



the power of human connections

sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

March 2025

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calendar of events

March

- 2 Dr. Suess' birthday; National Read Across America Day
- 3 "The Star-Spangled Banner" became U.S. national anthem in 1931
- 7 National Employee Appreciation Day
- 9 Daylight saving time starts
- 14 National Pi Day
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 20 First day of spring; International Day of Happiness

**SET YOUR
CLOCKS
FORWARD
ON 3/9.**

Daylight Saving
Time Begins



After nearly 37 years, Don Bos retires from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

Line Foreman Don Bos retired from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric Wednesday, Jan. 15, after starting full-time with the cooperative June 1, 1988. However, his start wasn't as a lineworker.



Don Bos

"I started out at Steele-Waseca as a satellite installer for two years as the cooperative had decided to offer this to their membership," stated Don. He explained how he worked with Jake Jacobson as installers and repairmen of the equipment for members.

"This lasted about two years and then the market changed to smaller dishes and markets for the TV industry," wrote Don. He said the co-op offered him and Jake positions in the Operations Division. "When the satellite division closed, Doug Hughes asked if I was interested in being a truck driver ground-man," stated Don. Doug explained a lot of the linemen had met him and thought he would fit in as a good worker.

"I started out driving trucks and shoveling dirt," said Don. "Doug approached me and asked if I would be interested in doing line school, and get my journeyman certification." Don explained it was a four-year program and he was the first to go through the program at the cooperative. "This also all happened the year of the great ice storm of '91 and it made me think twice," stated Don. "I am glad I stayed with the program and had a great career at the cooperative." 28080

As for the 1991 Halloween storm, Don recalled, "The '91 ice storm was an eye-opening experience for me, that was the most overtime I've ever had to do. The work seemed to be overwhelm-

ing. Then the cooperative found all these cooperatives to send help down." That experience working with other line crews was memorable for Don, "...made friends for life and we were all working to get as many members back on as possible and as safely as we could."

As for other memorable storms during his career, "I have been lucky enough to return the favor of helping other cooperatives in storms and they are all memorable for me," wrote Don. "From the weather we had to deal with to the members who brought us food and refreshments. Lots of thanks from members and 'glad you are here to help.' Finding out about how our cooperative and other cooperatives do things made you appreciate what we have and bring back ideas of what we could be different to improve at the company. I am glad to be at a cooperative our size and in the community it gave me a chance to learn and meet more of our members."

When asked on how the equipment has changed during his career, Don wrote, "When I started the company had two bucket trucks and two digger trucks for the line crew, two service trucks if you were assigned to one of them you knew you were going to climb poles that day. Now we have five buckets and two diggers, two service vehicles for substations and metering duties. This makes our job safer and more efficient on storms and our daily work. All of our work has changed with new technologies, meters to fusing and substations all have to be programmed and updated. When I started this was all manually done on the control panels. Now the computer is needed for all of this to be done."

With line technician responsibilities, comes the need to work when outages occur and the need to be away from

(Don Bos retirement continued on Page 3)

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Website: www.swce.coop

Email: info@swce.coop



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Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

Operations Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

For Customer Service, Billing Questions and Power Outages Phone:

507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514

Before calling to report an outage

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

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

Phone 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514 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



A program offered by Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric provides home heating at a remarkable value by pairing electric heat with a dependable backup.

If you are a member enrolled in the program, known as “dual fuel,” knowing the “why” behind the moments your dual fuel heating is temporarily switched is likely important to you—especially during the long, cold months of winter.

Great River Energy (GRE), our wholesale power provider, makes the decision of when to shift participating members to their backup heat source for a variety of reasons, but affordability and reliability are the ultimate drivers.

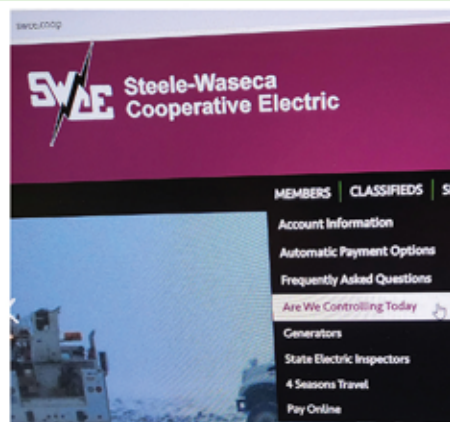
The program is a win-win-win for all involved. Enrolled members benefit from a reduced electric rate, Steele-Waseca is able to manage local electricity demand and avoid expensive market purchases, and the entire regional grid benefits from reduced demand for electricity.

