

## gre lighting promotion



LUMENS	YOU USED TO BUY		YOUR CHOICES NOW		
	Standard Incandescents	Non-Halogen Incandescents	CFLs	LEDs	
450 lumens	40W \$5.34/yr	29W \$3.87/yr	10W \$1.34/yr	5W \$0.67/yr	Energy Star Energy cost of \$/hr
800 lumens	60W \$8.02/yr	43W \$5.74/yr	13W \$1.74/yr	10W \$1.34/yr	Energy Star Energy cost of \$/hr
1100 lumens	75W \$10.02/yr	53W \$7.06/yr	16W \$2.14/yr	15W \$2.00/yr	Energy Star Energy cost of \$/hr
1600 lumens	100W \$13.36/yr	72W \$9.62/yr	20W \$2.67/yr	19W \$2.54/yr	Energy Star Energy cost of \$/hr

Source: Annual Resources Defense Council

### CHOOSING THE RIGHT COLOR

Soft White, Warm White The standard color of incandescent bulbs.	Neutral White, Cool White Good for kitchens and work spaces.	Daylight Good for reading.
2200K	3000K	3500K 4100K 5000K 6500K

Light color is measured on a temperature scale referred to as Kelvin (K). Lower Kelvin numbers mean the light appears more yellow; higher Kelvin numbers mean the light is whiter or bluer. Most Energy Star® certified bulbs are made to match the color of incandescent bulbs at 2200-3000K. For a whiter light, look for bulbs marked 3500-4100K. For bluer white light, look for bulbs marked 5000-6500K. (Courtesy: energystar.gov)

**NOTE: Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric members may not combine the co-op's LED rebate with the markdown and/or coupon of this promotion. However, members may combine the instant markdown at Walmart with the coupon on this page.**



Receive your first round of ENERGY STAR® qualified LED bulbs.

**\$8 OFF** **\$3 OFF**

on all ENERGY STAR® qualified LED bulbs. For more information, visit [www.steelcoop.com](http://www.steelcoop.com).

Valid through August 31, 2017.

Visit [www.steelcoop.com](http://www.steelcoop.com) for more information and to learn how to receive your \$8.00 energy rebate.

ENERGY WISE MN



the power of human connections

# sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

August 2017

### inside connections

- 2 Manager Connection
- 3 Wieber, Singh reflect on 2017 Youth Tour
- 4 Cookin' Connection  
SWCE community solar update  
*Sparks* in brief  
Steele County Tip Line
- 5 Be wary of lightning  
Great River Energy's annual meeting
- 6 Ad Connection  
4-Seasons Vacations
- 7 Ad Connection
- 8 Lighting promotion & coupon

### calendar of events

#### August

- 1-6 Freeborn County Fair
- 4 Rice County Relay For Life
- 4-5 Dennison Days
- 11-13 Lonsdale Community Days
- 15-20 Steele County Free Fair
- 17-20 Wells Kernel Days
- 19 National Aviation Day
- 24 Minnesota State Fair starts
- 26 4th Annual Caleb Erickson Memorial Event in Waseca

## Litomysl Summer Festival

Holy Trinity Church  
9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna  
Sunday, July 30  
10 a.m. Polka Mass  
Festival; 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Food, Games for all ages  
"Live" Music  
Prune, Poppyseed &  
Apricot "Buchty"  
Silent Auction, Country Store  
& Used-a-Bit sale  
[www.litomysl.webs.com](http://www.litomysl.webs.com)

### Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric accepting member comments regarding Local Democracy Legislation

During the 2017 Legislative Session, the Minnesota Legislature passed and Gov. Dayton signed a provision that reduces duplicative regulation on your electric cooperative.

This local democracy legislation returns some balance to the regulatory process, ensuring decisions that impact Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric are made locally by your elected board of directors.

The legislation impacts the distributed generation section of the statute and brings it in line with the rest of Minnesota Statute as it applies to rates, fees, and charges of electric cooperatives.

