## gre power supply connection



## POWER SUPPLY IN TRANSITION

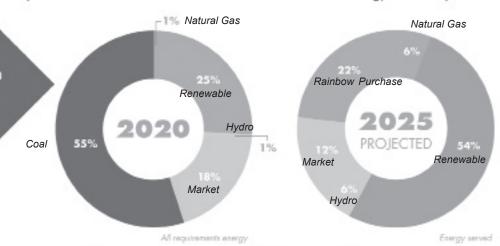
Great River Energy has surpassed state environmental goals years ahead of schedule, and has plans to achieve future emissions targets early. We have done this while maintaining our strong commitment to provide our memberowners with affordable, reliable and resilient power.

#### ENERGY MIX PROGRESSION

Over the past several years, Great River Energy has begun to transition from an energy mix heavily reliant on coal to one that will be over half renewable energy sources by 2025.

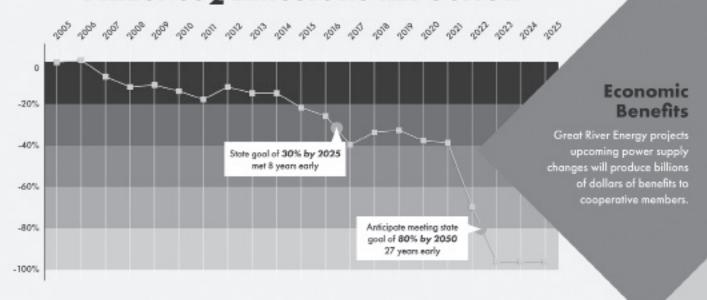
## Flexible resources, reliable electricity

Great River Energy has a fleet of peaking plants ready to produce energy when its members or the larger grid need it. When combined with the Midwest's high availability of wind, natural gas provides stability today and flexibility for a future with new technologies and



COAL NATURAL GAS RENEWABLE HYDRO MARKET RAINBOW PURCHASE

## DIRECT CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS REDUCTION





the power of human connections

# Darks Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

August 2021

#### inside connections

- 2 Manager Connection Daley's new role at SWCE benefiting co-op: Air Source Heat Pump promotion extended to July 30
- Cookin' Connection; SWCE community solar update; Sparks in brief; Who found their account number in the July issue of Sparks? Steele County Tip Line
- How GFCIs keep you safe; Outdoor safety reminders
- Ad Connection:
- 4-Seasons Vacations Ad Connection; **Ductless ASHP promotion** extended through July 30
- Great River Energy power supply transition

#### calendar of events

### August

Dodge Co. Relay for Life Claremont Hogfest Lonsdale Community Day 17-22 Steele County Free Fair 26 Minnesota State Fair starts 8th Annual Caleb Erickson Memorial Event in Waseca

### **Litomysl Summer Festival**

Holy Trinity Catholic Church 9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna

### Sunday, July 25

Polka Mass - 10 a.m. Festival 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Food, games & prizes for all ages Live Music

Prune, Poppyseed, & Apricot "Buchty" Silent Auction & Used-a-Bit sale Everyone welcome! www.litomysl.webs.com

## **Great River Energy power supply** transformation continues

New ownership group for Coal Creek Station plans carbon capture and renewables

Great River Energy (GRE), our plans at Steele-Waseca Cooperative Elec- Coal Creek tric's wholesale power provider, reached an agreement to sell the Coal Creek Station power plant to Rainbow Energy Center, LLC.

The sale of Coal Creek Station averts the plant's closure, which was scheduled for the second half of 2022 unless a buyer was found. Rainbow Energy Center will continue to operate the 1,151-megawatt (MW) power plant using current plant employees they hire. Rainbow Energy Center also plans to develop carbon capture and storage at Coal Creek Station. 25787

"We are excited for what the future holds for our North Dakota employees and the communities surrounding Coal Creek Station," said Great River Energy President and Chief Execu-



tive Officer David Saggau (pictured above). Selling the plant also offers additional benefits for GRE's member-owners compared with shutting it down.

Nexus Line, LLC has reached an agreement to purchase from Great River Energy the high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission system that extends between central North Dakota and Minnesota. GRE will operate and maintain the HVDC system under a 10year contract.