Responding to demand offers big benefits

Dual fuel heating is one example of a “demand response” program, which is designed to reduce electricity demand to keep energy reliable and affordable.

The demand response system is launched by GRE's control center. Power system operators use computers to send tens of thousands of electronic signals through the power delivery system and into distribution power lines.

Receivers plugged into standard elec-



Load control information may be found on Steele-Waseca's website at swce.coop. Simply click on, “Are We Controlling Today.”

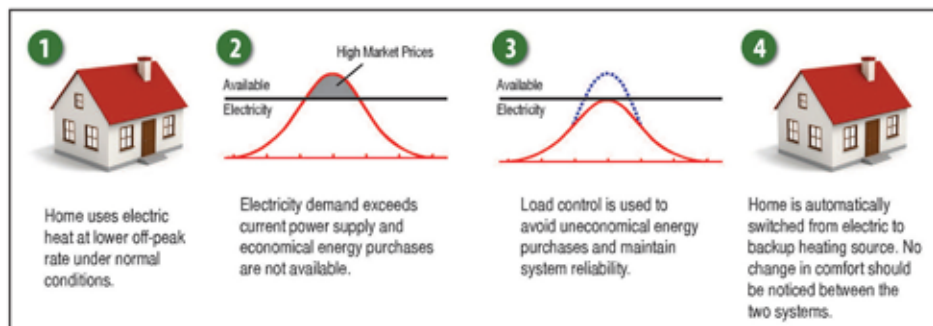
trical current at member homes and businesses can read the signals and, when the appropriate message is sent, those receivers interrupt the electric power flowing to the heating system. When control is no longer needed, a signal is sent to turn the system back on.

Based on metering and market conditions, Great River Energy's system operators and energy marketers know when a peak load period is approaching. Depending on the amount by which GRE needs to reduce the peak, operators choose various groups of controlled load and turn them off using the demand response system. 1060591

Call Operations Assistant Cindy Butterfield weekdays between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., for more information on Steele-Waseca's dual fuel program.

Syd

#swceINNOVATION



Steele-Waseca seeks assistance in locating former members

A nea Capital credit checks for the following former Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric members have been returned to the co-op due to their mailing address no longer being accurate.

If you know any of the following former members and can provide information about them, please call Customer Service Representative Hlou Yang at the Steele-Waseca office weekdays between 8 a.m., and 4 p.m.

Andrys, Gary J./Beth	Edgeley, ND
Audiss, Dewain A.	Ainsworth, IA
Austin, James D.	Rochester
Bastyr, Kevin R./Carri	Faribault
Berry III, Frank C.	Northfield
Bess, Tammy K.	Faribault
Beter, Lillian O.	Wayzata
Blomberg, Lamont R./Pamela	Tampa, FL
Bouman, Mark H./Janice	Shakopee
Buckingham, Tom	Casa Grande, AZ
Caron, Barbara	Owatonna
Cole, Brad M./Barb	Burnsville
Courson, Jerry L./Nancy L.	Cleveland
Davis, Jeffrey S.	Blooming Prairie
Eberline, Greg/Theresa	Webster, SD
Erickson, Curt	Sartell
Etzell, Mark G./Amy	Northfield
Fabian, Loren/Victoria	Big Lake
Ferris, Tiffani A. or Brian Segel	Nfld
Finholdt, Erin A./Todd	Blooming Pr.
Francis, Tadd	Dundas
Franklin, Andrew J.	Northfield
Galdamez, Carlos A. or Melissa Rossman	Dundas

