

member connection

(Coal Creek Tour continued from Page 1)

Tour gave participants a view from the 21st floor (see adjacent right photo) where the Blue Flint Ethanol plant could be seen. The plant utilizes waste 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 over 7.5 million tons of lignite coal each year to Coal Creek Station.



Tour participants were able to enter Falkirk Mine, June 13, and collect their own coal.

(GRE annual meeting continued from Page 1)

Nearly 200 attendees, which included member-owner cooperative directors, banking relations, and other industry partners, heard about innovative projects and thoughtful decisions that have left GRE well positioned to serve its members.

Great River Energy is reducing its debt, right-sizing its power supply portfolio, and making cost-effective investments in renewable energy.

Saggau unveiled GRE's wholesale rate forecast, which showed rates holding steady for the next decade and contributing toward an improving competitive position in the Midwest. Great River Energy's wholesale electric rate is 7.2 percent lower than the weighted regional cost of wholesale power.

GRE Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Michelle Strobel reviewed financial results for 2018, perhaps the strongest financial year in the cooperative's history.



Following lunch at Falkirk Mine, the 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 game night to win prizes, and an ice cream social.

On Friday morning, June 14, everyone was on the motor coach by 7:30 for the return trip to Owatonna.



There were 51 members, guests, and youth who participated in this year's Coal Creek Tour, June 12-14. Tour participants posed for a photo outside of the Garrison Dam.

This tour serves as a mini-vacation for many participants. 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. 20794

For information on next year's Coal Creek Tour, June 23-25, 2020, contact Tour Host Jack Schwab at Steele-Waseca, or email him at jschwab@swce.coop.

"Our financial performance was exceptional, and we achieved some long-term financial milestones ahead of schedule," said Strobel. "As a result, Great River Energy retired patronage capital through cash payments to its member-owner cooperatives for the first time."

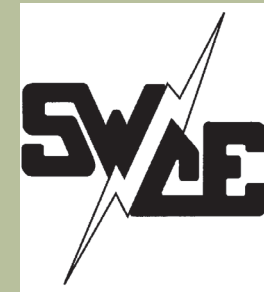
After reaching 20 percent equity at the end of 2018, Great River Energy returned \$15 million to members in March.

GRE Board Chair Bob Bruckbauer shared a message of unity among cooperative members, highlighting examples of challenges overcome through collaboration among cooperatives.

"Like all cooperatives, Great River Energy serves its members best when we all work together. Great River Energy's relationship with its membership is what makes our organization strong," said Bruckbauer. "Our financial and operational success are a testament to the success of our cooperative structure."

GRE reiterated a goal announced at its 2018 annual meeting to achieve 50 percent renewable energy by 2030. Saggau detailed the cooperative's long history with renewable energy and upcoming projects that have Great River Energy on track to reach 50 percent renewable energy by 2030.

During the board of directors' reorganization meeting following the annual meeting, Robert Bruckbauer (Lake Country Power, Grand Rapids) was re-elected board chair; Dale Anderson (Kandiyohi Power Cooperative, Spicer) was re-elected board vice chair; Audrey Hjelle (Runestone Electric Association, Alexandria) was re-elected secretary, and Lee York (Nobles Cooperative Electric, Worthington) was re-elected treasurer. In addition to the officers, directors were elected to Great River Energy's 24-member board including Steele-Waseca Board President Gary Wilson.



the power of human connections

sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

August 2019



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Call before you dig.

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calendar of events

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Rice County Relay for Life
- 2-3 Claremont Hogfest
- 4 Last day of Freeborn County Fair
- 10 Lonsdale Community Days
- 13-18 Steele County Free Fair
- 22 Minnesota State Fair starts
- 23-24 6th Annual Caleb Erickson Memorial Event in Waseca

Litomysl Summer Festival

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna
Sunday, July 28
Polka Mass - 10 a.m.
Festival 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Food, games & prizes for all ages
Live Music with "Marv Nissel Band"
& "Dan Stursa Polka Band"
Prune, Poppyseed, & Apricot "Bucht"
Silent Auction & Used-a-Bit sale
Everyone welcome!
www.litomysl.webs.com

Coal Creek Tour delivers terrific experience

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's Jack Schwab, along with Katie Nelson, hosted the 40th annual tour to Coal Creek Station and Falkirk Mine, June 12-14, near Underwood, North Dakota.