Rainbow Energy Center and Nexus Line are affiliates of Rainbow Energy Marketing Corp., of Bismarck, North Dakota.

"The successful implementation of carbon capture and storage is central to Station," said Rainbow Energy Marketing Corp. President Stacy L. Tschider. "As a pri-



vately held company, we are uniquely positioned to continue the successful legacy that Great River Energy and its employees have established in North Dakota." Rainbow Energy Center plans to add

incremental generation from renewables to fully utilize the capacity of the HVDC transmission system.

Great River Energy will also enter into a power purchase agreement with Rainbow Energy Center, LLC.

These transactions will help ensure GRE continues to provide its member-owners with reliable and affordable electricity as the cooperative builds its future power supply portfolio.

"We are building a power supply portfolio that will serve our member-owner cooperatives with clean, affordable and reliable energy for decades," said Saggau. The cooperative will add 900 MW of wind energy by 2023 and remains on track to meet Minnesota's 80% carbon dioxide reduction goal ahead of sched-

The sale of Coal Creek Station and ■ the HVDC system is expected to close later this year, after required approvals are obtained.

(Editor's note: Great River Energy's power supply portfolio is highlighted in the display on Page 8.)

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Website: www.swce.coop Email: swce@swce.coop Fax: 507-446-4242

#### **Board of Directors**

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Syd Briggs . . . . . . . . . General Manager

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Darla DeVries	
David Lundberg Finance	
Dan Meier Operations	

## Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

**Operations Office Hours** 8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

For Customer Service, Billing Questions and Power Outages Phone:

507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514

#### Before calling to report an outage

- Check fuses and circuit breakers in your home and on meter pole.
   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

In May 2020, Great River Energy (GRE) announced plans to close or sell

Coal Creek Station (pictured below) near Underwood, North Dakota by the end of 2022.

On June 30, 2021, GRE announced the sale of Coal Creek Station and the high voltage transmission line (HVDC) to Rainbow Energy Center, LLC, and Nexus Line, LLC respectively. Both Coal Creek and the HVDC line have served Minnesota cooperative members for 40 years, with Coal Creek's operation resulting in North Dakota's largest and most efficient power plant. The sale of Coal Creek Station is great news on several levels, and it especially preserves jobs in the communities of North Dakota, and supports the state and local economies.

Rainbow Energy Center's purchase of Coal Creek Station with the purpose of continuing to provide baseload power to the MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator) market, along with investigating in a carbon capture and sequestration project, will be essential to ensuring the electric grid remains reliable and has sufficient energy for consumers when needed.

"Carbon capture and storage is vital to continued operation of Coal Creek Station and will be an important step toward Governor Doug Burgum's goal for the state to reach carbon neutrality by 2030," said Rainbow Energy Marketing Corporation President Stacy L. Tschider. Tschider also stated that REMC (Rain-

bow Energy Marketing Corp.) has 28 years of power marketing experience in the U.S., and will remain committed to providing competitive and reliable power to consumers, which will now include Great River Energy.

Purchasing contract power from Rainbow was obviously not in the original plans when GRE decided to remove Coal Creek Station from its portfolio; however, the opportunity to have Rainbow as another reliable source for Great River Energy is a benefit to its distribution cooperatives. 31761

The sale also supports the employees of Coal Creek Station and Falkirk Mine, which is a win-win for the economies and stability in two states.

Great River Energy will continue with plans to add 900 MW (megawatts) of wind energy from sources in Minnesota by 2023, and remains on track to meet Minnesota's goal of 80% carbon dioxide reduction ahead of the 2050 goal. GRE has always provided for reliability by having a very diverse combination of power sources combining market, contract, and owned sources.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric and GRE continue to be proactive and flexible in providing the most economical and reliable solutions in providing power for our members. These efforts have been nothing short of Herculean over the past four years involving the highest professional efforts from all stakeholders involved.

Great River Energy has continued to do an excellent job always looking for long-term economies of scale. I look forward to the completion of the sale process later this year after required approvals are obtained.

dyd



#### ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)
USED ENGINES & TRANSMISSIONS, CAR &
TRUCK PARTS, 30-day warranty on eng. & trans.
332-2300.