Grebis, Edward J./Nancy E.	Northfield
Holland, Gail A. or Mike Varanelli	Lonsdale
Holter, Patricia	Faribault
Huff, Kelly J.	Morristown
Iversen, Carol V.	Albert Lea
Jacobson, Mr. & Mrs. Sylvan R.	Owat.
Jensen, Merrill O.	Owatonna
Jirik, Laura A.	Lonsdale
Kaiser, Eric/Joan	Faribault
Kasper, Michael D.	Medford
Kispert, Thomas P.	Cleveland
Knudson, Brien/Debra	Dodge Center
Kriescher, Thomas/Vicky	Medford
Kuefner, Lloyd	Owatonna
Lancaster, Lloyd A.	Northfield
Larson, Ralph E.	Minneapolis
Lund, Darwin F.	Northfield
Madden, Paul	Kilkenny
Malecha, Kathryn M.	Titusville, FL
Mathews, Cheryl	Faribault
Melzer, Larry M./Susan L.	Northfield
Menden, Joel C./Tracy A.	Owatonna
Miller, Benjamin H./Cynthia	Nfld
Mitchell, Linda M.	Faribault
Mohrfeld, Mike	Baxter
Montour, David M./Karen M.	Savage
Morem, Lee R.	Blooming Prairie
Morris-Beck, Marcia L.	Faribault
Mulert, Dorothy M.	Owatonna

Steele-Waseca will publish the remaining names of former members being sought in the April 2025 *Sparks* newsletter. *swce*

#swceAPPRECIATION

(Don Bos retirement continued from Page 1)

the family even with something scheduled. "It was a challenge being on call and missing family activities, hockey games, birthday parties, anniversaries, and soccer games," stated Don. "One good thing about the linemen is we all try to help each other out when these activities would come up. I have a wonderful wife who would take over and have a plan to get everyone to their spots." Don said with four children and six grandchildren, he'll now have more time to be with them and enjoy their activities.

As for his ambitions during retirement, "We plan on camping more and have the grandkids join more," stated Don. "I enjoy golfing, traveling, woodworking and the occasional brewery trips. Lots of friends and relatives who we can visit. Maybe get some warmer winters someplace."

When asked about what he'll think about or appreciate during his years with Steele-Waseca, Don wrote, "I will have to say that everyday I went to work I knew I was going to learn something new, everyday brought new challenges." He shared how the older linemen would give him something different or challenging. "Then things got interesting when they retired and you had to lean back to what they had taught you," stated Don. "The cooperative has been real good at sending you to school to learn and stay up with the new technology that is going on in the electric field. All of the crews and linemen I have worked with will have a memory that will stay with me. I hope I have given them some of the knowledge that I had learned." 1007772

Steele-Waseca and its members have benefited because when he started, the co-op believed Don was a "good worker." He utilized his opportunity to have a memorable career at Steele-Waseca. The co-op appreciates his years of service and wishes him a safe and enjoyable retirement. *swce*

#swceLIFE+



cookin' connection

Coleslaw Salad

Charlotte Flicek

Lonsdale

1/2 head chopped cabbage or 1 bag coleslaw
7 oz. ring macaroni (cooked & cooled)
1/2 onion, diced tiny
1/2 cucumber, diced tiny
1/2 green pepper, diced tiny

Dressing:
1 c. mayo
1 tsp. salt
1/2 c. sugar
1/2 tsp. pepper

Stir together salad ingredients. In a separate bowl, mix the dressing ingredients. Add the dressing to the salad and mix together.

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 26 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during January 2025. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop. #swceINNOVATION

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.

February issue of Sparks



Numbers found:

No members found their number.

Numbers not found:

Paul Tufte
Alec/Jessica Irwin
Joseph Eckdahl
James Nielsen
Tamera Accobee



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. 73551

• **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.

• **January temps** – The average high temperature for January was 24° F, while the average low was 5° F. This resulted in 1,572 Heating Degree Days (HDDs), and 0 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 25° F and average low of 15° F. This resulted in 1,397 HDDs and 0 CDDs.

• **ENERGY STAR® Rebates** – In 2025, 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



electrical safety
FOUNDATION

Lithium-ion batteries must be recycled rather than disposed of because **not recycling them can cause fires**. There has been a **41% increase** in catastrophic losses at material recovery facilities. **Recycling helps the environment** and is the safest and most efficient way to process a battery at its end of life.

1



Never place batteries in regular waste and recycling bins. **They will likely catch fire.**

2



All parts of the circular economy should be made aware of **how imperative it is to recycle these batteries** so they can be reused and given new life.

3



All lithium-ion batteries must be recycled rather than disposed of. Keep batteries segregated from other materials.

4

call2recycle
Leading the charge for recycling.

