

Meeker Cooperative PIONEER

April 2019

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Join us for a Twins game.. 7

Official publication of

**Meeker
Cooperative**
Light and Power Association

www.meeker.coop

Meeker Co-op is an
Equal Opportunity Provider
and Employer

84th Annual Meeting looked toward a VIBRANT future

Eighty-four years ago farmers showed courage and foresight as they banded together to create Meeker Cooperative and bring the electricity already enjoyed in the city to the countryside. Those early pioneers literally changed the lives of thousands of farms and homes.

Today, the Co-op is embarking on a project that requires the same courage and foresight. Instead of electric cables being strung across the countryside, VIBRANT Broadband fiber optic cables are being installed throughout our service territory to create a fiber backbone that will ultimately bring members and communities the kind of internet connectivity that larger metro areas already have. This type of service will change how members, and even some non-members, are able to connect to the services and technology needed in the 21st Century.



CEO Tim Mergen details VIBRANT Broadband plans.

CEO/General Manager Tim Mergen spoke about all the advantages that a hybrid broadband internet system could bring to the region, notably in the education, medical and economic development areas, in addition to adding entertainment benefit to our members' lives.

"When all is said and done, we will have a total of 434 total miles of fiber to 49 poles and 14 substations throughout our service territory," Mergen said. "Our goal is to make VIBRANT Broadband available across our entire service area."

"In the past, the vast majority of people in our service territory didn't have access to high-speed internet," Mergen said. "Just to give you an idea how fast fiber optics is, in less than one second, data on a fiber optic cable can travel around the world five times."

Pre-business meeting festivities included a meatloaf and mashed potato meal served to 758 members and guests, the ever-popular Bingo with valuable prizes purchased from our member businesses, a live electrical safety demonstration by our linemen and face painting. Also on display for members to "kick the tires" was a 2019 Chevy Bolt. The Bolt is our all-electric vehicle that gets three miles per kWh. That is the equivalent of 106 mph of gasoline. A VIBRANT Broadband booth was staffed by employees answering questions and providing more information about what to expect from the much-anticipated broadband service.

A popular presentation in our Community/Training Room was given by **Josh Hagemeister of Minnesota Fishing Guide Service**. Throughout his guiding career Josh has also worked as an instructional fishing guide for *In-Fisherman* Magazine's "Camp Fish", has co-hosted and produced the "Outdoors Minnesota" TV Series, has provided an extensive seminar series to many community education groups and has published a sportsman's outdoor newspaper.

As a special gift, one lucky member's name was randomly drawn to win a half-day fishing trip with Captain Josh. Congratulations to Paul Lysen for winning that trip!



Captain Josh Hagemeister with Paul Lysen, who won the half-day fishing trip with Capt. Josh.

Only one candidate applied for the Board seat in District 3 and District 9. Brad Donnay, District 3 and Larry Huhn, District 9, were summarily elected by the Qualifications and Election Committee according to the Bylaws and there was no election.

No candidates applied for the District 5 Board seat. This seat has been declared vacated by the Board of Directors, who may now appoint someone to fill that seat until next year's Annual Meeting, at which time that seat will be up for election to fill the unexpired term.

The Operation Round Up® team distributed grant checks in the amount of \$17,050 to qualifying applicants. The list of grants awarded by the Electric Trust is located on Page 3. A random drawing was held from all members who attended the Annual Meeting who also contribute to Operation Round Up. Congratulations to Paul Holm for winning the "Love Minnesota" metal wall plaque by Star Lake Fabrication.

More Annual Meeting Photographs



NOC Tech. Andrew Kalkbrenner (r) works with a fiber tech. to “light up” the fiber system in the building just in time for the Annual Meeting.



Watercade Princess Laura Shoutz calls Bingo at the Annual Meeting.



Foreman Al Resmen generates sparks against a live wire during the safety demo.



Foremen Shawn Marthaler and Al Resmen present an electric safety demo for members.



Bingo is popular at the Annual Meeting, with prizes purchased from member businesses.



Nearly 760 members and guests enjoyed a meatloaf dinner prior to the meeting.



Captain Josh Hagemeister gives fishing tips in the Community Room.



The VIBRANT Broadband booth was busy with lots of questions.