Three days of travel, fun, and educational adventure started Wednesday morning, June 12, 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 during 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 Thursday, June 13, the day started with breakfast prepared by hotel staff. The first stop on the tour was at Coal Creek Station near Underwood.

Station employees served as tour guides (see lower left adjacent photo) 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 in 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
(Coal Creek Tour continued on Page 8)



Great River Energy's annual meeting details financial stability, progressive strategy

Once a year, cooperatives open their doors to their members to share information, answer questions, and hold elections. Great River Energy (GRE), Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's wholesale energy provider for its legacy members, delivered on its cooperative promise to members during its annual meeting Wednesday, June 5.

"Great River Energy is stronger than ever," said GRE President and Chief Executive Officer David Saggau (pictured at the podium in the adjacent photo). "Our management team is experienced, our generation and transmission resources are operating with excellence, our employees are happy and healthy,



Photo courtesy of Great River Energy

our rates are stable, and we are responding appropriately to the changes occurring in our industry." 30092

(GRE annual meeting continued on Page 8)

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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
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

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric member-owners seeking to add value to their energy dollar may utilize rebates offered by the co-op.

In 2019, 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, click on "REBATES/PROGRAMS," then "Qualified Installers List," listed under "Quick Links."

	A/C	ASHP
14.5-14.9 SEER	\$50	\$200
15.0-15.9 SEER	\$50	\$300
16.0+ SEER	\$50	\$400

Rebates for Energy Star® labeled ground source heat pumps (GSHPs) are \$100 per ton in 2019.

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 offering a \$50 rebate for residential HVAC electronically commutated motors (ECMs), which offer a higher efficiency rating than typical blowers or condenser fan motors.

Ductless ASHPs with the Energy Star label are eligible for a \$100 rebate if your primary heat is delivered fuel, and \$200 if your primary heat is electric.

Energy Star labeled refrigerators and freezers are eligible for a \$50 rebate, only if you recycle your old unit.

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

Residential lighting rebates during 2019 will only be for LED (light emitting diode) lightbulbs with the Energy Star label. The rebate is \$2 per bulb with a limit of five bulbs. There aren't any rebates for LED holiday lights and

compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs).

Steele-Waseca members who install a LED yard light fixture (of at least 50-watts) that is Energy Star or DLC (Design Lights Consortium) rated are eligible for a \$30 rebate; central air conditioning tune-ups conducted during 2019 are eligible for a \$25 rebate; Wi-Fi smart thermostats are eligible for a \$25 rebate; members purchasing an electric clothes dryer with the Energy Star label are eligible for a \$25 rebate.

Member-owners who complete home energy savings measures are eligible for \$0.05 per kWh (kilowatt hour) savings. Submit the "Residential HOME ENERGY SAVINGS Rebate Request" form found at swce.coop, along with the requested documentation. The maximum rebate is \$100 for 2,000+ kWh.

Steele-Waseca is offering up to \$500 for members participating in the ChargeWise program. This is a voluntary program offered by participating electric cooperatives for qualified members who own a plug-in (PEV) or plug-in hybrid (PHEV) electric vehicle. 1073250

The program allows members to charge their PEV/PHEV in their garage or carport using electricity from a specially installed 20-amp ChargeWise outlet. This ChargeWise outlet only provides energy during the off-peak hours of 11 p.m.–7 a.m. Members simply plug in the PEV in the evening and their vehicle is charged during those overnight hours at a reduced rate. They wake up to a fully-charged electric vehicle.

If you have a question or wish to request a rebate form, please call Cindy Butterfield at Steele-Waseca weekdays between 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Rebate forms are available at Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop, by clicking on "REBATES/PROGRAMS." Please visit energystar.gov to check the model number of qualifying products.