Electric cooperatives still must follow the law as laid out by the legisla-

ture in this section. The provision the legislature recently passed and the governor signed allows for cooperatives to adopt the authority implementing this section of the statute (Minnesota Statute 216B.164). To do so, a cooperative has to pass a resolution adopting this authority and adopt rules implementing this section of the statute.

The municipal utilities in Minnesota have had similar authority in Minnesota for over 30 years. With the passage of the provision, the legislature affirmed the value of local decision making for rural electric cooperatives across Minnesota. As your locally owned cooperative, we know that local decision mak-

(Local Democracy continued on Page 5)

### Coal Creek Tour delivers top-notch experience

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's Doug Hughes, Katie Nelson, Jack Schwab, and his wife, Barb, hosted the 38th annual tour to Coal Creek Station and Falkirk Mine, June 13-15, near Underwood, North Dakota.

Three days of travel, fun, and educational adventure started Tuesday morning, June 13, with departure from Steele-Waseca's headquarters in Owatonna with Northfield Lines and Motor Coach Driver Mark Estrem.

On the bus ride to Bismarck, North Dakota, a preview of what would be seen at Coal Creek Station and Falkirk Mine was talked about, which created various educational activities and contests for the drive to reach the Country Inn & Suites hotel in Bismarck.

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

On Wednesday, June 14, the day started with breakfast prepared by hotel staff. The first stop on the tour was at



Coal Creek Tour participants had the opportunity to collect coal at Falkirk Mine.

Coal Creek Station near Underwood.

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

The Coal Creek Station tour gave participants a view from the 21st floor where the Blue Flint Ethanol plant could be seen. The plant utilizes waste (Coal Creek Tour continued on Page 7)

Published monthly by  
**Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric**  
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 Owatonna MN 55060-0485

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

**Board of Directors**

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**Office Hours**

8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

**Operations Office Hours**

8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

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

507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514

**Before calling to report an outage**

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

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

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

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

48-hour notice required for ALL underground cable locations

**manager connection**



By Syd Briggs, General Manager

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric member-owners seeking ways to maximize

their energy dollar may do so through rebates offered by the co-op.

New in 2017 are rebates for Energy Star® electric clothes dryers (\$75 rebate) and Wi-Fi smart thermostats (\$25 rebate).

The rebates for central air conditioners and air source heat pumps (ASHPs) are listed below and require a quality installation. To find a qualified installer, visit Steele-Waseca's website, [swce.coop](http://swce.coop), click on "Residential Rebates," then "Qualified Installers List," listed under "Quick Links."

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

Rebates for Energy Star labeled ground source heat pumps (GSHPs) are \$400 per ton in 2017.

For members interested in electric thermal storage (ETS) heat, Steele-Waseca offers a \$50 per kW (kilowatt) rebate up to 100 kW.

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

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

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

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

Steele-Waseca members purchasing any Energy Star labeled appliances during the year are encouraged to call Cindy Butterfield at Steele-Waseca weekdays to report their purchase. Energy Star purchases help Steele-Waseca reach their Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) goal mandated in Minnesota's 2007 Next Generation Conservation Act. The statute sets an energy conservation goal for every gas and electric utility in



the state equivalent to 1.5 percent of their annual retail energy sales.

Residential lighting rebates in 2017 include the following:

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

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

Steele-Waseca members who install a member-owned LED security light fixture are eligible to receive a \$30 rebate.

Air conditioning tune-ups conducted in 2017 are eligible for a \$25 rebate; swimming pool ASHPs are eligible for a \$400 rebate; and an Energy Star variable speed pool pump is eligible for a \$200 rebate.

If you have a question or wish to request a rebate form, please call Cindy Butterfield at Steele-Waseca weekdays between 8 a.m., and 3:30 p.m. Rebate forms are available at Steele-Waseca's website, [swce.coop](http://swce.coop), by clicking on "Residential Rebates."