Face painting is a hit with the younger members.

Board of Directors

Karen Becker, President— District 2
Eden Lake in Stearns; Harvey, Manannah in Meeker

Kevin Issendorf, Vice President-District 4
Litchfield, Greenleaf in Meeker

Brad Donnay, Secretary — District 3
Luxemburg, Maine Prairie, South Maine Prairie in Stearns; Forest Prairie in Meeker

Karl Lundin, Treasurer — District 9
North Kingston, Kingston, Forest City in Meeker

Paul Bugbee — District 1
Roseville, Irving in Kandiyohi; Paynesville in Stearns; Union Grove in Meeker

Open — District 5
Fairhaven in Stearns; Cokato, Southside, French Lake in Wright; Dassel in Meeker

Mark Larson— District 6
Harrison, Kandiyohi, Genessee, Fahlun, Lake Elizabeth, E. Lake Lillian in Kandiyohi; Cosmos, Acton, Danielson, Swede Grove in Meeker; Brookfield, Boon Lake in Renville

K. Bruce Krueger — District 7
Collinwood, Cedar Mills in Meeker; Stockholm in Wright; Acoma, Hutchinson in McLeod

Larry Huhn — District 8
Darwin, Ellsworth in Meeker

Chad Felstul — Attorney

Meeker Pioneer

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CEO/General Manager: Tim Mergen
Editor: Becky Sorenson

The Meeker Pioneer is the official member publication of Meeker Cooperative and focuses on our members, programs and events. All member story ideas and comments are welcome. Send to Becky Sorenson at the address above.

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For 24-hour service call
320-693-3231
Fax: 320-693-2980
Web site: www.meeker.coop
Use the “Contact Us” form on the home page

Meeker Cooperative Mission Statement
“To enhance the quality of life of the Cooperative’s Members and Customers by providing safe, reliable, competitively priced energy and other value-added services, while practicing environmental stewardship.”

VIBRANT Broadband Update



The first section of a monopole is being lifted by crane into place.



The final section—the base station—is being lifted to the top of the monopole, assisted by one of our linemen in a 120-foot bucket truck.

VIBRANT Broadband

The first monopole was stacked on March 6th along CSAH 11; currently 14 poles in total are stacked from Dassel to Kimball. The process doesn't take long from start to finish, but due to the weather changing from winter to a spring-like feel, we will have to wait for road restrictions to be lifted in order to continue stacking. There are currently three monopole bases that need to be set when the weather shapes up, which will bring closure to one more step in the process. To the left are photos of the monopole stacking at the Dassel Substation, with lineman Jake Smothers operating the bucket at the time the photos were taken.

Operation Round Up March 2019 Recipient List



Community Service

Agricultural Society, Meeker County	\$500
Darwin Tourism & Promotions Committee	\$500
Eden Valley Food Shelf	\$900
Fire Department, Atwater	\$500
Fire Department, Dassel	\$1,500
Historical Society, Atwater Area	\$300
Kandiyohi County Food Shelf	\$300
Kimball Food Shelf	\$900
Litchfield Watercade, Inc.	\$500
McLeod Emergency Food Shelf	\$250
Meeker County Food Shelf	\$2,900
Meeker County	\$2,400
Dassel	\$500
Paynesville Community Services	\$900
The Link of Northern Kandiyohi County	\$150
Windmill Days, Grove City	\$400

Education and Youth

Community Education, Litchfield	\$500
Crow River Trail Guards	\$700
Kindred Family Focus	\$1,000
Litchfield Satellites 4-H Club	\$300
Litchfield Student Anglers	\$1,000
Post Prom, ACGC	\$350
Post Prom, Eden Valley-Watkins	\$350
Post Prom, Kimball	\$350
Post Prom, Litchfield High School	\$350
Sportsmen's Club, Watkins	\$350
Wrestling Club, Litchfield	\$300

Non-Traditional Scholarship

Bridget Lux	\$1,000
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Total **\$17,050**

Save Two Ways on your A/C Tune Up!