Completed rebate forms must be accompanied with a copy of the receipt and submitted within 90 days of purchase. Please allow 6-8 weeks for processing. The rebate will appear as a credit on your Steele-Waseca bill.



Products with the Energy Star label have met federal specifications regarding energy efficiency.

ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)

YAMAHA VINO CLASSIC SCOOTER, silver, like new, 1400-mi., \$1000/firm. 334-3804.

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

JD 6300 MFW TRACTOR w/loader, \$20,000; **JD 3010G** w/loader, all restored, \$8500; **29' SPRINGDALE CAMPER** w/slide out, stored inside, \$5000. 330-3945.

1984 CARGO VAN, 6-cyl., 4-spd overdrive, manual, gd rubber & brakes, pwr steering & PB, insulated, great hauler, runs great, \$1395. 213-8823.

TRI-AXLE DUMP TRUCK AVAILABLE FOR ALL YOUR HAULING NEEDS: rock, gravel, dirt, etc., 15.5-ton capacity. 456-7774.

15-HP BRIGGS, low hrs, \$100; **SIMPLICITY LAWN TRACTOR FOR PARTS**, \$100. 271-6592.

1947 DODGE, runs & drives great, new tires/brakes. 491-2667.

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

PORTA-DOCK POST DOCK, alum., purchased new in '15, 56' incl. 8' ramp + boat lift, \$4000. 213-0334.

CHEVY WHEELS, AXLES, DRUMS, & TIE RODS FROM THE '30s; NASH YR 40 AXLE WHEELS, HUBCAPS; OLD FRAME; OLD DISC WHEELS. 334-5680.

(2) TORCH CYLINDERS, \$100/each; **OXYGEN CYLINDER**, \$100; **WIRE FEED WELDER CYLINDER**, \$100. 363-6622.

RV STORAGE, indoor w/14' high entry door. 412-1171.

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

'15 MAURER HOPPER, like new, \$30,000; **'09 ADVANTAGE END DUMP**, 2-tarps, \$42,000. 456-1181. **JD 6620 COMBINE; JD 918 BEAN HEAD; 6-ROW CORN HEAD.** 583-2026.

30" FREE-STANDING RANGE, white, 5-gas burners, elec. convection oven, \$100. 334-9823.

SWIVEL ROCKER from Erickson's Furniture Store (Fbo), burgandy, 36"h, 25"w, like new, \$150/obo; **CAR OWNER MANUALS:** 1979 Monza, \$5; 1977 Buick Century Regal, \$5. 838-8565.

PICTURE FRAMING MATERIAL, oak & walnut, many styles & lengths; **NORITAKE CUPS & SAUCERS**, many styles; **LARGE WORKBENCH.** 612-827-6575.

WESTERN TRIPLE "C" SADDLE, custom made in USA, 16" seat, 6.5"-7" gullet, great shape, \$295/cash. 456-3905.

'78 18' GLASTRON SKI BOAT, 150-hp Merc. Blk Max, custom EZ load trlr, new in last yr incl: 4-blade prop, custm snap-on covr, fibrglas & gel coat redone, spare tire, eng. tune-up, \$3900/obo. 319-610-6023.

'75 CHEV. C65 TANDEM DIESEL TRUCK, reliable; **'38 FORD PKUP**, custom restored in gray premier; **'03 52" GRASSHOPPER MOWER**, new motor, tires & blades; **'08 FORD TAURUS TRANS.** 327-2741.

PLAYSKOOL SWEETHEART PLAYHOUSE, like new, never outside, \$175. 475-4388.

AMERICAN SAANEN DAIRY GOATS, in milk & April doe kids, \$250/goat. 456-3838/Elldale area.

2002 HONDA GOLDWING TRIKE MOTORCYCLE, 1800cc, vry nice cond., 39,202 mi. 213-6427/txt.

DITCH WITCH M4 TRENCHER in wrking cond., stored inside, Webster, \$300/obo. 952-652-2933.

