

member connection

Great River Energy, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric help area HVAC manufacturer expand production

Courtesy: Great River News

On its journey to become the No. 1 applied HVAC manufacturer in North America, Daikin Applied recently announced its intent to expand production capabilities with a new state-of-the-art, built-to-order manufacturing facility in southern Minnesota, north of Faribault.

Daikin selected Minnesota to host the \$40 million project over competing sites in the southern United States and Mexico, due in part to infrastructure upgrade commitments made and financed through a partnership between the city of Faribault, Rice County, and the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED).

Great River Energy (GRE) is also assisting in the project by covering Rice County's portion of the financial investment through the first use of the cooperative's new business expansion loan program. The program's purpose is to facilitate commercial and industrial investment in areas served by Great River Energy's member-owner cooperatives.

Through this program, Rice County will receive a \$500,000 loan from GRE, which is expected to fund nearly 18 percent of the infrastructure costs.

Great River Energy also helped the project locate in a facility served with reliable electricity by its member-owner cooperative, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric.

Daikin Applied is a division of Japan-based Daikin Industries, the world's top air conditioning company. As a global HVAC leader, Daikin Industries has more than 90 production bases around the world to meet the specific needs of regional world markets, including two successful U.S. plants in Faribault and Owatonna.

Daikin Industries' executives and team members have recognized southern Minnesota as the best opportunity for the planned manufacturing facility, given the region's skilled talent base and past achievements in designing and producing complex, highly specified equipment.

"Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric would like to extend thanks to the economic development services staff at Great River Energy. Many hours of working with the city of Faribault, along with Met-Con, state and county

officials, has brought this project to reality," said Kim Huxford, operations division manager at Steele-Waseca. "Teamwork among these leaders was essential to provide Daikin Applied the opportunity to become an important part of our cooperative."

Steele-Waseca General Manager Syd Briggs noted that city sewer and water, incentive packages, reliable electricity, and easy access to Interstate 35 were all key components in Daikin Applied's decision to expand in southern Minnesota. 28116

"Our cooperative, the city and Rice County look forward to increased economic stability and job development with the addition of another Daikin location," said Briggs. "We welcome them and are honored to be their electrical provider."

Vice President and General Manager Will Fort leads operations at both Minnesota plants, and will spearhead the development of this new factory.

"We have grown our operation within the city of Faribault over 50 years. In 2000, we opened the Owatonna factory, and completed a major expansion there in 2014 to triple its size," said Fort. "Our strong growth in recent years is the result of having highly skilled people in the plants, expert product design and marketing teams in our Plymouth headquarters, and the commitment from Daikin Industries to manufacturing excellence."

Daikin Applied currently employs approximately 900 people in its factories in southern Minnesota.

The company engages prospective employees in the community through partnerships and company-funded vocational programs at local colleges and high schools, securing training grants with DEED, and continues to invest in internal people-centered development programs. The new factory is expected to add significant new employment opportunities to the community.

"We have some of our best people in Minnesota and Japan partnering on this important project," said Daikin Applied CEO Mike Schwartz. "We're also appreciating the cooperation and assistance of the civic leaders in St. Paul and southern Minnesota to help make this happen."

(Vern Schlobohm continued from Page 1)

tric, 1936-2011." "It was so slippery, you couldn't stand up." Adding, "I still can't believe they got all those lines up in a week—it was just unbelievable."

Born March 9, 1927, in Steele County's Medford Township, Vern went to country school and high school in Medford, helped on the family farm, and enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1945. He served on the destroyer ships, USS Floyd B. Parks and USS Robert Oreleck in the South Pacific, and was honorably discharged in 1947.

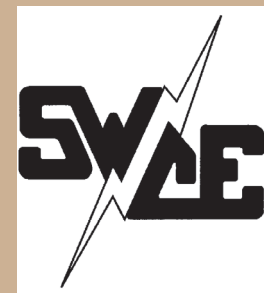
Vern also recalled when electricity first became available at his childhood residence in 1941. "We got in the house and it [sic] was all lit up and the barn was lit," said Vern. "You could see every corner of the barn." Adding, "It was the most wonderful thing that had ever happened is when we got electricity."