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

**ad connection**

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)

**SOFTUB T-140 TWO-PERSON HOT TUB**, \$975. 412-1246/Terry.

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

**SAFARI FIBERGLASS PICKUP TOPPER**, 7' long, 6' wide, blue/green color. 451-3345.

**OLDER QH MARE** for beginners to a gd home, \$750/firm; **RUNNING GEAR** for a hay wagon, \$150. 461-3697.

**USED ALKOTA 3112 H-WATER PRESS. WASHR**, 3 gpm @ 1100 psi, 115V, single ph., \$1700; **USED ALKOTA 2142 H-WATER PRESS. WASHER**, 2 gpm @ 1400 psi, 115V, single phase, \$1600. 583-2703.

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

**2001 COACHMEN 267RDS TRAVEL TRAILER**, 26', sleeps (6), stored inside during winter, vry gd cond., \$4500. 330-1357.

**2003 TOYOTA CAMRY SE**, (4) door, V6 engine, auto trans., elec. seats, moon roof, 160,000 mi., great cond., runs perfectly, \$5000. 612-670-6256.

**JD 6620 TURBO HYDRO**, 4600 hrs, nice, have papers, \$7800. 581-3686.

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

**GARAGE SALE**, lots of stuff, Thurs.-Sun., July 27-30, 7933 130th St. W., Lonsdale. 744-4490.

**8" AUGER GEARBOX** w/PTO shaft; **SNOWCO 6" GEARBOX** w/PTO shaft. 465-8153.

**2016 TRAVEL TRAILER**, new, never used, 36' w/(3) slides, health issue sale, over \$14,000 off suggested list price, many items to negotiate. 332-2727/John.

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

**1969 FORD F-600 TRUCK**, recent engine work, 15' grain box, gd tires, 330 hp engine, hauls approx. 340 bu. 676-0551.

**1995 FORD F-150**, 4WD, fiberglass topper, chrome rims, ext. cab; **SHINGLING, LIGHT CONSTRUCTION, TREE REMOVAL** (free estimates). 456-0296.

**USED AUTO PARTS**: engines, trans., cars & truck parts, 30-day warranty, best prices. 332-2300.

**NH 269 HAY BALER**. 583-2026.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) assumes no liability for the content of, or reply to, any item posted. The party posting any advertisement assumes complete liability for the content of, and all replies to, any advertisement and for any claims against SWCE as a result thereof, and agrees to indemnify and hold SWCE harmless from all costs, expenses, liabilities and damages resulting from, or caused by, any advertisement or reply thereto.

(Coal Creek Tour continued from Page 1)

steam from the Coal Creek plant as part of their yearly production of over 70 million gallons of ethanol. With using the waste steam, Blue Flint Ethanol is one of the most cost-effective, energy efficient, and environmentally friendly biorefineries in the nation.

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

Following lunch at Falkirk Mine, the

**1949 MCCORMICK FARMALL CUB TRACTOR, 1-BTM PLOW, SICKLE MOWER, \$2000; 300-GAL. RUBBER STOCK TANK, \$300/obo.** 789-6632.

**RAMBLER**, modernized 4-bdrm, 2-ba house in New Richland, nice backyard & paved patio, \$126,000. 461-2250.

**SEVERAL 14" CHOP SAW BLADES**, diamond tipped, \$100. 403-9532.

**1982 HONDA GOLDWING**, 1100cc, shaft drive, clean engine, air ride, hand grips, runs great, 29,000 mi., \$1800/obo/cash/Waseca. 835-2814.

**HOWARD MILLER 610-440 REMEMBRANCE CURIO GRANDFATHER CLOCK**, \$1800/obo. 455-2155.

**TRAILER**, 4x8, \$100; **WINDOWS & DOORS**. 664-9426.

**CANARY GRASS; STRAW; ALF./GRASS HAY**, new 1st crop. 744-2871.

**CUB CADET 1045**, 46" cut, hydrostatic drive, 160 hrs, motor bad. 210-4225.

**COMFORT GLOW KEROSENE HEATER**, 19,500 Btu & fuel; **HARDWOOD 8' PICKUP RACK; WOOD TBL**, 30.5" high, 26.5" wide & 39.5" long. 451-1359.