If your A/C or heat pump unit is five years or older, you can save on your tune-up by getting a \$25 rebate when your contractor completes one of the green coupons and mails it to Meeker Co-op. To save even more, get enrolled on our Cycled Air Program, and receive a rebate up to \$100 to have your central air or heat pump tuned up. Just have your contractor complete an orange coupon and return it to the Co-op after you have enrolled your A/C unit on the Co-op's Cycled Air program. Area contractors have received both coupons in the mail. If your contractor didn't receive coupons, call the Co-op at 320-693-3231 and we'll rush them to him.

Put your central A/C unit on our Cycled Air program and you qualify for a Tune-Up Rebate up to \$100!

Meeker Member, please complete this side and have a licensed HVAC contractor complete the back side. Members are eligible for a Tune-Up Rebate up to \$100 when their A/C unit is put on the Cycled Air Program. A/C units already on the Cycled Air Program do NOT qualify for this rebate.

Complete the following steps to receive your A/C Tune-Up Rebate up to \$100 (or cost of service, whichever is less)

☐ Have a licensed HVAC contractor do a tune-up and complete the back of this coupon.

☐ Return this coupon and a copy of the contractor's work invoice to:

Meeker Cooperative
Attn: Central A/C Tune-Up
1725 US Hwy. 12, Suite 100
Litchfield, MN 55355

Completed coupon and invoice must be submitted by September 1. Please allow 4-6 weeks for rebate processing.

If you have any questions, please call our office at 800-232-6257 or 320-693-3231.

Member Information (please print)

Name _____

Acct. # _____

Phone _____

☐ Certify that a Central Air Conditioning tune-up has been performed at the residence listed on my account by a licensed HVAC contractor.

Signature _____

Receive a \$25 credit when you have your air source heat pump or central air conditioner tuned-up

Member Complete This Section

Meeker Cooperative members are eligible for a \$25 credit when a licensed HVAC contractor performs an A/C system tune-up. Program requires completion of this coupon by both the homeowner and contractor.

Complete the following steps to receive your \$25 ASHP or A/C Tune-Up Credit

☐ Have a licensed HVAC contractor do a tune-up and complete the back of this coupon.

☐ Return this coupon and a copy of the contractor's work invoice to:

Meeker Cooperative
Attn: Central A/C Tune-Up
1725 US Hwy. 12, Suite 100
Litchfield, MN 55355

Completed credit coupon and invoice must be submitted by September 1. Please allow 4-6 weeks for credit processing.

If you have any questions, please call our office at 800-232-6257 or 320-693-3231.

Member Information (please print)

Name _____

Acct. # _____

Phone _____

☐ Certify that a Central Air Conditioning tune-up has been performed at the residence listed on my account by a licensed HVAC contractor.

Signature _____



The approach of spring has many gardeners turning their attention to planting plans, but if your goal is energy efficiency, landscaping is an approach that can beautify your home and help you control future energy costs for years to come. Photo Source: Pixabay.com



Deciduous trees—those that lose their leaves in autumn—are great options for seasonal summer shade. Tall varieties planted to the south of a home can help diffuse sunlight, providing roof shading. Source: Pixabay.com



Deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns (i.e., leaves and branches) can be planted to the south of your home to provide maximum summertime roof shading. Photo Source: Pixabay.com

Landscaping for Energy Efficiency

By Derrill Holly

The approach of spring has many gardeners turning their attention to planting plans, but if your goal is energy efficiency, landscaping is an approach that can beautify your home and help you control future energy costs for years to come.

According to researchers at the Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory, carefully positioned trees placed around a home can save as much as 25 percent of household energy consumption for heating and cooling. Foundation shrub plantings can also help control costs by diffusing wind or solar heating to moderate thermal temperature transfers.

Trees at the Top

No matter how much you love trees, you will want to plant them at a distance. Too close to foundations, pavement or plumbing and root systems can create damage. But planted in the right place, within five to 10 years, a fast-growing shade tree can reduce outside air temperatures near walls and roofs by as much as 6 degrees Fahrenheit on sunny days. Surface temperatures immediately under the canopy of a mature shade tree can be up to 25 degrees cooler than surrounding shingles or siding exposed to direct sunlight.