In 1952, he married Joan A. Cole in Kenyon. They made their home in Owatonna where they raised their five children. He enjoyed working on the family farm throughout his life, and also enjoyed collecting and working on old tractors, and taking them to the Steele County Free Fair.

Vern was very proud and talked often of an Honor Flight trip to Washington, D.C., in 2008. He had the opportunity to visit the World War II Memorial, and was greeted by former Senator Bob Dole.

Vern was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna, the VFW, American Legion Post 77, and a charter member of Redeemer Lutheran Church.

He is survived by his five children: Susan (Dan) Branstad, Sharon Lager, David (Maureen Crowley) Schlobohm, Diane Randall, and Doug (Jennifer Erck) Schlobohm; 9 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren; a sister, Lucille Skalicky; and three brothers: Herbert, Delbert (Dalene), and Wilford (Sandy) Schlobohm; along with many cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends. *SWCE*



the power of human connections

sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

November 2018

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric continues follow-up work following Sept. 20 storm

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric continues work in their service territory following straight-line winds and tornados, Sept. 20, primarily in the Steele and Rice County areas.

Operations Division Manager Kim Huxford said the follow-up work as a result of the storm includes clean up and retiring damaged distribution system areas, straightening poles that are leaning, trimming and/or taking down



Pictured is a sample of the storm damage encountered by Steele-Waseca line crews in Rice County following the Sept. 20 storm.

danger trees that were subject to bring power lines back down, reconnecting members who are having their electrical services repaired, and working with the Steele and Rice County Emergency Management agencies.

Huxford said preliminary cost estimates associated with the storm's damage is from \$900,000 to \$1 million.

At 7 p.m., Sept. 20, Huxford said the

(Sept. 20 storm continued on Page 3)

Former longtime Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric lineman, crew chief Vern Schlobohm dies at age 91

Former Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric employee, Luverne "Vern" E. Schlobohm, whose career spanned 40 years died Sept. 19 at the Owatonna Hospital, at the age of 91.

Vern, who started at the co-op as a lineman in 1952, worked as a crew chief, and ended his career as a meter department supervisor when he retired in 1992.

Prior to the devastating storm endured in the area Sept. 20, the storm considered the worst in co-op history was the Halloween storm in 1991. Eighty-plus linemen had arrived from various parts of the state to work in conditions with winds gusting up to 64 miles an hour.

"You'd get out of the truck and the wind was strong, it'd just take you right down," recalled Vern in the co-op's 75th



Vern Schlobohm, pictured in 2010, was among those interviewed for the co-op's 75th anniversary book, "Making the Connection: Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, 1936-2011."

anniversary book, "Making the Connection: Steele-Waseca Cooperative Elec-

(Vern Schlobohm continued on Page 8)

Thank you
VETERANS
for your service
and sacrifice.
SafeElectricity.org

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric wishes to remind our member-owners the office will be CLOSED on Monday, Nov. 12, in observance of Veterans Day. Please mail your energy payment early to ensure the co-op receives it by the due date.

inside connections

- 2 Manager Connection
- 3 2019 Nominating Committee appointments announced
Aurora Luth. Church Oyster-Chili Supper
- 4 Cookin' Connection
SWCE community solar update
Steele County Tip Line
- 5 Safety reminders when using drones
A.D.D. Festival of Trees opening night event
Christmas for Veterans
Homemade Craft & Bake Sale
Is my off peak/dual fuel being controlled today?
- 6 Ad Connection
4-Seasons Vacations
- 7 Ad Connection
Go to the polls on Election Day
- 8 GRE, SWCE help Daikin Applied expand production capabilities

calendar of events

November

- 4 Daylight saving time ends
- 6 Election Day 19649
- 11 Veterans Day
- 12 Veterans Day observed
SWCE office is closed
- 22-23 Thanksgiving holidays
SWCE office is closed

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Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

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**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
and listen to the prompts. Please have
your account number, phone number, and
name on the account available.