**ROOF SHINGLING**, trusted since 2000, licensed. 271-9129.

**ROADMASTR 26" MTN BIKE**, new brakes, new frnt innr-tube, bike lock chn, used, gd con., \$75. **COMM. CHAR-BROIL QUANTUM GAS GRILL** w/side burner, 20# tank & cover, like new, \$300. 334-5961.

**'72 HI-LO CAMPER**, (2) new tires, \$950. 451-7578.

**40-GAL. GAS WATER HEATER**, new burner unit, best offer. 202-3694.

**1940s BEDROOM SET**: bed, vanity w/mirror, bench, chest of drawers, hankie dresser w/mirror, commode w/towel bar. 334-3668.

**2008 PRIUS**, silver outside, gray inter., 129,000 mi., clean, \$5995; **ALUM. PONTOON LIFT**, \$650 (seen at Cedar Lk, Fbo). 491-4565.

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

**HOUSE FOR RENT**, (2) bdrm, east of Owat., avail. Sept. 1. 444-9347.

**KATAHDIN HAIR SHEEP**, ewe & ram lambs; **FREEZER LAMBS; SYDELL SHEEP HOOF TRIM CHUTE**. 451-2722.

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

final tour of the day was at Garrison Dam, the fifth largest earthen dam in the world, where electricity is generated with water. Lake Sakakawea, the reservoir created by the dam, is the third largest reservoir in the United States.

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

On Thursday morning, June 15, everyone was on the motor coach by 7:30 for the return trip to Owatonna.

**FIREWOOD**, near Walcott Town Hall, \$40/pickup load. 332-7739.

**HOUSE CLEANING SERVICES**: vacuum, dust, do some laundry, mopping, etc. 461-9422.

**GEORGE FOREMAN GRILL**, XL w/temperature control, new (never used), \$35. 334-3804.

**2-YR-OLD WHITE DORPER RAM**, purebred; **6-YR-OLD DORPER RAM**, papered. 715-205-0411.

(2) **DINING ROOM TABLES** w/(2) leaves each: formal/\$375, Early American/\$300; **RECLINING LOVE-SEAT**, dark blue, \$200. 213-8823.

**TREK 700 MULTITRACK**, 700x35c, 21-spd, women's, \$100; **K2 HYBRID**, men's, 700x35c, 21-spd, \$100. 330-3178.

**CLEAR PLASTIC BOXES**, 4.5"x5.5"x1", **CARD STOCK & ENVELOPES; OLD WINDOWS & SCREENS; (2) GRAVITY FUEL TANKS** w/stands. 463-8064.

**SKID STEER BUCKETS**, new; **SERVICE TRUCKS**, Chevy & GMC 2500HD 4x4; **2015 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE**. 402-7679.

**CANARY & MIXED GRASS**, no rain; **ALF. & GRASS**, no rain; **GRASS**, round bales; **WHEELS** from side rake for decoration. 451-7489 or 414-2245/cell.

**JD 60 TRACTOR** w/loader; **1939 CHEVY TRUCK**, flatbed, dually. 339-2309.

**FARM FANS CF/AB 190 CORN DRYER**, LP, 3-phase, 1839 hrs, on wheels. 291-0165 or 291-0287.

**CHRYSLER OUTBOARD**, 120 hp, \$1000/obo (boat optional); **FUEL TANKS**, 300- & 200-gal. on stand, \$200/obo; **EVERGREEN TREES**, 10-yrs-old, \$10-\$20/each (you move). 213-7909.

**CABIN**, French Lk, leased land, patio, deck, dock, great fishing, 80' shoreline, \$89,900. 334-6362.

**SNAPPER RIDING MOWER**, 33" cut, 12 hp, front motor, \$300/obo. 334-2673.

**70" SHARP AQUOS LED TV**, used, 1080p, Smart-Central™, built in Wi-Fi, (4) HDMI inputs, like new, \$600. 608-317-8694.

**LAND PRIDE ROTARY MOWER**, 5', gd shape, 3-pt mount, 540 rpm PTO, \$600. 952-652-2473.

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

**POLYPAY RAM LAMBS**, born in Feb., twins & triplets. 213-1466.

**INDOOR STORAGE** w/14' entry. 412-1171/lv. msg.

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

For information on next year's Coal Creek Tour, June 12-14, 2018, contact Tour Host Doug Hughes at Steele-Waseca or email him at [mktg@swce.coop](mailto:mktg@swce.coop).