**SCHWINN RANGR**, 21-spd, men's, 26x175, \$100; **SPECIALIZD CROSSRDS**, 700x35c, 21-sp, men's, \$100; **GARY FISHR**, 18-sp, 24x175, \$40. 330-3178.

JD 6620 COMBINE; EZ-FLOW 300 GRAVITY WAGONS 583-2026

**A-C WD** w/loader, chains, & 3-pt hitch, \$1000/obo. 456-4254

'94 FORD MARK III ECONOLINE 150, & is a wheel-chair lift vehicle w/Crow River lift unit. 491-4019.

HORNADY 45 COLT 3 DIE SET, new, \$25; 14' IH DISC, new hyd. hoses, \$600; '61 IMPALA HOOD, \$350; '69 CHEVELLE HOOD, \$350. 461-1191.

HAY WAGON w/steel sides x 3, \$500. 210-3427.

**GRAIN BIN SELECTOR** for a 5" air system, \$350. 456-3136.

**60" MOWER DECK**, exc. shape, **& 44" 2-STAGE SNOWBLOWER**, gd shape, for Toro Wheel Horse 522xi-type mower. 528-2615.

TRACFONE PHONE CARD, new, 90-day plan w/60 min. talk time, \$13/cash; AT&T PREPAID PHONE CARD for U.S. domestic long dist. calling for land-lines, has 600+ min., \$20/cash. 789-6596.

(4) ALUM. LADDERS: 32', 28', 24', & 16'; 18' WOODEN STEP.; 64' CROWN MOLDING, never used, white, call for price. 451-2618.

**1966 FARMALL 656 TRACTOR**, restored, family owned, best offer; **(4) CARLISLE AT489 TIRES**, size AT23x10-12. 317-4335.

FORD 800 TRACTOR w/tiller, \$3850. 664-3946.

**OUR FARM GROUND BEEF,** \$5.25/lb. (pick up on Sundays). 210-4032.

**CASE 1845C SKID STEER,** 1995 loader, open cab w/4584 hrs, works perfect, \$11,900. 612-462-2913.

550-GAL. STAINLESS STEEL BULK TANK & COMPRESSOR, \$500/complete. 330-3856.

MARINE/CAR BATTERY, never used, 12V, 650CCA Group 27DP, \$100; MAXXAIR RV ROOFTOP VENT, 2-spd. 4-wire. works. \$10, 202-3694.

AUX. FUEL TANK - TOOLBOX COMBO, 51-gal. w/12V pump, new cond. 213-6582.

KERR & BALL CANNING JARS, used, qts & pts, no lids. 451-9533.

A/C UNIT, free standing, like new, \$225; DOGGY DOOR for patio glass sliding doors, \$50. 515-320-3878/txt only.

**BOAT STORAGE** near Interstate 35 & Dundas/Nfld exits, reasonable. 612-423-4500.

**GEHL SKID LOADER,** N.R., \$2500; **FERGUSON T20**, runs, \$600; **MASSEY 20**, N.R., \$500; **FORD JUBILEE** w/loader, needs clutch, \$1600. 330-3945.

55- & 30-GAL. STEEL DRUMS. 676-0969.

CIRCLE LAKE LOT, 0.7-acres. 678-978-7444.

**FORD DEARBORN 3-PT MOWER** w/7' bar, gd shape, \$100. 456-7614.

**REAR-MOUNT 7' "GRADER BLADE,"** fits A-C snap coupler, \$300/obo. 645-7058.

**TIRES:** (2) Goodyear, P215-75-R15; (4) Pirelli, P225-55R18, 334-9583.

JD 45 LOADER, fits 50 thru 730 Series, 339-1700

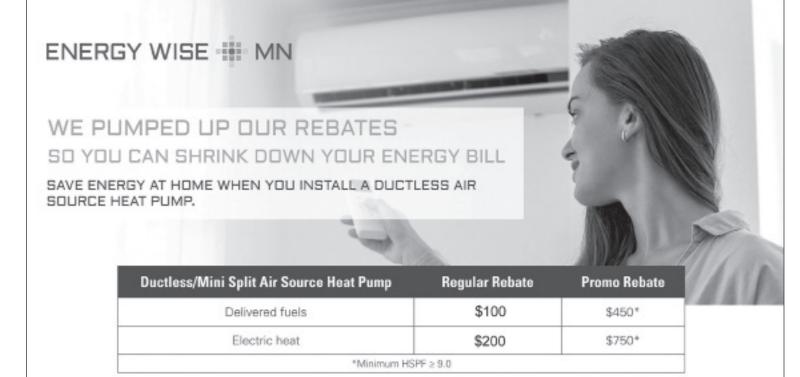
MOWERS & SNOW BLOWERS; WILL REPAIR SMALL ENGINES. 213-7978 or 475-1311.