Call *Before* You Dig
Gopher State One Call
811 or 800-252-1166
48-hour notice required for **ALL**
underground cable locations

manager connection



*By Syd Briggs,
General Manager*

As I write my column for this month's issue of *Sparks*, I am reflecting on the storm that happened on Thursday, Sept. 20, 2018.

As everyone knows, we experienced seven confirmed tornados, and straight-line winds in excess of 70 mph. Thursday night I was at home and heard the wind and rain against the side of my house, so strong, that I went immediately to my basement without hearing any siren, or receiving any notice of extreme weather.

I was soon standing in the dark, as were most of the people in at least two counties, as the weather quickly settled down. Within a few minutes my phone was busy with texts, emails, and calls from directors, members, and employees as we started to assess the situation; I even sat in my car in the garage with my phone plugged into the cigarette lighter in order not to run out of power.

By now everyone probably knows we lost the power to 70 percent of our meters due to two transmission lines being down along with many sections of distribution line. The biggest damage to power lines was mostly due to limbs and, this time, entire trees. However, the damage was not just limited to Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric facilities; many of our members lost buildings, parts of buildings, and entire roofs.

Driving to work the next day revealed the same type of damage within the city of Owatonna that we experienced in the rural areas; many roads were blocked with trees and debris scattered across neighborhoods. The Faribault airport was one of the worst locations and sustained some of the worst damage from a tornado; some buildings were damaged beyond repair.

The location of the biggest damage to Steele-Waseca was in the central to northern areas of our service territory. For those who had a chance to log on to the website and click the outage map tab, you would have seen a very colorful map with various-sized circles (the larger the circle, the larger the area of meters without power) and in various colors (green representing 1 - 9 meters without power,

and red representing over 500 meters without power). It was the worst storm outage I have experienced in my 10 years in Minnesota as general manager.

Thanks to a very well trained and experienced employee group, we got to work immediately on Thursday. The damage was so extensive we mainly cleared trees and debris Thursday night as we called in 10 crews from neighboring cooperatives and contractors.

Our employees worked tirelessly from sunup to well after sundown through Tuesday. They did an amazing job re-routing power, replacing poles, clearing debris, and reconnecting the majority of our system. There was an amazing coordination of resources as we tested the extent of our outage phone service, our outage software, vehicle tracking devices, and equipment location and inventory system. It was impressive to see trucks roll in and out of our garage with such regularity and no delay. With this much damage, I was grateful to see almost everyone connected by end of business on Monday, Sept. 24. 32870

As we updated the status in real time on Facebook, it was a blessing to see the multitude of concern for the safety of our line crew, "Stay safe," "Be safe," "Work safe," "Prayers for safety," were in many of the messages online. Then, as power was restored, so many members took the time to remember to thank us with another post. One of my favorite messages on Facebook was an invitation to our line crews to stop by for a bowl of stew before calling it a night. Others have taken time to send in thank you notes through the mail. We really do live in a great world with great neighbors. We are dedicated to our jobs, and more importantly to each other. I wish everyone had the opportunity I have by working at a cooperative where values and respect are still the norm for everyone involved (members, directors, and employees). It takes dedication from all involved to get power to everyone involved in a cooperative.

Tonight, and every night for quite a while, when I go home and turn on my lights, I see the images of those that work every day to provide the service that is so easy to take for granted....those that I see every day at our headquarters, and those that worked before us that paved the way in the last 82 years of Steele-Waseca's existence.

ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)
TREK 720 MULTITRACK HYBRID, men's, 700x35c, 21-spd, \$100; **SCHWINN SIERRA MTB**, men's, 21-spd, 26x175, \$100. 330-3178.

STORAGE FOR RENT, various sizes incl. controlled environment units, 1210 & 1176 E. Frontage Rd, Owat., www.selfstorageofowatonna.com. 456-1471.

HEREFORD BULL, great disposition, 18-mths-old, used on heifers (settled all of them). 451-2722.

CEDAR MAILBOX POST, new, \$10. 334-3804.

PORTABLE FISH HOUSE, wood & canvas, 4'x8', 4-holes, collapsible, \$150. 334-5150.

WHEEL HORSE SINGLE STAGE SNOWBLOWER for a lawn tractor, \$75. 581-3018.