2007 H-D ROAD KING CLASSIC, 96 cu. in., 6-spd, vry nice, \$7800. 475-5345.

AIR COMPRESSOR for machine shop or farm; **METAL SHELVING**, hvy duty; **LAUNDRY TUB IN CABINET; JOHN LYONS ROUND PEN**, 12'x6', (14) panels + gate. 612-978-1123.

PUREBRED LABS, dewes, shots, wormed, males, blk/\$400, chocolate/\$500; **AKC BRITISH RED LABS.** 763-218-2948/call/txt.

JD 27 STALK CHOPPER, 15', new hvy duty knives. 339-1986.

1977 CHEVY CAPRICE, no rust, stored inside during winter, \$800. 213-1277.

(4) GOLF CART TIRES ON RIMS, tire size 18x8.5-8, 4-bolt rims, standard size, 65% tread left, or better, white rims, \$110/cash. 491-4565.

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

(3) POT-BELLIED PIGS, female, \$300/each; **DUCKS & GEESE DRESSED & READY FOR THE OVEN**, \$8/lb. 446-0090 or 456-7245.

1987 MALLARD PARK MODEL, 33', everything wrks, new tires, \$2400. 334-2673.

KATAHDIN HAIR SHEEP, ewe & ram lambs; **HERFORD BULLS & HEIFERS.** 451-2722.

1940s FARMALL H TRACTOR w/loader, bucket, tire chains, & snow cab, stored inside, \$1000/obo; **LP DRYER**, like new, \$75/obo. 491-9259.

22' TREATED SQ. POLE, 6x6, like new. 456-7614.

JD 4430 TRACTOR, 7K hrs, axle duals, rock box, vry gd tires, quick hitch, nice shape. 323-1539.

1960 IH 350 UTILITY TRACTOR, wide front, gas, tires 85% gd, 2-pt hydraulic hitch, all-hydraulic loader, \$4800; **1999 CHEV. SILVERADO 1500 PICKUP**, 223,504 mi., needs brakes, \$1250. 612-867-8876.

GIANT BOULDER WOMEN'S F.S. MTB, 21-spd, 26x175, \$150; **GIANT MEN'S MTB**, STX shifting, 26x175, 21-spd, \$150. 330-3178.

ORNATE METAL GARDEN PERGOLA, new in box, planters on corners for rocks/flowers, can text pic., \$300. 456-0766.

MUSCOVY DUCKLINGS, various sizes. 390-0206.

LIVESTOCK GATES: (1) 12' & (1) 20'; **WOOD POSTS.** 334-7756.

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

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

NFLD WOOD JOINTER, \$300. 334-5611/lv. msg.

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.

(Youth Tour continued from Page 3)

“Thursday was the hardest day,” wrote Leah. “I was not prepared to leave all of my new friends. I am so lucky that I had the opportunity to take part in this wonderful Washington D.C. trip. Flying back on the plane I thought about the whole trip, all of the memories I made, all of the new things about co-op's and how youth can get involved. I could only wish that every young adult could experience this trip. Thank you Steele Waseca, for the opportunity to learn, strive and elevate my co-op, while meeting some of the greatest people on this planet.”



Steele-Waseca's 2019 Youth Tour delegates Dawson Drentlaw (back row, far left) and Leah Transburg (front row, second from right) were among 37 Minnesota Youth Tour delegates in Washington, D.C., June 15-20.

ad connection

give away

FIREWOOD, you cut. 363-3975.

USED 24" CEDAR SHAKES. 451-9533.

PASTURE GRASS, approx. 4-acres, you cut & bale, Merton Twp. 213-4374.

EMPTY WOOD WIRE SPOOLS, various sizes. 451-7340.

(1600) LP RECORDS, take 1 or all, 1st come-1st served. 676-1804.

FREE WOOD LOG DROP SITE, no leaves or brush. 334-2010.

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

1990-2001 JEEP CHEROKEE w/lower mi.; **OLD COLTS & SMITHS.** 301-9053.

PONTOON TRAILER, 20' to 22' scissors type. 952-758-2909.

ELDERBERRIES for canning. 363-1141.

SUMMER STORAGE FOR GRAVITY BOXES, out of sun & rain, possible winter storage as well, must be in range of 6 mi. SW of Owat. 455-3881.