## ad connection

### give away

**BARN KITTENS**, born May 23. 455-3506.

**FREE HONEYBEE SWARM REMOVAL**, please do not exterminate. 456-0753.

**FARM VARIETY COLORED KITTENS**. 475-2701.

**BEE SWARM REMOVAL**, we'll remove a swarm of bees from your property free of charge & relocate them to our farm where we raise bees for honey. 612-801-2969/Rory.

**TENDERFOOT NURSERY STAND FOR PIGS**. 384-7358.

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

### wanted

**FREE QUILT MATERIAL** to make quilts to give away. 789-6222.

**SOMEONE TO HAUL HORSE MANURE; HAY**, sm. squares for my horses, need it delivered. 923-7567.

**TO CARPOOL FROM OWAT. TO ROCHESTER**, Mon.-Fri., 8-4:30. 226-3004.

**WILL DO:** garden tilling, bucket work, dirt leveling, driveway leveling. 451-6046.

**STEEL HOG PENS OR GATES** (not wire hog panels). 456-5463.

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

**OLD WHEELBARROW**. 332-6781.

**CRAFTERS** for 18th Annual Christmas for Veterans Homemade Craft & Bake Sale, Nov. 4, only homemade crafts, baked goods & plants can be exhibitd at this show, donations welcome anytime. 455-2755.

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

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

**BOER GOATS; SAVANNA GOATS OR CROSS BREDS**. 715-205-0411.

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

Ads need to be received in our office by **August 7** to ensure being printed in the September Sparks. **Please print neatly or type** your ad of **20 words or less** on this form. We reserve the right to edit ad copy to allow space for more ads. Ads received after the 7th will be printed in the October 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](mailto:sparks@swce.coop).

## All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

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

**BARN & SHEDS** to tear down; **ANY OLD LOG BUILDING; OLD TIN &/OR LUMBER; BARN SIDING; WALNUT BOARDS; ANVIL & LARGE VISE** for the shop. 330-0258/Tim.

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

**RELIABLE PERSON TO SCRAPE & PAINT MY HOUSE** at a reasonable price. 463-3721.

### for sale

**2005 H-D HERITAGE**, beautiful teal & cream color, 22,384 mi., new tires, has windshield & leather bags, \$9500; **BUILDABLE COUNTRY LOT**, 1.5 acres w/ mature trees, 2.5 mi. west of Mdfd. 272-5852.

**WILSON HOPPER SPRING**, \$6500; '04 **CORN-HUSKER**, 45"-102"-84", all alum., \$19,500; '79 **CHEV.**, single axle, \$1400; '86 **WHITE**, quad axle, \$15,000. 456-1181.

**(22) UNIT HEATERS**, used, 150-300 Btu. 451-9710/Mark or Ron.

**MILWAUKEE 3/8 110V DRILL**, \$25; **COMMERCIAL SANDBLASTING OUTFIT**, \$1200; **WALKER 5T FLOOR JACK**, \$200; **JD 3010 TRACTOR & LOADER**, \$8000. 330-3945.

**120-GAL. PICKUP FUEL TANK**, \$85/obo; **(2) 1000-GAL. FUEL TANKS & FUEL**, \$2100 w/700-gal. fuel; **IH 710 PARTS PLOW**, 5-btm, \$500/obo; **CULTIVATOR**, 6-row, \$150/obo. 455-0895.

**ANTIQUE BEDROOM CHAIR; JUICING MACHINE; SHOWER CHAIR**. 332-0294.

**JD 3010 GAS TRACTOR**, year-round cab, new paint, front rock box. 455-3524/Amy.

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

**JD 640 RAKE; ALLIED 595 LOADER; BETTER BILT VAC PUMP**. 380-9580.

**FLARE BOX**, exc. cond., \$600; **DOG KENNEL**, XL, composite, metal wire door, \$40; **TV CONVERTER**, new in box, \$40. 455-3881.