According to the Department of Energy, deciduous trees—those that lose their leaves in autumn—are great options for seasonal summer shade. Tall varieties planted to the south of a home can help diffuse sunlight, providing roof shading. Shorter varieties of deciduous trees can be planted near exposed west-facing windows to help shade homes on sultry summer afternoons. Mass plantings of evergreens selected for their adaptability to regional growing conditions can be planted further away on a north or northwestern section of a yard to form a windbreak, shielding the home from frigid winter winds.

Trees are available in the appropriate sizes, densities and shapes for almost any shade application. To block solar heat in the summer but let much of it in during the winter, use deciduous trees. To provide continuous shade or to block heavy winds, use dense evergreen trees or shrubs. Although a slow-growing tree may require many years of growth before it shades your roof, it will generally live longer than a fast-growing tree. Also, because slow-growing trees often have deeper roots and stronger branches, they are less prone to breakage by windstorms or heavy snow.

Trees, shrubs and ground cover plants can also shade the ground and pavement around the home. This reduces heat radiation and cools the air before it reaches your home’s walls and windows. Use

Continued on next page

a large bush or row of shrubs to shade a patio or driveway. Plant a hedge to shade a sidewalk. Build a trellis for climbing vines to shade a patio area.

To ensure lasting performance of energy-saving landscaping, use plant species that are adapted to the local climate. Native species are best, as they require little maintenance once established and avoid the dangers of invasive species.

Properly selected, placed and maintained landscaping can provide excellent wind protection, or windbreaks, which will reduce heating costs considerably. Furthermore, the benefits from these windbreaks will increase as the trees and shrubs mature.

Climate Strategies

In the Summer:

- Channel summer breezes toward the home.
- Maximize summer shade with trees that still allow penetration of low-angle winter sun.
- Avoid locating planting beds close to the home if they require frequent watering.

In the Winter:

- Use dense windbreaks to protect the home from cold winter winds.
- Allow the winter sun to reach south-facing windows.

With a little research and planning, you'll be well on your way to a beautiful, energy efficient lawn.

Derrill Holly writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape.



Be Safe

Always call before you dig

CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG.

IT'S THE LAW.

UNDERGROUND POWER LINES can be just as dangerous as overhead power lines. Avoid serious injury and property damage by calling 811 before you dig to have underground facilities marked.

- Call Gopher State One Call at 811 at least two business days prior to a dig.
- Dial 811 or 1-800-252-1166 during normal business hours; this service is free for homeowners.
- Minnesota state law requires you to call.
- If you damage a line, you may be financially responsible for repairs.

You may also submit your dig information at gopherstateonecall.org/submit.

Great River Energy—Powering what's possible

Agriville Electric Cooperative • Amyhurst Cooperative, Inc. • BNGD Electric Cooperative • Brown County Rural Electrical Association • Carleton Energy • Cooperative Light & Power • Crow Wing Power • Dakota Electric Association • East Central Energy • Federated Rural Electric Association • Goodhue County Cooperative Electric Association • Itasca-Manning Cooperative Electrical Association • Kandiyohi Power Cooperative • Lake Country Power • Lake Region Electric Cooperative • McLeod Cooperative Power Association • Meeker Cooperative • Mile Lake Energy Cooperative • Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative • Northern Cooperative Electric • North Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc. • Redwood Electric Cooperative • Rensselaire Electric Association • South Central Electric Association • Stearns Electric Association • Stoddard-Wasson Cooperative Electric • Todd-Windom Electric Cooperative • Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association



GREAT RIVER ENERGY

greatriverenergy.com

Industry News

The Cooperative Way

If it's been a few years since you shopped for a lightbulb, you might find yourself confused. Thanks to a 2007 law signed by President George W. Bush, shelves these days are largely stocked with LED bulbs that look more like the traditional pear-shaped incandescent version but use just one-fifth the energy.

A second wave of lightbulb changes was set to happen. But now the Trump administration wants to undo an Obama-era regulation designed to make a wide array of specialty lightbulbs more energy efficient.

At issue here are bulbs such as decorative globes used in bathrooms, reflectors in recessed lighting, candle-shaped lights and three-way lightbulbs. The Natural Resources Defense Council says that, collectively, these account for about 2.7 billion light sockets, nearly half the conventional sockets in use in the U.S.