FARM KING 8' SNOWBLOWER, exc. condition. 684-3151.

JD 1570 TerrainCut™ FRONT-DECK MOWER w/ rear discharge, 86.6 hrs, 72" Fastback™ deck, 2-yrs-old, exc. cond., \$16,500. 259-3309.

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

PORTALIFT BOAT LIFT, 1600#, \$975. 456-8639.

'03 **FORD F-250 SUPER DUTY**, 4x4, flatbed, hyd. tailgate, 7'6" Boss plow, new tires, \$8900. 391-2485.

SNAPPER BAG N-WAGON, \$350/obo; **PADDLE-BOAT**, \$175/obo; **WEIGHTS & BARS**, \$25/obo; **BOBBER COOLER**, best offer. 332-7925.

2011 TOYOTA PRIUS, charcoal gray ext., gray int., tinted windows, new tires, very reliable, gd looking car, 95,576 mi., \$8000. 491-4565.

CHEV. GEO METRO, \$100; **CHAIN SAW**, old; **BARRELS**, steel & plastic. 664-9426.

SONY HT-CT780 TV SOUNDBAR w/wireless subwoofer, \$179. 456-2060.

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.

(Sept. 20 storm continued from Page 3)

meter locations at the Faribault airport and damaged cabins that were needing trees cleared. 1030240

According to Huxford, factors contributing to the duration of the

PEAVY 115H 15" SPEAKERS, exc. cond., \$150 for the pair. 363-1274.

WHEEL HORSE 418A GARDEN TRACTOR, 18-hp Kohler engine, incl. 42" mower deck, hydraulic equip. lift, \$900. 952-836-6782/Bill.

OCEAN FRONT TIMESHARE FOR RENT, Grand Cayman Island, Morritt's Grand Resort, (1) bdrm, Feb. 9-16, 2019, \$1200 + util. & taxes. 412-9925.

1981 CHEVY EL CAMINO, restored, needs paint, maroon color, shift kit, rebuilt motor, \$4000/obo. 491-2667.

5-CHURCH CRAFT & BAKE SALE FOR MISERIONS, Nov. 3, Steele County Community Center from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. 451-8547.

WOOD SPLITTER, homemade on trailer, needs motor, \$235; **CHIPPER SHREDDER**, 6-hp, oil leak, \$25. 952-652-2933.

BLAZE ORANGE GEAR: Sweatshirt, XL; jacket, 2XL; jacket, SM; (5) stocking hats; 7-pair wool socks; & poncho, all for \$25. 451-9445.

BEER SIGNS; RECORD ALBUMS; CHAIRS, many kinds; **1.5-TON CHAIN HOIST PULLEY**; (3) **WOODEN WHEEL WAGON HUBS**. 612-827-6575.

COLEMAN GENERATOR, portable, gas, 4000-watt, used vry little, \$200. 451-1713.

FLUTE; CLARINET; TRUMPET; SAXOPHONE. 340-0506.

ROLL TOP DESK, will accommodate a computer, like new, \$200. 339-3821.

2017 JD 1025R TRACTOR, used 7-hrs, front bucket & rear blade; (6) **OUT-LOTS** not on leased land. 952-492-6515.

KITCHEN TABLE & (4) CHAIRS; OUTSIDE TABLE. 455-3206.

366 BIG BLOCK & 5- & 2-SP. TRANS., \$1200; '97 **FORD** w/new v-plow, some rust, \$10,000. 456-1181.

outage were multiple transmission structures that were damaged and on the ground, multiple areas of damage to Steele-Waseca's distribution system in a three-county area, extensive damage to many of the co-op's member's

SNOWMOBILE TRAILER, 8'6"x10' long, has tilt, new tires, permanent registration, \$700. 330-5670.

(17) **HVY DUTY POSTS**, 10' long; (7) **CATTLE GATES**, assorted sizes. 451-3501 or 390-5508.

'16 **FORD FOCUS**, 17,000 mi., gets 35 mpg; **300-BU. PARKER GRAVITY BX ON JD WAGON**, \$1000. 330-3945.