CRAFTERS for 20th Ann. Christmas for Veterans Homemade Craft & Bake Sale, Nov. 2, at Trinity Luth. Church, Owat., booth rentals are \$30/booth, donations welcome anytime during the yr. 271-3596.

PATZ SILO UNLOADER; SUKUP GRAIN STIR-ATOR. 334-6609.

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

PAINTING JOBS: houses, decks, barns, & outbuildings. 213-4641.

WILL DO COMPACT TRACTOR WORK: tilling, plowing, bucket work, & blade work. 451-6046.

HELP WANTD - CONST. BLDG MAINT. 271-6592.

HAY WAGON; HAY TEDDER. 412-1388.

CDL CLASS A W/TANKER DRIVER. 456-1181.

Sparks Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

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

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

PINBALL MACHINES, paying \$, will pick up & haul away, wrking or non-wrking, no slots, no poker machines. 920-723-4969/cell.

RIDING LAWN MOWER: Simplicity, Duetz-Allis, or Agco-Allis, mower deck 44" or 46", gd condition. 583-2173.

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

for sale

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

INT PARTS PLOW; 6-ROW CORN AIR PLANTER; 4-ROW PLANTER; MELROW DIGGER, 50'; 1000-GAL. LP TANK on wagon; **(2) 1000-GAL. GAS BARRELS.** 455-0895.

GRILL GUARD, Chev. or GMC 1/2-ton, fit yrs 2007-13, new (never used), \$250. 612-245-2728.

2001 DODGE CARAVAN, handicapped van, everything works, \$2250. 334-7898.

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

HOBBY FARM, 40-acres, 4-bdrm, 2-ba, 3-car att. garage, machine shed, Owat. schools, built 2000, \$496,000. 451-2747.

PADDLEBOAT, \$175/obo; **WEIGHT SET**, approx. 150-lbs. steel/metal w/curl bar, \$30. 332-7925.

'05 GMC SLT, 1-ton, 4x4, ext. cab, long box, goose-neck hitch, airbags, bed cover, liner, 6.0L, auto, loaded, nice truck, 160,000-mi., \$10,500. 332-8826.

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

1952 JD G, all new tires, nice, best offer. 330-6485.

MASTIFF BOXER DOG, 2-y-o, spayed. 676-8602.

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

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

6' FIDDLE FIG HOUSE PLANT. 451-5456 > 5 p.m.

1999 YAMAHA VMAX 500 SNOWMOBILE, 1472 actual mi., 2-cycle, 87.0 hp, 1999 Alma double trailer, clear titles, \$2100. 612-210-3144.

1981 DELTA 88 OLDSMOBILE FOR PARTS, gd 307 engine, new alternator, gd transmission, bad frame, best offer. 451-7837.

La-Z-Boy® RECLINER, beige in color w/floral design, vry gd shape, \$50; **5-HOLE RIM & TIRE**, new, 5.30 x 12, \$65/obo. 612-309-4995.

(30) CONCRETE BLOCKS, new, 8x8x16, \$15. 390-5999.

SS TABLE, 48x38x35, \$50; **CRAFTSMAN DRILL PRESS**, \$25; **3-BURNER COLEMAN STOVE**, \$25; **CRAFTSMAN BAND SAW**, \$25. 952-465-8868.

SHORESTATION ALUM. BOAT LIFT, 3600# cap., has wheel kit & 12V lift motor, \$1150. 951-2568.

ON-SITE GRAIN BIN AERATION DYNAMIC FAN BALANCING & VIBRATION TROUBLESHOOTING, www.cmttechnicalservices.com. 634-3409/Chuck.

SHINGLING, LIGHT CONSTRUCTION, & TREE REMOVAL, free estimates. 456-0296.

GERMAN SHORTHAI R PUPPIES, purebred, dew-claws, tails, 1st shots & wormed done, liver & blk color, nice looking dogs, \$300-\$350. 456-3086.

16' OLD TOWN® CANOE w/paddles, carrier, portage wheels, like new, \$500. 456-2634.