Batteries should only be recycled at **approved battery recycling drop-off locations**. Damaged, defective, or recalled batteries require special attention. Visit [Call2Recycle](http://www.call2recycle.org/safety/damaged-defective-and-recalled-batteries) for more information; www.call2recycle.org/safety/damaged-defective-and-recalled-batteries

ESFI.org www.facebook.com/ESFI.org www.twitter.com/ESFI.org www.youtube.com/ESFI.org

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Be cautious of fraudulent websites pretending to be an electric utility. Scammers often create look-alike sites to steal your personal or payment information. Always type your utility's official web address directly into your browser instead of clicking email or text links. Watch for signs of a secure website, such as "https://" in the address bar and a padlock icon. If you're ever unsure, call your utility company using the official phone number listed on your bill to verify payment or account details. Stay vigilant to protect yourself from utility fraud.

Wrapped in savings with proper insulation

by Abby Berry, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)

Ensuring your home is properly insulated can improve energy efficiency and make your home more comfortable.

Insulation acts like a cozy coat that reduces heat loss during winter months and a protective layer that reduces heat gain during summer months.

Many older homes have less insulation than newer homes, but even newer homes can benefit from additional insulation. While it's not the least expensive efficiency improvement, adding insulation and air sealing your home can provide the biggest bang for your buck in energy savings and overall comfort.

The most common areas to insulate are attics, ceilings, crawlspaces or un-

conditioned basements, exterior and interior walls, floors, and ductwork located in unconditioned spaces.

The amount and effectiveness rating of insulation required for each area varies by climate, but many websites like the Department of Energy provide easy-to-follow recommendations. Visit energy.gov/insulation to learn about recommended R-values for specific areas of the home based on climate zones.

It's important to understand how insulation effectiveness is measured. Insulation is rated in R-value, which measures the material's resistance to conductive heat flow. The higher the R-value, the

(Insulation continued on Page 8)

sparks • march 2025



ad connection

give away

YOUNG KITTY for house pet, wonderful disposition, likes everyone, tortoise shell color. 583-2173.

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, or emailed to SWCE.

wanted

USED/WASTE OIL, 200-gal. min. 420-7429/Quentin.

OLD GO KART such as Fox, Rupp, Bug, McCulloch for project w/grandson. 363-6810/Charlie.

FORD DIESEL SKID STEER. 330-1849.

SOMEONE TO FIX OLDER TRACTORS. 451-3678.

FARMHAND, looking for help on dairy farm this summer baling hay & other odd jobs, near Roberds Lk in Fbo. 332-7590.

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

OLDER ORECK XL WHITE HANDHELD VACUUM. 612-423-3816.

TDR TRANSFER DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS in Erin & Forest Twps, CPI vs CER calculation, are you losing them? Sell & transfer off before deadline. 612-756-0271/Dan.

PERSONAL COMPUTER w/DOS/IBM/or OS2 operating sys. & DVD read-write disk drive. 456-0202.

RED WING CROCKS, JUGS, OR POTTERY; FENTON ART GLASS. 213-7120.

VAN BRUNT OR OLDER JD GRAIN DRILL FOR PARTS; PULL-BEHIND LAWN ROLLER in gd cond. 455-3881.

for sale

FURNACE, Coleman, gas, down discharge, 72,000 Btu, used 3 mths w/roof jack, \$550/cash. 744-2157.

GAMO PELLET GUN, .177 Gen 2; **SWARM MAGNUM 1650 FPS; BREAK BARREL**, 3x9x40 scope, \$240. 334-1941.

GRASS HAY, sm. sq. bales by Waldorf. 327-3672.

SNOWBLOWER, 8 hp, \$250. 363-1274.

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

A-C TRACTORS C, B, CA; PICKUP FLATBEDS; JD 14' DISC; TRACTOR TIRES; FORKLIFT FORKS; 2004 CHEVY 2500 HD, 4x4, \$3000. 402-7679.

CAT #60 PULL-TYPE PAN SCRAPER, all hydraulic, exc. cond., new tires & paint (160 hp+ tractor), \$15,500/obo. 301-4227/Edward.

FIREWOOD, mixed hardwoods, Nfld area, \$350/cord. 651-357-5092/Paul.

HOME FOR RENT, 3 bed, 2 bath, 2 mi. west of Fbo, fully updated, walk-out rambler. 330-4533.