1982 CUB CADET 782 LAWN TRACTOR, gd cond., 46" cut mower deck, \$950/obo. 210-4264.

MCCULLOCH GENERATOR, 5700-watt, used once, needs carb. cleaned, \$300. 272-8611.

TREADMILL, exc. cond., \$200; **BUNK BEDS**, white metal, full & twin, \$100; **LARGE BOOKCASE** w/storage, \$25. 685-2515.

HOUSE FOR RENT in Ellendale, 2-bdrm, 2-ba, no smoking, no pets, \$800/mth. 456-8931.

WEED EATER TRIMMER, gas, like new, \$25/Fbo. 332-7294.

DRESSED GEESE, MUSCOVY DUCKS & HVY BROILERS. 451-4946.

HVY DUTY TRAILER, 8'x16'; (2) 7500-lb. axles, new tires, \$1700; **1996 SUBURBAN**, \$500. 456-9145.

'75 **GMC**, 3/4 ton, 454 motor, \$3500/obo. 451-5131.

LOCAL HONEY, hives located in Merton Township, \$8/pint. 461-6546.

REGISTERED AUSTRALIAN SHEP. PUPS: Blk-tri, red-Merle's, blue-Merle's—exc. family, obedience & working dogs, 1st shots & dewes removed. 475-2509.

(150) **GRASS HAY BALES**, sm. sq., no rain, Waldorf area. 327-3672.

TRIPLE "C" 16" SADDLE, handmade in USA, great shape, \$400/cash only. 456-3905.

2002 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER UTL, 4x4. 463-3726.

Rural communities depend on Co-op Voters.

Learn about the issues.
Find your polling place.
Talk to your family and friends.
Go to the polls on November 6.

Be an active participant in our democracy. Be a Co-op Voter.

www.vote.coop

ad connection

give away

BROWN SOFA, used. 451-6488.

WOOD-BURNING STOVE, great for shop or work area. 451-7571.

CONCRETE STEP, 48"x41", 14" high. 884-5739.

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

wanted

FREE FIELDSTONE OR BOULDERS, med. & large size, we'll haul. 210-9908.

JUNKERS & REPAIRABLES: trucks, cars, pickups, most constr. & farm equip., top \$ paid. 332-2300.

(2) PULLEYS/FLYWHEELS FOR AIR COMPRESSORS: (1) 10" w/1 1/16" shaft & 3/16" keyway; (1) 14.5" double belt, 1 3/8" shaft & 1/4" keyway. 451-3727.

USED 7' OR 8' ROTARY MOWER, any condition. 334-9456.

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

CRAFTERS for 19th Ann. Christmas for Veterans Homemade Craft & Bake Sale, Nov. 3, 8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m., Trinity Luth. Church in Owat., donations welcome anytime. 455-2755 or 271-3596.

JUNK & UNWANTED APPLIANCES, no TVs or computers, FREE drop-off. 210-6728/Dan/lv. msg.

WILL DO YARD/DRIVEWAY WORK, have compact tractor w/tiller, bucket, blade, & plow. 451-6046.

CROPLAND RENTER, Lonsdale area, 66.9 acres for 2019. 744-2512.

MANURE BUCKET for Paulson loader. 456-7614.

HAY ELEVATOR, 20' to 30' long. 676-7162.

DRIVERS w/CDL & gd driving record, must pass drug & alcohol testing, need tanker endorsement. 456-1181.

PULL-BEH. UTIL. TRAILER, 5x8 or 4x8. 869-3191.

WOODSTOVE to heat medium-sized shop, prefer airtight fire brick lined w/blowers. 330-3945.

Sparks Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

Ads need to be received in our office by November 5 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 5th 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.

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

PIANO STUDENTS, licensed educator offering piano lessons to all ages. 210-0183/rural Medford.

2-BAG BAGGER ATTACHMENT for JD mower. 676-7253.

SNAPPER REAR ENG. LAWN MOWER. 451-8734.

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

CHEVY 400 TRANSMISSION for a 4-wheel drive, doesn't have to be gd, just need a core. 451-7091.

for sale

2004 CHEVY 2500HD SERVICE TRUCK, ext. cab, 4x4, \$3600; SNOW/DIRT BUCKETS; 2016 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN, \$11,500. 402-7679.