1979 MG CONVERTIBLE, orange, 90,000-mi., 4-sp, no rust, runs gd, original \$3500, or trade side-by-side ATV. 384-1747.

(10) 16' HOG PANELS, \$15/each. 451-9445.

CRAFTSMAN AIR COMPRESSOR, 5-hp, 30-gal., 130-PSI, 220V, portable, \$140. 685-4126.

2001 DODGE DIESEL, 4x4, no rust, \$10,000; **TIRES**, 13.6x28, AC rims, new, \$750; **(2) TIRES**, 16.9x28 on AC rims, \$650. 384-7553.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

travel

LAKE SUPERIOR CIRCLE TOUR, Sept. 8-13. By motor coach, 6-nights, 8-meals incl., Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Soo Locks Dinner Cruise, & much more! Starts at \$949 per person with 2 per room.

WILD WEST TOUR, Sept. 15-23. By motor coach, 8-nights hotel, 13-meals, Buffalo Bill State Park, Cowboy Cookout, Bison Ranch & Train Tour, & much more! Starts at \$1,899 pp w/2 per room.

ALL NEW PANAMA CANAL FROM FLORIDA by air, Jan. 11-23, 2020; 13-nights, new Agua Clara Locks, Caribbean Princess (all meals, entertain., gratuities on board); stops in Columbia, Panama, Costa Rica, Grand Cayman & Jamaica. Starts at \$3,299 per person w/2 per stateroom.

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



youth tour connection

Drentlaw, Transburg appreciate Youth Tour opportunity

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric Youth Tour delegates, Dawson Drentlaw of Faribault and Leah Transburg of Northfield, experienced Washington, D.C., June 15-20. Minnesota's delegation of 37 students, and five chaperones in association with the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA), traveled to the 2019 Youth Tour hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

"The morning I arrived at the meeting spot I knew it would be a good trip," wrote Dawson. "The room was filled with eager students, anxious parents and a group of leaders who already had made me feel comfortable."

"On June 15 Delta #952 took off to Washington D.C., little did I know how impactful this trip would be," wrote Leah. "It started off by meeting all of the other rural Minnesota co-op representatives. Instantly, I had made connections with the other youth co-op delegates. After we made it to the hotel in Washington D.C., we went to a meeting to learn about a place for youth in the co-op world."

"On our first day we got to explore George Washington's Plantation in Mount Vernon. It was an extraordinary place to see with all of its flowers and animals. We also got an inside look at George Washington's burial ground and his beautiful mansion."

Leah noted the Minnesota Youth Tour delegation visited the Marine Museum, and at night, toured many other memorials in Washington, D.C. "Meanwhile during these tours we were able to meet delegates from other rural co-ops around the country and we traded state pins," wrote Leah.

"On the second day we were able to tour Arlington National Cemetery,"



Steele-Waseca Youth Tour Delegate Leah Transburg stated their visit to the Washington National Cathedral was among her most memorable experiences.

stated Leah. "It was astounding to see all of the grave sights, and chilling to know that they all served our country. While we were at Arlington, it was hot and humid, we also got to witness the changing of the guards."

"We saw the Bureau of Engraving and Printing where all the money is made and processed. One of the most memorable things that I experienced was the Washington National Cathedral. Everything in the cathedral has a hidden meaning behind it."

After supper with many other state delegates, they had a meeting with many inspirational speakers, and learned about the fundamentals of co-ops.

Leah noted on Day 3, delegates visited park monuments, Smithsonian institutions, the Holocaust Memorial, and saw many street carts. That evening they sat by other Minnesotans and enjoyed the Broadway show, "Hello, Dolly!"

"When it reached Wednesday we were lucky enough to eat breakfast at the NRECA townhouse," wrote Leah. "We met a lobbyist by the name of Paul Gutierrez and we learned about the impact of a lobbyist in the political world, to make sure that all of our needs are met as a co-op."

The day also included walking to the Supreme Court building, the Senate offices where they met Minnesota U.S. Senator Tina Smith as a group. "We were not able to meet with our other state representatives, due to voting at that time, but we were able to talk about important issues like new power sources with their assistants," wrote Leah.

