eunice Meixner

Owatonna

4 eggs
1 c. cooking oil
1 c. sugar
1 t. vanilla

2 c. flour
1 t. baking powder
20 oz. can pie filling (any kind)

Mix eggs, oil, sugar and vanilla. Add flour, baking powder and mix well. Pour half of the batter into a greased 9x13 pan. Spread the pie filling on the batter. Pour the rest of the batter over the fruit filling (the batter will be thick). Sprinkle with cinnamon. Bake at 325° for 55 minutes. Let cool. Drizzle with powdered sugar frosting if desired.

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 33 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during February 2017. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop. The latest subscriber is the Izaak Walton League's Owatonna chapter, who subscribed for three panels to increase their total subscription to six.

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.

March issue of Sparks



Numbers found:
Marian E. Bolduan

Numbers not found:
Regina Klecker
Jeffrey T. Falconer
Joseph & Jill Van Rooy
Chad & Jennifer O'Connor



sparks • april 2017

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 Westinghouse Electric Water Heater Program, phone Cindy Butterfield at our office between 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 446-4204 / 800-526-3514.

• **February temps** – The average high temperature for February was 39° F, while the average low was 22° F. They compare to last year's average high of 30° F and average low of 17° F.

• **ENERGY STAR® Rebates** – In 2017, all ENERGY STAR refrigerators/freezers (with recycling), electric clothes dryers, 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 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

LIVESTOCK OWNERS

If you have questions or concerns regarding stray voltage in your livestock confinement building(s), or are planning an addition, or constructing a new one, call Steele-Waseca at 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514. Steele-Waseca will work with you and your electrician to eliminate potential stray voltage problems.

health & safety connection

Safety reminders with the return of spring-like weather

Spring-like weather, like was experienced in our area, March 6, can bring volatile storms with tornadoes, heavy rains, high winds and lightning.

To be prepared and stay ahead of the danger, it is important to check weather forecasts and stay up-to-date on weather conditions. The American Red Cross offers the following safety tips when thunderstorms are rolling your way:

• Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates. Watch for signs of a storm, like darkening skies, lightning flashes or increasing wind.

• Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are likely to occur. Many people struck by lightning are not in the area where rain is occurring.

• If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, take shelter in a substantial building or in a vehicle with the windows closed. Get out of mobile homes that can blow over in high winds.

• If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning. If thunder roars, go indoors! The National Weather Service recommends staying inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder clap.

• Avoid electrical equipment and telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead.

• Shutter windows and close outside doors securely. Keep away from windows.

• Do not take a bath, shower or use plumbing.

• If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.

• If you are outside and cannot reach a safe building, avoid high ground; water; tall, isolated trees; and metal objects such as fences or bleachers. Picnic shelters, dugouts and sheds are NOT safe.

You can take additional precautions by installing a weather safety app so you can receive up-to-date weather information at all times. NOAA Weather Radar shares official National Weather Service information on warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazards 24/7 with coverage in 96 percent of the country.

There are additional precautions that should be taken to help keep you and your family safe:

• Create an emergency preparedness kit, including necessary supplies for a potential power outage.

• Develop a family communication plan with a meeting space in case of a disaster.

• If you come across downed power lines after a storm, call 911 to have the utility notified immediately. Never touch downed lines or objects that could be in contact with those lines. Just because power lines are damaged does not mean that they are dead. Stay away, and instruct others to do the same.

For more safety information, visit SafeElectricity.org.

prior to coming to Steele-Waseca.

(Newest line technicians continued from Page 3)

Carlos enjoys hunting and fishing.

As for Marshal, he is from the area having grown up on a dairy farm in Kasson. His parents are Merle and Bonny, and he has two older brothers and a younger brother. Marshall graduated from Kasson-Mantorville High School in 2007. He went to Dakota County Technical College in Rosemount where he graduated as a lineman in 2011. Madery worked at OPU for five years

In his free time, Marshal enjoys hunting, fishing, farming, snowmobiling and building things. Wedding plans are in his future as he is marrying his girlfriend, Brittany, in October 2017. *SWCE*

sparks • april 2017

BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.

■ **WATER**
Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.

■ **TOOLS**
Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.

■ **FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS**
First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Learn more at www.ready.gov



Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.