FIREWOOD, oak & mixed; MODINE LP GARAGE HEATER, 40,000 Btu, used little; PALOMINO B1200 8' POP-UP PKUP CAMPER, exc. cond. 363-2593.

BOAT STORAGE for 2018-19 season available. 271-2759.

1973 CHEVROLET C65 GRAIN TRUCK, \$2400. 612-423-4500.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

FUTURA HOT WATER PRESSURE WASHER, used, 3.5 gpm @ 3000 psi, WS101 pump, 230V, single phase, \$2995; VAL 6 DAYSTAR RADIANT HEATER, new, \$1195. 583-2703.

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

REFRIG., 1.6 cu. ft, white, exc. cond., \$50; COLUMBIA OMNI-TECH WINTER COAT, women's, blk, XL, \$50; SOREL SNOWLION WINTER BOOTS, women's, blk, size 10, grt cond., \$50. 456-6917.

15.5-TON CAPACITY DUMP TRUCK AVAIL. for all your hauling needs: rock, gravel, dirt, etc. 456-7774.

LUMEX COMMODORE, like new, \$150; PROBASICS SHOWER CHAIR, \$20; CRUTCHES, \$15; WALKER, \$25. 334-5913.

USED ENGINES, TRANSMISSIONS, AUTO & TRUCK PARTS, 30-day warranty. 332-2300.

VARIETY OF MEN'S & WOMEN'S OLD WEST/ FRONTIER CLOTHING incl. hats, skirts, vests, frocks, shirts, trousers & accessories. 952-451-4821.

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

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

CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY TOURING VAN, clean title, leather, loaded w/DVD/CD, heated seats, auto start, new tires, backup cam., Bluetooth, (2) key fobs, built-in inverter, seats (7), \$11,500. 412-1248.

MOHAIR (ANGORA GOAT) WOOL & ALPACA FIBER; YARNS, ROVING, BATS, WASHED FIBER & RAW FLEECES. 832-392-1587/cell.

MINI STORAGE UNITS FOR RENT in Ellendale. 456-1460.

REGISTERED POLLED HEREFORD COW, 3-yr-old, vet confirmed pregnant w/registered calf due May 10. 456-8094.

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

ELM FIREWOOD, well dried & ready to burn, others to split, \$100/standard pickup load. 239-2433.

GUTTERS, new, 20' lengths, \$10/each; PICKUP STOCK RACK, \$25; FUEL BARREL STAND, \$25. 838-8568.

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

MOW-N-VAC, 9-hp, 32 cu. ft, new, \$850. 475-4584.

ANDERSN WINDOWS w/grills, 3-y-o, exc. con., 65(h) x27(w), 65(h)x75(w), \$125; ANDERSON CLR GLASS EXT. DOOR w/match. storm door, 72(h)x36(w), exc. cond., 3-y-o, \$100. 334-5799 or 412-3775.

MF 2705 TRACTOR; PRONTO PWR WHEEL-CHAIR, exc. cond., best offer. 475-2322.

BELTED GALLOWAY COW/CALF PAIRS; BELTED GALLOWAY HEIFERS, STEERS & COWS. 456-0121.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

travel

TENNESSEE CHRISTMAS, Dec. 1-10. By motor coach, 9 nights, 14 meals, Memphis and Nashville, Grand Ole Opry, Christmas at Graceland, Dollywood & more! Starts at \$1,849 pp, 2 per room.

SAN ANTONIO RIVERWALK, Feb. 11-18, 2019. By motor coach, 7 nights hotel, 13 meals, Dallas, LBJ Ranch, San Antonio city tour, Oklahoma Memorial & more! Starting at \$1,399 pp, 2 per room.

PANAMA CANAL, Feb. 28-March 17, '19; 17 nights, Coral Princess (all meals, entertainmt & gratuities O/B), stops in Columbia, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, & Mex. Starts at \$4,899 pp, 2/rm.

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



member connection

Appointments for 2019 Nominating Committee announced

The 2019 nominating committee appointments have been announced by the Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric board of directors (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 4, 2019.