She noted the Capitol was connected to the offices by a tunnel. Their delegation toured the Capitol and saw all of the original paintings and statues. The final stop was at the Newseum where they had a farewell party filled with appetizers and friends made during the week. Once back at the hotel, the Min-



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's 2019 delegates, Leah Transburg (pictured left) of Northfield and Dawson Drentlaw of Faribault pose for a photo with the White House in their background during the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour. In the adjacent photo below, Dawson (pictured far left) managed to gain front row access to Minnesota U.S. Senator Tina Smith.



nesota delegation chaperoned through the MREA enjoyed an ice cream social.

"Each day was full schedule of events and activities that provided me more than a textbook or YouTube video ever could have," wrote Dawson. "Being physically on the same land and in the same buildings that so many important people in our nation's history have been in, was a unique perspective to the history we all share. 132301"

"The most memorable place for me was the Lincoln Memorial. Standing at Lincoln's feet and looking out upon the reflection pool and onto the Washington Monument really put a strong sense of pride and hope for our country's future. I really appreciated this opportunity to go on the Youth Tour and will encourage others to apply. Thank you!"

(Youth Tour continued on Page 7)

cookin' connection

Summer Time Fried Tomatoes

Jennifer Bach

Pemberton

4 medium tomatoes, sliced
1/3 c. seasoned flour
1/4 c. oleo or margarine
1 can cream of mushroom soup
1/3 c. milk

Dip sliced tomatoes in seasoned flour. Cook in oleo over low heat until lightly browned on both sides. Remove to heated platter. Stir in cream of mushroom soup and milk into skillet. Heat. Pour sauce over tomatoes. 4-6 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 49 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during June 2019. 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.

July issue of Sparks



Numbers found:
Dale/Nancy Kalina
Bryan/Jennifer Bach
Numbers not found:
Brian/Kimberly Paczosa
Brian Valek
Shannon Farley



sparks • august 2019

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.

• **June temps** – The average high temperature for June was 76° F, while the average low was 59° F. This resulted in 115.5 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs), and 41.5 Heating Degree Days (HDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 79° F and average low of 63° F. This resulted in 191 CDDs and 4 HDDs.

• **ENERGY STAR® Rebates** – In 2019, 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

Look up and look out for power lines

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric wishes to remind its member-owners and the communities served to look up and look out for power lines.

Be aware of your surroundings as the co-op's power lines are energized and bringing electricity to your farm, family, and business. If your farm equipment or vehicle comes into contact with a power line: 1) Call 911 as soon as possible and keep the area clear until help arrives; 2) If you can do so without risking your machinery or damaging utility infrastructure, drive at least 40-feet away; 3) If the vehicle is on fire or you must exit for other safety reasons, jump clear so no part of your body touches the equipment and/or vehicle AND ground at the same time, and land with feet together. Hop or shuffle to safety in small steps to avoid electric shock by breaking the current's path.

Other tips for operating farm equipment around power lines include:

• Physical contact with a power line is extremely hazardous and may cause a lethal shock. Equipment should not be operated under a power line in a manner that would cause contact or near-contact

with the wires.

• **DO NOT** lift, elevate, build, or pass under a power line any object, tool, or vehicle that may make contact or near-contact with the wires. 1055163

• To help prevent arc flashing, it is recommended that equipment, antennas, and people stay at least 15-feet away from any energized power line wire.

• Equipment that can be extended requires the utmost care when near a power line.

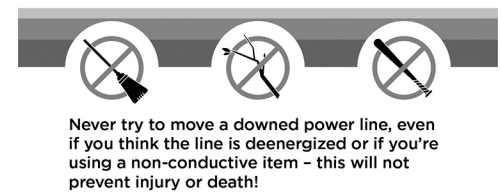
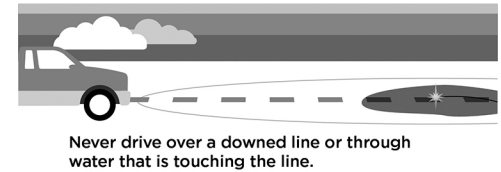
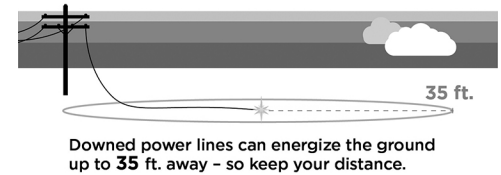
In addition, when venturing outside following storms, stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard.