**OAK TV STAND** w/2-door bottom cabinet, 32"W x 16.5"L x 25"H. 676-4039.

**2018 CHEV. COLORADO TRUCK**, beautiful, red, 4WD, LT, ext. cab, V6, 17,600 mi., loaded, \$34,000. 390-5244

**ROBOTIC MASSAGE CHAIR,** programmable, \$300. 251-2809/Penney.

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.



And when you act now, you'll receive a supersized, limited-time rebate of up to \$750!

Ductless air source heat pumps provide home cooling and supplemental heating, using 72% less electricity than conventional air conditioners and furnaces.

Visit energywisemn.com /promotions to learn more about the rebate!

Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notic

Offer expires. July 30, 2021

sparks • august 2021 sparks • august 2021

#### ad connection

#### give away

KITTENS, friendly, for the barn or indoors. 475-1743.

POOL HEATER, natural gas, works. 339-0763.

**FREE ONLINE CLASSIFIEDS,** you place & remove your own ad on SWCE's website, <a href="swce.coop">swce.coop</a>, these are separate from <a href="sparks">Sparks</a> & will not appear in <a href="sparks">Sparks</a> unless mailed, delivered, faxd or emailed to SWCE.

#### wanted

**WOODEN LAMINATED ARCH SUPPORTS** for a Quonset bldg 36' wide. 456-7754.

GUNS; AMMO; METAL SIGNS; TACKLE; ESTATES, 279-0431/Mark.

**VENT-FREE PROPANE HEATER.** 663-1275.

**WILL ASSIST PEOPLE IN THEIR HOMES** w/personal cares, exercises, housekeeping, meal prep, errands, appointments, 40+ yrs exper. 456-0076.

FORD SKID STEER, diesel. 330-1849.

WILL DO TILLING, PLOWING, BLADE & BUCKET WORK w/compact tractor. 451-6046.

**DAIRY BARN FLY SPRAY FOGGR; OLDER STAN-DARD CAB FULL-SZ PKUP** w/8' bx, must be in gd running cond. (no ext. cabs). 330-3856.

BARN, GRANARY, &/OR OUTBUILDINGS, I remove to re-purpose the lumber; OLD TIN; BARN SIDING OR LUMBER. 330-0258/Tim.

WOOD QUILT RACK in gd cond. 583-7105.

UNWANTD BIKES & LWN MOWRS,\$ pd on delivrd. 330-3178.

**JUNKERS OR REPAIRABLES**, top \$ paid cars or trucks. 332-2300.

**SOMEONE TO MAKE HAY ON MY 8-10 ACRE FIELD** on shares or cash near Mdfd on county line. 339-0763.

**UNWANTED TYPEWRITERS.** 339-8577.

For Sale

**FORD 391 BIG BLOCK** for 1978 Ford F-600 truck 676-0969

PAINTING JOBS: houses, barns, sheds, etc.; LAD-DER OR LUGGAGE RACK. 308-8556.

after the 5th will be printed in the October issue.

#### All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

#### for sale

**KING CUTTER 3-PT BACK BLADE**, 62" long, swivels 360°, replaceable cutting edge, shows vry little use, \$275. 612-247-2957.

**SAANEN DAIRY GOATS,** downsizing the herd, does in milk, \$300-\$350; & April doelings, \$200. 456-3838.

RED CEDAR FENCE POST, 7'x10", \$30/each; PET CARRIER, large, \$30; FLARE BOX, hydraulic lift, \$575; LAND WHEEL COUNTER, \$30. 455-3881.

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

**ELEC. RECLINER CHAIR,** gray, 2-yrs-old, \$200. 451-9078

(2) RADIAL TRACTOR TIRES, used, 18.4x38, \$400.649-7794.