At the very end of the Obama administration, the Department of Energy decided these specialty bulbs should also be subject to efficiency requirements under the 2007 law. The lighting industry objected and sued to overturn the decision. Location # 24-06-101

DOE, in our view, exceeded its authority," says Clark Silcox, general counsel for the National Electrical Manufacturers Association.

Jennifer Dolin, head of government affairs and sustainability at LEDVANCE, which manufactures Sylvania lightbulbs. says the industry wants to make sure it gets the LED versions of all these other kinds of bulbs perfected before releasing them onto the market. She says more efficient bulbs are coming.

"The future of lighting is LED, there's no doubt about that and we see that in the marketplace," she says. "We see that consumers are shifting to LEDs at a much more rapid rate than we ever anticipated."

~NPR

Plant trees away from overhead power lines

Before planting new trees, be aware of how tall and wide they will grow to keep them away from power lines. Otherwise, they can fall into powerlines during a storm and cause expensive outages.



BENEFITS OF TREE TRIMMING

Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is vital to provide safe, reliable power to our consumer-members.

We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Keep crews and members of our community safe
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs

Vegetation management improves service reliability for you – our members!

Experience efficiency in any season with an air source heat pump

With heating and cooling accounting for some of the largest expenses for homeowners, it makes sense for your space to be equipped with one high-efficiency appliance to keep those costs as low as possible.

A smart, all-in-one solution is to install an air source heat pump (ASHP), which handles both your heating and cooling needs. It works in the summer months by extracting the existing heat from inside your home and moving it outside, often outperforming standard central air conditioners in the process.

The cycle is reversed for heating: by extracting warmth from the outdoor air and pumping it into your home. This will allow you to run your furnace less. During the spring and fall, you may not even need to run it at all. Location #36-20-411

ASHPs achieve all this while consuming up to 72 percent less electricity than conventional air conditioners and furnaces, leaving you with a savings of up to 30 percent on your electric bill.

Earlier generations of ASHPs were limited in terms of their effectiveness in states with colder climates like Minnesota's, but technology has advanced to where they can now operate down to 0 degrees Fahrenheit.

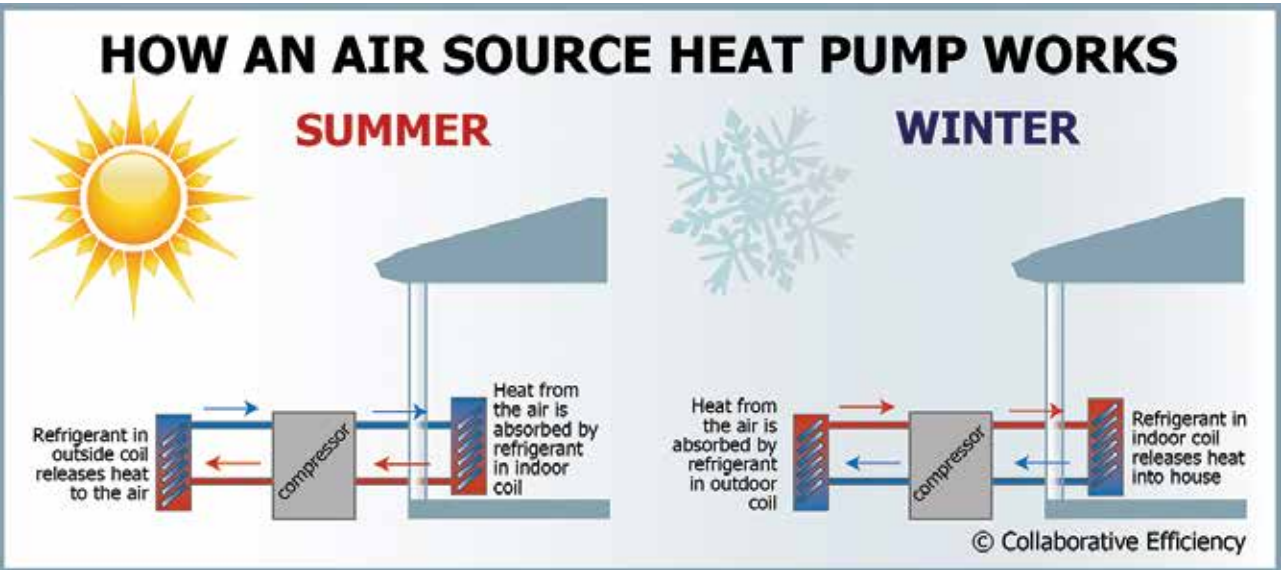
"With the recent advancements in air source heat pump technology, they can now be used to cost effectively deliver a much larger portion of the heating needs of homes and businesses in cold climate areas such as Minnesota," said