FORTUNE CREEK TRL LOTS, the covenant allows for a pole shed, starting at \$75,000. 332-4623/John.

(1) 13" 5-HOLE TIRE RIM for trailer, white, new (never used). 200-9046.

MIXED GRASS HAY, sm. sq., no rain. 210-1158.

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

OAK FIREWOOD, vry seasoned, you haul, \$125 per pickup load. 210-0316.

(2) LG GLOBE LIGHTS, \$35; **BISSELL CARPET CLEANER**, \$75; **ELECTROLUX AIR PURIFIER**, \$200. 515-975-8122.

RENTAL, Izaak Walton League Bldg., 4 mi. south of Owat., seats 100, full kitchen, grill, Wi-Fi, \$175. 451-7946.

HAY, 4x5, net wrapped, alfalfa & grass mix, Owat. 213-8670.

24' JD 960 CULTIVATOR/DIGGER; 42" ROUND DINING ROOM TABLE; (4) OFFICE CHAIRS on wheels. 213-0443.

HVY DUTY ALUM. RAMP, 4' wide by 10' long, \$350. 491-4565.

TREK 700 WOMEN'S HYBRID, 21 spd, 700x35c, \$100; **SCHWINN MESA GXs**, 21 spd, men's, F.S. Fork MtB, 26x175, \$100. 330-3178.

JD #8 SIDE MOWER, PTO; **JD CORN BINDER**. 236-0601.

55-GAL. PLASTIC & STEEL BARRELS w/covers, \$5-\$15; **220-GAL. POLY TANK** w/valve in forklift frame, \$75. 421-2521.

TOX-O-WIK, always shedded, converted to hydraulic unloading, new hoses, new parts, well maintained, PTO driven. 553-3517/leave message.

OATS, \$3.50/bushel/bulk, \$5/bushel/mini bulk bag, \$8/bushel/cleaned in mini bulk bag. 456-8639.

BOAT/RV STORAGE FOR RENT. 475-2322.

REZNOR INDUSTRIAL HEATER, natural gas, fan motor 1/4 hp, 115V, \$50; **GENERATOR**, 8-hp Briggs & Stratton, gas engine, 4400W, 120/240V, 18 amps, \$50. 451-3727.

SET OF WEIGHTS; GYMPAC 1000. 451-8585.

HUNTING BLINDS, weather/rodent proof, insulated & much more. 330-2452.

1939 A-C WC TRACTOR, gd rubber, exc. runner, vry gd tin. 456-3084.

SNOWBLOWER w/wind protection cab, \$560. 451-6788.

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

'87 GMC TRUCK, single axle, steel bx w/roll tarp, LP gas, \$3200; **FLARE BOX** w/hoist, \$350. 456-0631.

(3) 48' SPREAD AXLE TRAILERS, \$6500/each; **(3) 40' END DUMP TRAILERS**, no hoists, \$7500 up to \$10,000; **38'-42' FLAT-FLOOR GRAIN TRAILERS**, \$10,000 up to \$15,000. 456-1181.

BATHROOM SINK VANITY; (3) PATIO HEATERS. 334-7756 or 581-3901.

12' STEPLADDER. 456-5466.

WHEELCHAIR, like new, used inside house most of the time, \$150. 583-6679.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

Sparks Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

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

☐ For Sale

☐ Wanted

☐ Give Away

Phone # _____ Account # _____

Name _____

Clip and mail to: SWCE, PO Box 485, Owatonna MN 55060-0485, deliver to the SWCE office, or email your ad to: sparks@swce.coop.

travel

"PERFECT WEDDING," April 30 at Sidekick Theater in Bloomington, riotous comedy and touching love story, depart from Albert Lea, includes performance, lunch, dessert, and transportation. \$99 pp.

CAPE COD & MARTHA'S VINEYARD, June 14-22. Deluxe motor coach, 15 meals, guide tours of the "Outer Cape," and historic towns of Hyannis & Sandwich, & more! \$1,899 pp w/2 per room.

ALASKA TOUR & CRUISE, June 16-28. Round trip Delta flights, 5-day land tour, 7-day cruise on the Sapphire Princess, Denali National Park, 3 ports of call & more! \$6,999 pp w/2 per room.