(300+) GRASS HAY BALES, sm. sq., no rain, nice, located between Fbo & Nfld, will deliver in a reas. distance & help load/unload, \$5/bale. 330-5113.

BEACHFRONT VACATION CONDOS FOR RENT in Fort Myers Beach, South Padre Island & Mexico, visit <a href="https://www.sandysbeachfrontcondo.com">www.sandysbeachfrontcondo.com</a> for details & photos. 612-865-9604/Sandy.

FREE-RANGE CHICKEN EGGS, \$2/dozen; RHODE ISLAND RED CHICKENS, 12-wks-old. 651-260-9225.

**BUILDABLE RIGHTS** in Webster Twsp in Rice Co. 612-919-4130 for pricing & details.

MINI STORAGE UNITS in Ellendale. 456-1460.

**RENTAL,** Izaak Walton League Bldg., 4 mi. south of Owat., seats 100, full kitchen, grill, Wi-Fi, \$125.

18"X24' STEEL CULVERT w/apron; (2) BOAT SEATS w/pedestals; HOMELITE GAS WATER PUMP, 1.5"; MERCURY VAPOR YD LIGHT; RETRACTABLE CLOTHESLINE. 465-8566.

4D MFG LIVESTOCK/HORSE HAY/GR. FEEDERS: 2-horse 68"x38"x46", \$175; 4-horse 68"x38"x88", \$220;ABOUT (36) 4' FIBERGLASS STEP-IN ELEC. FENCE POSTS, used 1-season, \$1/ea. 323-4118.

**LADIES RECLINER** w/swivel base, burgandy color, no rips, buyer hauls, 2-yrs-old, \$15. 676-0825.

Give Away

(2) TRAILER TIRES & WHEELS, brand new, 5-bolt, 5.30x12", \$100/both; (2) TRAILER TIRES & WHEEL, 155/80R13, 85% tread, 5-bolt, \$50/both. 491-4565

**DUMP TRUCK SERVICES FOR ALL YOUR HAUL- ING NEEDS:** rock, gravel, dirt, etc., 15.5-ton capacity, 456-7774.

BARITONE SAXOPHONE; BASS SAX; CORD-LESS BLK & DECKER MOWER; TENOR SAX; BCS GARDEN SHREDDER w/PTO. 340-0506.

**1.8-ACRE BUILDING SITE**, wooded, secluded, 8-mi. west of Fbo by Cedar Lk, \$199,000. 210-5596.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

**9T GRAIN BIN** w/elec. auger, best offer; **STORAGE FOR RENT:** boats, trailers. 475-2322.

**DINING ROOM BUFFET,** 60-yrs-old, \$50. 649-7820 (For person who previously called, your message was lost, please call again).

1-PAIR CARHARTT BLK JEANS & 1-PAIR WRAN-GLER JEANS, size 38x30, \$20/each. 210-6728.

REESE 18K 5TH WHEEL w/slider, \$800; 7" STRIKEMASTER AUGER, \$200; VENTED CAMPER TAILGATE for Dodge truck, \$100. 210-6084.

**SHINGLING & LIGHT CONSTRUCTION,** free estimates. 456-0296.

CANON PIXMA MX340 COPY-SCAN-FAX MA-CHINE, comes w/cartridges (4-blk, 1-color), \$250; GARAGE DOOR, 7x18', like new, complete, \$250. 334-3804.

(5) YEARLING REGISTERED HEREFORD HEIF-ERS exposed to Hereford bull; KATAHDIN HAIR SHEEP RAM LAMBS. 451-2722.

COMMERCIAL VENDING MACH., \$150; ARE RED HARDTOP for Dodge Ram pickup, \$100. 334-7177.

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

ELNA EXPRESSIVE 830 - 2 MONTHS OLD SERG-ER SEWING MACHINE, all attachments with it. 475-9388.

(38) MN PHEASANT HABITAT FRAMED W/STAMP PRINTS, 1983 1st of state to 2021, ready to hang on wall. 581-6402.