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 Executive Assistant Jenifer Shimpach 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's office on Wednesday, Nov. 14, and Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019. 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. 1059870

The districts electing directors at Steele-Waseca's 83rd annual meeting include the following:

• **District 2:** Dunbar, Lura and Minnesota Lake Townships in Faribault County; Mapleton, Danville, Medo, McPherson and LeRay Townships in Blue Earth County; Freeborn Township in Freeborn County; Alton, Byron, Freedom, Janesville, St. Mary, Vivian and Wilton Townships in Waseca County. (Represented by [Geraldine Lienke](#))

• **District 4:** Bath and Geneva Townships in Freeborn County; the Southwest one quarter (SW 1/4) and the Southeast one quarter (SE 1/4) of Berlin Township; Deerfield, Owatonna and Meriden Townships; the Northeast one

(Sept. 20 storm continued from Page 1)

co-op had 7,712 meter locations out of a total of 11,478 without power. At the height of the storm, Steele-Waseca had 10 of its substations affected. By 2 a.m., Friday, Sept. 21, Steele-Waseca General Manager Syd Briggs said all but 2,100 were restored as crews worked through the night to repair lines and clear roads to aid in access to the outage locations.

Steele-Waseca line crews were assisted by South Central Electric Association, Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services, Highline Construction, Legacy Power Line, Inc.; and Carr's Tree Service. Huxford said SWCE line crews averaged 16 to 17 hours a day during the outage.

When the crews were called in on Friday, Sept. 21, there were still 953 meter locations without power. By Monday, Sept. 24, the number was less than 200; and on Tuesday, the outages were less than 20, not including the



Line crews endured long hours and needed to clear an abundance of trees to gain access to restoring power.

(Sept. 20 storm continued on Page 7)

District 2

Lester/Jane Kroeger . . . 835-3105
Peter Rohe 838-8136
Wayne/Mae Maas 334-2761

District 4

Doug/Cindy Finch 390-0272
Bert Wiersma 684-9665
Pete/Melissa Bauer . . . 334-4049

District 6

Jane Middlestadt 451-6187
Ben Sunde 460-0083
Guy/Barb Jarvi 744-2711

quarter (NE 1/4) and the Southeast one quarter (SE 1/4) of Somerset Township, and Summit Township in Steele County; the Southwest one quarter (SW 1/4) of Warsaw Township in Rice County. (Represented by [Dennis Ringhofer](#))

• **District 6:** Medford, Clinton Falls and Merton Townships; and the Northwest, Northeast and Southeast one quarters (NW, NE & SE 1/4's) of Havana Township in Steele County, and Ellington, Concord, Claremont and Wasioja Townships in Dodge County. (Represented by [Gary Wilson](#)) ^{SWCE}

ANNUAL OYSTER - CHILI SUPPER

AURORA LUTHERAN CHURCH
6329 SE 38th St.
Owatonna, MN

SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 18TH, 2018
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

HOMEMADE CHILI & OYSTER STEW

Oyster-Chili Combo..... \$12.00
Chili Only \$8.00
Children (6-12)..... \$5.00
5 and Under FREE

All You Can Eat!



cookin' connection

Boston Cream Pie

Annette Balzer

Owatonna

1 pkg. Duncan Hines® Moist Deluxe Classic Yellow Cake Mix
4 containers (3 1/2 oz. each) ready-to-eat vanilla pudding
1 container chocolate frosting

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease and flour (2) 8- or 9-inch round pans. Prepare, bake and cool cake following package directions. To assemble, place each cake layer on serving plate. Split layers in half horizontally. Spread contents of 2 containers of vanilla pudding on bottom layer of one cake. Place top layer on filling. Repeat for second cake layer. Remove lid and foil top of chocolate frosting container. Heat in microwave oven on high for 25 to 30 seconds. Stir (mixture should be thin). Spread half the chocolate glaze over top of each cake. Refrigerate. Makes 12-16 servings.

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 42 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during September 2018. 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:

Jolene Aase
Alex/Vikki A. Ebenhoh
Elizabeth Terwee

Numbers not found:

Thomas A. Imgrund
Eugene K. Naatz



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.