Call 4-Seasons at 373-4705 or 373-2473, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, to learn more about their tour information.



member connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)

FIREWOOD, mostly hardwood, \$50 per container (approx. 1/4 cord); **CANNED GOODS**; **OTHER "FINDS,"** 456-4589/leave message.

LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES & SERVICES, estimates & deliveries, stump grind., bulk materials, greenhouse kits, rental equip. & more! 200-4674/New Rich.

HARDWOOD, dry, \$150. 323-1545.

(2) **DOWNHILL ROSSIGNOL SKIS**. 678-978-7444.

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.

STAY IN THE KNOW



Stay connected by keeping your contact information up to date. Current contact information benefits you in multiple ways.

- ✓ Faster outage reporting and response
- ✓ Timely alerts about planned outages and other important updates
- ✓ Smoother customer service interactions
- ✓ Improved access to member benefits and programs

Ensure your phone number, email address and mailing address are up to date so you can enjoy the benefits of staying connected.



"War of the Currents" assembly at Medford School

Bakken Museum performers entertained and educated Medford 4th and 5th graders Thursday, Jan. 30, in the Medford School Auditorium. The program is sponsored by Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's wholesale energy provider, Great River Energy. The performance shares the story of the feud between Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla and utilizes science, engineering, the history of electricity and how we generate it.

#swceLIFE+

Supporting our community needs since 1994

2025 HOMETOWN

Sampler

31st Annual CONCERT SERIES







Bad Tangerines



The Gogs



Turn the Page



Mile 5

Friday, February 28 @ 7 PM
 Saturday, March 1 @ 3 PM & 7 PM
 Sunday, March 2 @ 2 PM

Little Theatre of Owatonna
 560 Dunnell Drive, Owatonna

Join us for a weekend of concerts featuring talented, local musicians and support our community hunger needs.
 Admission of food or monetary donation.

Thank You to our Corporate Sponsors















member connection

(Insulation continued from Page 5)

greater the insulating effectiveness. The R-value you'll need depends on factors like climate, type of heating and cooling system, and which area of the home you plan to insulate.

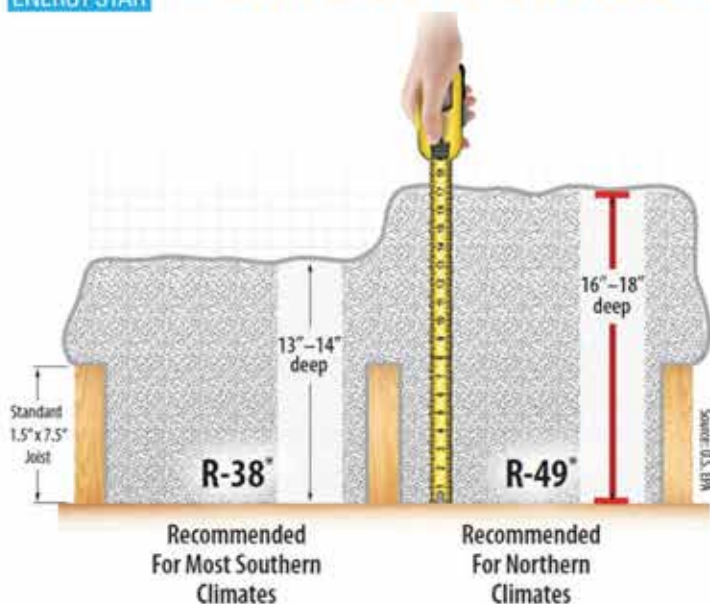
Insulation is offered in a wide range of materials from bulky fiberglass rolls to cellulose materials made from recycled paper products. If you're considering installing additional insulation, talk to an expert who can offer guidance on the right materials for your budget, climate, and comfort needs. 1023763

Investing in proper insulation for your home not only enhances comfort but also reduces energy consumption.

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RULE YOUR ATTIC FOR COMFORT & SAVINGS



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

March is an ideal time to service your home cooling system, ensuring it runs efficiently when the heat of summer arrives. Routine maintenance, like cleaning or replacing filters, checking refrigerant levels and inspecting parts, can improve your system's energy efficiency and lower your energy bills. By addressing potential issues early, you can avoid costly emergency repairs and extend the lifespan of your unit. Scheduling service in the spring helps you beat the peak-season rush, giving you faster access to qualified technicians. A well-maintained cooling system can save energy and keep your home comfortable all summer long.



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