**4X5 MIXED GRASS HAY ROUND BALES & CORN-STALK BALES**, net wrapped, no rain. 451-5131.

TREE TRIMMING, REMOVAL, & STUMP GRIND., pro climber & aerial lift to U of M guidelines; 2007 FRONT CHROME BUMPER for an F-650, like new. 456-1609.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

#### travel

Call 4-Seasons at 373-4705 or 373-2473, from 9 a.m. to noon Mondays, to learn more about their tour information.



member connection

### Daley's new role at Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric benefits co-op's operations

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's Jeff Daley (pictured right) started his new role at the co-op, March 1, as GIS (Geographic Information System)/Staking Supervisor. The co-op has benefited with the new position, according to Operations Division Manager Dan Meier.

"When we made the decision to GPS (Global Positioning System) and inventory our system four years ago, most of the work was farmed out," said Meier. "We knew at that time we would need someone at Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric to take control of that system and keep it up-to-date and running smoothly." Meier noted Daley stepped up and filled that role at that time while still fulfilling his daily duties as field technician, which lead to the new position being created. 1006642

"I am able to devote more time and energy to the mapping system and member inquiries, which in turn will increase productivity and member satisfaction," said Daley. He is also responsible for investigating, surveying, and staking distribution lines according to construction specifications, and prepare staking sheets and work orders.

As for the impact the new position has had on the Operations Division at Steele-Waseca, "This has been a great transition for Operations," said Meier. "It has allowed us to be more self-sufficient by keeping the work in-house, also benefiting Operations with the technical skills needed to keep the system viable."

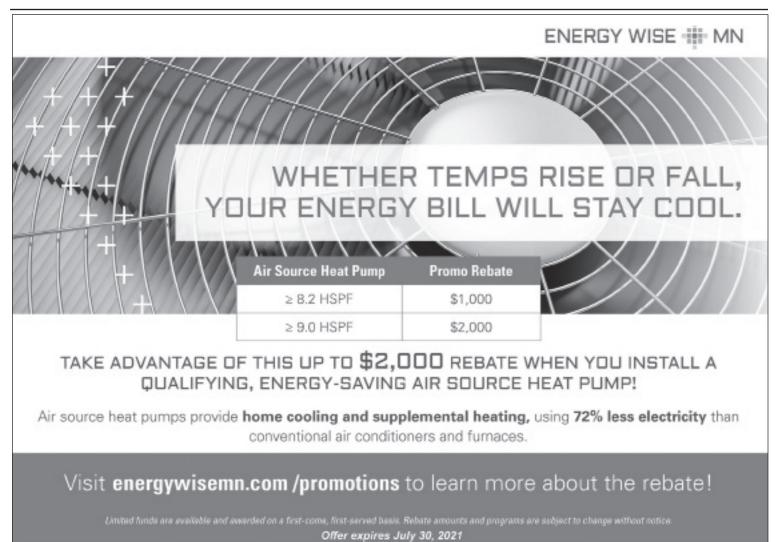
While not having to juggle two jobs has been beneficial, it also has been a challenge for Daley, "Being able to relinquish duties to the new staker, Gabe (Roetman), as I transition into my new responsibilities."

Daley joined Steele-Waseca as a field technician, June 27, 2011. He arrived at the co-op with 12 years of experience at Valley Electric Association in Pahrump, Nevada, which is 60 miles west of Las Vegas.

Jeff is originally from Minnesota as he grew up in Grand Rapids, where he graduated from high school in 1986.

He also comes from a large family with 10 brothers and six sisters. Jeff earned a diesel mechanics degree from Staples Vo-Tech.

During his free time, Jeff enjoys ATV trail riding, target shooting, and kayaking with his wife, Paige.



fax to: (507) 446-4242 or email your ad to: sparks@swce.coop.

Clip and mail to: SWCE, PO Box 485, Owatonna MN 55060-0485, or

**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

☐ Wanted

sparks • august 2021

#### cookin' connection

### **Rhubarb Butter Crunch**

#### Dala Dandaraand

Deb Randgaard

**Faribault** 

Crust:

3 c. rhubarb; 1 c. white sugar; 3 Tbsp. flour

Topping:

1 c. brown sugar 1/2 c. butter 1 c. oatmeal 1/2 c. shortening

1 1/2 c. flour

Combine rhubarb, sugar, and flour. Place in 9x9 greased baking dish. Combine brown sugar, oatmeal, flour, cut in butter and shortening. Sprinkle over rhubarb mixture. Bake at 375° for 40 minutes. Serve warm with ice cream.