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

**GRAIN BIN SWEEP** for an 18' diameter grain bin, 5.5" auger w/walking end & 1 hp Baldor motor, used vry little & always kept inside, works great, \$150. 330-3856.

**CABIN** on Beaver Lk, 2-bdrm, heat & air, incl. pontoon w/new 60 hp motor, fishing boat, golf cart & all furniture, \$249,000. 513-300-9297.

**HUBCAPS:** (1) 1958 Chev. Impala, (1) 1959 Chev. Impala (both 14"), \$25/each; (3) 1979-91 Ford (new), \$75. 838-8565.

**SEARS RIDING LAWN MOWER**, good working cond., 42" mower deck, 17 hp, \$500/obo. 451-5456 after 5 p.m.

**GRAIN WAGON** w/hydraulic lift, very good cond., always shedded. 451-5172.

**TREE TRIMMING, REMOVE & STUMP GRINDING**, pro climber & aerial lift to U of M guidelines; **FRONT CHROME BUMPER** for an F-650, new. 456-1609.

**SCOTTISH HIGHLAND BULL**, 3-years-old. 952-652-2678.

**JD SRX75 RIDING LAWN MOWER**, older w/new battery, \$260. 952-492-6515 or 612-419-4231/cell.

**JIFFY ICE AUGER**, like new, 3 hp, 10", \$250; **1996 PONTOON** w/2014 trailer & 2012 Mercury EFI 30 hp 4-stroke engine, \$6000. 383-3871.

**VENTERA 10-KILOWATT WIND GENERATOR**, \$20,000; **80' TOWER** sold separately, no crane needed to lift tower. 332-7725.

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

**CUSTOM-BUILT "PETERS BILLIARDS" POOL TABLE**, regulation size, slate, new top & pockets in great cond., great entertainment, \$1200/obo; **JOHNSON OUTBOARD**, 9.5 hp, \$300. 612-203-0106.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

### travel

**GIRLFRIEND GETAWAY—GALENA, ILL.**, Aug. 19-22. Motor coach, 3 nights, 6 meals, Riverboat dinner cruise, Blaum Brothers Distillery tour, shopping, interactive cooking class. \$579 pp dbl occ.

**MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE**, Aug. 31-Sept. 10. Airfare incl., 1-night in Athens, 7-night cruise on the Royal Princess (incl. meals & entertainment), 1-night in Barcelona. Starts at \$4,499 pp dbl occ.

**NY CITY & NEW ENGLAND/CANADA CRUISE**, Sept. 15-24. Airfare incl., 2-nights in Times Sq., Manhattan cruise, 9/11 Memorial, 7-night Crown Princess cruise. Starting at \$3,199 pp dbl occ.

**GREAT AMERICAN HISTORY TOUR**, Sept. 19-26. Deluxe motor coach, 7 nights, 10 meals, admission to all museums, battlefields & Nat'l Parks, 4 guided tours. \$1,425 per person dbl occupancy.

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



## youth tour connection

# Youth Tour provides fantastic, incredible experience

by Brant Wieber and Hannah Singh, Steele-Waseca 2017 Youth Tour delegates

The D.C. trip was an absolutely fantastic experience.

I had been to D.C. once before, but this experience was truly unique. Not only was I getting to spend time with people from all across Minnesota and the U.S., but I was also getting to explore some of the greatest U.S. monuments and memorials.

Two of my favorite experiences from the trip were the Marine Museum and the *Sound of Music* play. I particularly liked the Marine Museum because it's "boots on the ground" look at many of the issues that our country has faced in the past and is still facing today.

We got to talk with quite a few veterans at that museum and hear about their stories firsthand. This is something I found so valuable, especially in this age of technology when most of our information comes through the grapevine.