Assume any dangling wires you encounter are energized and dangerous. If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or electric utility.

(Courtesy: Great River Energy, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and SafeElectricity.org)

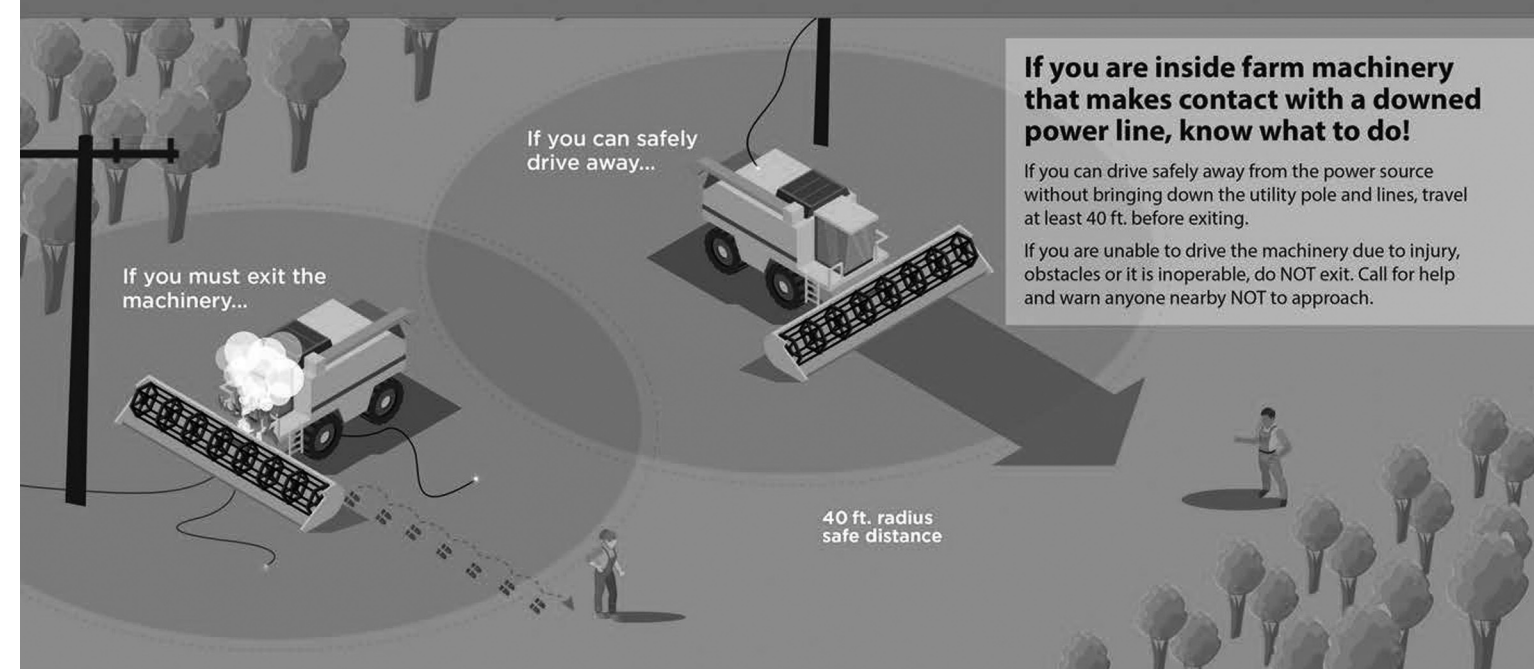
Downed and Dangerous

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.



Source: ESF1.org

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



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

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

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