• **September temps** – The average high temperature for September was 74° F, while the average low was 55° F. This resulted in 109 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs), and 130 Heating Degree Days (HDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 76° F and average low of 54° F. This resulted in 107 CDDs and 113 HDDs.

• **ENERGY STAR® Rebates** – In 2018, all ENERGY STAR refrigerators/freezers (with recycling), electric clothes dryers, dehumidifiers, central air conditioners, air and ground source heat pumps, light emitting diode (LED) bulbs purchased (limit 5) 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

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

Safety precautions required to utilize drone conveniences

Unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones, continue to gain in popularity and uses.

While the majority of these drones are considered toys, the use of drones for commercial purposes continues to grow as well. Real estate businesses use drones for aerial photos of listings. They are used to film movies, aid in surveillance, help emergency personnel, and more.

Drones have benefits for farmers. These flying devices take over tedious tasks for farmers, such as walking rows of crops to check for weeds, bugs, or any other cause of distress. They can also be used to spray pesticides and survey acres of land for more useful data.

The role of agricultural drones is poised to keep expanding. Investors are expected to spend an estimated \$16 bil-

lion on agricultural robots by 2020, according to a report by Bank of America Merrill Lynch Global Research.

The American Farm Bureau Federation estimates that a farmer's return on investment on a low-end model drone could be \$2 to \$3 per acre for soybeans, and up to \$12 per acre for corn crops.

Practice these safety measures

With the likelihood the presence of drones is only likely to grow, there are also some serious safety concerns to be mindful of when operating a drone:

• **Don't fly near power lines.** Flying a drone too close to a power line is a major safety hazard. If you accidentally lose control of the drone or misjudge distance, you could hit a power line

and leave hundreds of people without electricity. Even worse, it could cause a downed line, which is extremely hazardous.

If you ever cause or see a downed line, immediately call 911 or notify the local electric cooperative or utility. You should always assume that power lines are conducting electricity, even if they are damaged and on the ground. Touching a downed line or anything it has fallen on, such as your drone, could cause injury, or even death.

• Keep drones in your line of sight.

You should be able to see your drone at all times while you fly it. Be aware of your surroundings and keep control of where your drone is headed to avoid running into anything, such as a power line.

• **Don't fly in bad weather.** Check the weather conditions before you fly your drone. Low visibility, high winds, and storms could affect your ability to control your drone.

• **Avoid crowds.** Steer clear of crowds while flying your drone to avoid the risk of injuring someone.

If you are considering the purchase of a drone, whether for recreational, educational, or commercial purposes, learn the drone laws before you take flight, as violators face heavy fines.

(Article content courtesy of Brittany Williams, San Patricio Electric Cooperative in Sinton, Texas)

How ELECTRIC CO-OPS CAN PUT DRONES To USE

• **Ability to assess storm damage when roadways are inaccessible**

• **Infrared capability can detect hot spots on power lines or in substations**

• **Ability to assess vegetation management needs near power lines**

• **GPS data can pinpoint areas in the co-op's service territory that need attention**



Advocates for Developmental Disabilities of Steele County hosting Festival of Trees opening night event

The opening night event for the 28th Advocates for Developmental Disabilities of Steele County Festival of Trees is Friday, Nov. 16, at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Owatonna.

The event starts at 7:30 p.m., and will feature a festive evening of sparkling trees, entertainment, a silent auction of over 100 unique items, and delicious

appetizers and desserts.

All proceeds benefit the programs that Advocates for Developmental Disabilities offer to individuals with disabilities and their families throughout Steele County.

Tickets may be purchased at Cash Wise, Hy-Vee, or Kottke Jewelers and Gifts, all in Owatonna.

Is my off peak/dual fuel being controlled today? Visit Great River Energy's website at www.greatriverenergy.com and click on "Load Management." Need a history of controls? Click on "History" on the "Load Management" page.

19th Annual Christmas for Veterans Homemade Craft & Bake Sale

Saturday, Nov. 3

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church
609 Lincoln Ave., 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 the local nursing home of Owatonna.