I was also delighted by the play. It was a great time to unwind from our busy schedule and just relax. I have seen the movie many times, so I had fun humming along with all the songs and watching a slightly new take on the story.

I also now know a lot more about how my local co-op functions. I would like to thank all those from the co-op for the unbelievable trip, it is truly one I will remember.

My summer started out with me packing my bags for Washington, D.C. During the school year I submitted an application to my electric co-op for this all expense paid trip to D.C. When I won I was thrilled. Not only would I be able to see so much of the historical landmarks that make up our capital, but I would also have the opportunity to speak to the men and women that represent me in our government.

When we met at the hotel for the orientation meeting, I immediately recognized several people from their pictures. I also met a lot of new people as we

all excitedly tried to find our roommates. The energy was palpable and we were ready for the next week.

Over the next few days we traveled everywhere. The capital is fully decorated with so many amazing, meaningful and thought provoking memorials.

We saw memorials for presidents, for wars, for 9/11. It is amazing that we have a city that is so full of meaning. It really makes you feel patriotic.

One of my favorite memorials was for the Korean War Veterans Memorial. I remember that it was considerably hot that day, and as we walked past the statues with real soldiers faces, we came to a small still pond, surrounded by trees shading cool benches. I sat down on the cool stone and realized something. The soldiers were wearing heavy gear that I can only imagine must have been extremely uncomfortable. We sent our boys over there and they endured so much more than I could ever know, so that I could live the way I do. So I could sit on this nice cool bench in the shade. Since then I have done a lot more research into the Korean War and have learned so much about our country's history.

We also visited the Smithsonian's, the Holocaust Museum, the National Archives, and the National Museum of the Marine Corps. They were all so amazingly put together and moving. The only thing I wish I could change about this trip is that I wish I could have spent so much more time visiting them. Unfortunately, we had only a week to see everything so sometimes we had to cut things short. I would highly recommend these museums to everyone and anyone who has the opportunity to visit the capital.

One of the more significant days in the trip was when we met with our representatives and senators. We all got



Brant Wieber



Thirty-nine Minnesota delegates participated in the 2017 Washington, D.C. Youth Tour, June 10-15. Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric was represented by Hannah Singh (pictured front row, far right) and Brant Wieber (back row, third from left), both of Northfield.

dressed up and headed out to the Capitol building. That morning there was a shooting in which several of the baseball team members for the GOP were shot. A lot of people were on high alert. It is amazing that we were still able to meet with the representatives because they gave us firsthand accounts of what the situation in D.C. was like right then. I learned so much about what their jobs entitled and what they had access to. I also was surprised about how much I learned about how our government works. We talked about the President, about the co-ops, we joked, stories were told. It was amazing. It was nothing like when you see them on TV or when there is a huge crowd and they have to be cautious. It was incredibly interesting.

I learned and saw was incredible, but the memories, experiences, and friends I made on this trip were invaluable. It is so easy to apply and I feel like everyone who has the time and the opportunity should at least try. It is amazing that our co-op provides this for us.



## cookin' connection

### Rhubarb Pie Bars

LaVerne Duban

Lonsdale

**Crust:** Divide the crust in half

- 2 c. flour
- 2/3 c. lard
- 1/4 to 1/2 c. water
- 1 tsp. salt

**Filling:**

- 3 eggs
- 1 1/2 c. sugar
- 2 c. half-and-half cream
- 3 c. diced rhubarb
- 4 Tbsp. flour
- Handful of raisins
- 1 tsp. cinnamon

Roll out 1/2 of the crust to fit a 9x12 cake pan. Mix the filling together and put on bottom crust, then roll out the second half of the crust and put it on top of the filling. Slit the top. Glaze the top with (1) beaten egg white and sprinkle sugar on top. Bake at 350° 45 to 60 minutes. You can also glaze it with powdered sugar frosting when done and warm.

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 54 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during June 2017. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, [swce.coop](http://swce.coop).