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 56 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during June 2021. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, <a href="mailto:swce.coop">swce.coop</a>.

## 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:**

Jeanne/John Ullian Kevin Filan or Jessica Rathke

#### Numbers not found:

Craig & Jody Ohnstad Russel/Jill Kiker Joni/Mark Biebighauser



## 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 <a href="https://www.swce.coop.">www.swce.coop.</a>
  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 86° F, while the average low was 61° F. This resulted in 263 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs), and 14 Heating Degree Days (HDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 82° F and average low of 61° F. This resulted in 204.5 CDDs and 4.5 HDDs.
- ENERGY STAR® Rebates In 2021, 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 <a href="https://www.swce.coop">www.swce.coop</a>. For more information or to receive a rebate request form, phone Cindy Butterfield at 446-4204 or 800-526-3514. 1020180
- 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

# How GFCIs can help keep you safe

Imagine cleaning up in the kitchen. The sink is full of hot soapy water, and you accidentally knock an appliance into the water. With a pop, the power instantly goes off. Your life was just saved by a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).

Help prevent electric shocks in your home by installing GFCIs. They can provide protection against shock from an electrified appliance, equipment in contact with water, and from a damaged or defective appliance.

GFCIs should be installed in areas near water. This includes: bathrooms, kitchens, garages, basements, and the outdoors. A GFCI detects an abnormal flow of electricity and shuts off the power, preventing shock or electrocution.

Electricity is always looking for a path to ground. A ground-fault is an unintentional electrical path from the power source and a grounded surface. Under normal conditions, current flows in a circuit, traveling from the source, through the device it operates, and back to the source.

If an electrified appliance gets damaged by water, that flow is broken. Without a GFCI, your body could become that path to ground for the electric current.

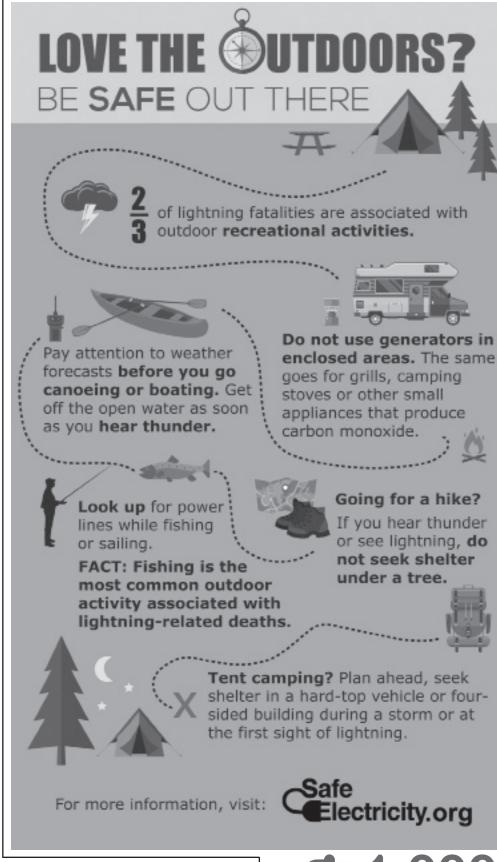
GFCIs come in three different forms. First, there is the receptacle GFCI. This type fits into a standard outlet box and protects against ground faults for whatever is plugged into the outlet.

Next is the circuit breaker GFCI. This is a circuit breaker with a built-in GFCI installed directly in a panel box to add protection to the circuits it supplies.

Portable GFCI is the third form. These are designed for locations where there is not a permanent GFCI installed. Some plug into the receptacle, and devices can then be plugged into the GFCI. Another type has the GFCI circuitry built into an extension cord. Both types plug into an outlet like any corded device and require no installation.

If you have receptacle or portable GFCIs, you should test them after installation, after power failures, and on a monthly basis. They will have test and reset buttons for this purpose. 1061618

If you are interested in making your home safer by installing GFCIs, con-



tact a qualified electrician to do so. For more information on home electrical safety, visit <u>SafeElectricity.org</u>.





Source: The National Institutes of Healt

a result of electrical injuries.