### Was your account number in Sparks?

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

## July issue of Sparks



#### Numbers found:

Bruce Prestegard  
Terry/Renee Kubat

#### Numbers not found:

Jeremy/Amy Jo Fuchs  
Lyle/Pamela Vaughan  
Trista/Adam Babcock



## Sparks in brief . . .

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

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

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

• **June temps** – The average high temperature for June was 80° F, while the average low was 58° F. They compare to last year's average high of 80° F and average low of 60° 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](http://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

### 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



Take extra care when enjoying outdoor sporting events and activities when weather turns threatening. If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to pose an immediate threat. That is why the National Weather Service advises: "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!" Lightning can strike up to ten miles away from rain, even if you don't see clouds.

Safe Electricity urges everyone to understand the importance of lightning awareness and how to stay safe. Learn more at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

Safe  
Electricity.org

### Great River Energy details strong finances, unveils favorable rate projections

During Great River Energy's (GRE's) annual meeting, June 7, company leaders shared the cooperative's recent accomplishments, including near-record margins, a more flexible and economical generation portfolio, and certification as a Great Place to Work®.

"Great River Energy is financially strong," said President and Chief Executive Officer David Saggau. "Our assets are performing very well. Our employees are happy and healthy. And, we are responding appropriately to the challenges facing our membership."

Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Larry Schmid described how financial planning and a disciplined focus on goals resulted in the cooperative's solid financial condition. He also revealed a revised rate projection that showed annual increases less than 1 percent through 2030, lower than the anticipated rate of inflation.

"Our cooperative business model, consisting of a strong generation and transmission cooperative and strong distribution members provides the financial strength we need and enables us to remain flexible," said Schmid.

Board chair Mike Thorson shared GRE's progress to reduce emissions and invest in cost-effective renewable energy.

"We have an ambitious, achievable strategy focused on modernizing our energy grid, generating cleaner energy—all while working with our member

cooperatives to provide members with the services they value," said Thorson.

In his final annual meeting as a Great River Energy employee, Vice President and Chief Transmission Officer Will Kaul, who is retiring in July, stated that cooperatives are on the cusp of discovering new and better ways to serve members.

"Low cost renewable energy, digital convergence, networks and innovation driven by competition have created a primordial soup of opportunities that can lead to an increased market share for electricity in the energy economy," said Kaul.

During the board of directors' reorganizational meeting following the annual meeting, Robert Bruckbauer (Lake Country Power, Grand Rapids) was elected board chair; Joe Morley (East Central Energy, Braham) was elected vice chair; Dale Anderson (Kandiyohi Power Cooperative, Spicer) was re-elected secretary, and Lee York (Nobles Cooperative Electric, Worthington) was elected treasurer. Gary Wilson, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric board president, was elected to GRE's 24-member board.

Great River Energy is Steele-Waseca's wholesale energy provider for its legacy members.



Gary Wilson

(Local Democracy continued from Page 1)

ing can result in rates and services that reflect our community's needs while assisting in keeping administrative costs down.

Soon, the Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric board will begin reviewing the provision on whether to opt-in and assume authority as addressed in Minnesota Statute 216B.164, Subd 11. The main focus and purpose of this change is to secure local decision making, not to substantively change the way your cooperative interacts with distributed generation.

It is important to note, if the Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric board votes to assume authority, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric will continue to follow state law by having rules in place, as well as a dispute resolution process, and a means for mediation per the Minnesota State Statute.

Before the Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric board moves on the issue whether to opt-in or not, the board would like to provide you with the opportunity to voice your comments or concerns you as a member may have. If you are interested in this change, please contact us with your comments on or before Aug. 23, 2017. You may call our office at 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514.

The draft resolution and rules (in their initial form) are posted on our website, [www.swce.coop](http://www.swce.coop), for member review. The resolution and rules will be re-posted with any changes that may result upon completing our research and incorporating feedback from members and the board. We have also included a link to Minnesota Statute 216B.164.

During the August meeting of your electric cooperative board of directors, the adoption of this authority will be addressed and any concerns or comments will be reviewed at that time.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric has worked with and has commissioned more distributed generation projects per capita than any other electric cooperative in the state of Minnesota with great success. Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric plans on continuing that tradition.