Rodney De Fouw, member electrification strategist at Great River Energy. "In rural areas where natural gas is not available, using air source heat pumps for heating is now commonly the most cost-effective heating option available for the vast majority of the heating season. This is especially true if you can take advantage of programs and rate options available through your local electric cooperative."

Beyond cost savings, ASHPs provide additional benefits such as higher-quality warmth compared to conventional furnaces as the ASHP distributes heat more evenly and holds moisture better which results in a natural, comfortable warmth.

ASHPs also provide a safe, environmentally-friendly solution for home comfort conditioning. They don't use an open flame or create products of combustion – such as carbon monoxide – so there is no need for venting.

Part of Meeker Cooperative's mission is to help members use energy wisely by offering a variety of programs and resources to help make this possible. Our rebates offer substantial help when purchasing new high-efficiency equipment and joining our money-saving Energy Management program(s). For more information, go to our website: www.meeker.coop or give us a call at 320-693-3231 and speak with one of our Energy Management Technicians.



Storm Safety: When Thunderstorms, Tornadoes Strike

By B. Denise Hawkins

Beware. Spring can usher in more than April showers. Now through the summer months, thunderstorms can quickly roll in and tornadoes can touch down, often during the afternoon and evening hours, according to researchers at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Severe Storms Laboratory.

Follow these tips from NOAA and the American Red Cross to keep you and your home safe when tornadoes and severe thunderstorms come your way.

- Prepare for high winds by removing diseased and damaged tree limbs.
- Listen to local news or National Weather Service broadcasts to stay informed about tornado watches and warnings.
- If in a mobile home, immediately head

to a sturdy shelter or vehicle. Mobile homes, especially hallways and bathrooms, are not safe places to take shelter during tornadoes or other severe winds.

- Designate a family meeting place for shelter during and after a storm. If possible, go to your home's basement, a small interior room, or under stairs on the lowest level. Also, have a battery-operated weather radio handy along with emergency supplies.
- Unplug your electronics. Avoid using electrical equipment and corded telephones.
- Remember that there is no safe place outside during a severe storm. If you are caught in a storm while on the road, the American Red Cross urges drivers to turn their headlights on, try to safely exit the roadway, and park. Stay in the vehicle with your seat belt on and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. If thunder and

lightning is occurring, avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.

- Move or secure lawn furniture, trash cans, hanging plants or anything else that can be picked up by the wind and become a projectile.
- Stay safe after a storm. Remain indoors at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder. Also, stay away from downed power lines and avoid flooded areas, power lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Report them to the Co-op.

Learn more about storm safety at <http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/education/svrwx101/thunderstorms/>

Sources: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Severe Storms Laboratory, and American Red Cross and B. Denise Hawkins who writes for the NRECA.



Storm clouds erupt with lightning. The current in a lightning bolt can produce tens of thousands of amps and more than 100,000 volts. When they strike, find shelter indoors and unplug electrical devices. Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Heed severe storm and tornado warnings when they come. Make sure that you are prepared—keep a flashlight, a battery-operated radio, and non-perishable food among the items in your emergency bag. Location # 32-33-201 Source: American Red Cross

Several years ago, supercell thunderstorms rolling in over the plains provided a backdrop for power lines (background photo). On one spring day, tornadoes followed, stretching from eastern Colorado to Oklahoma. The severe weather triggered widespread power outages. Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Join us for our 2019 North Dakota Energy Tour July 24-26!



Enjoy a three-day luxury coach tour to North Dakota's coal country July 24-26, 2019 to see how lignite coal is mined and turned into the electricity we need every single day!

This fun and educational trip includes the following highlights:

- Tour the Falkirk Mine and see the gigantic equipment used to supply 8 million tons of lignite each year.
- Tour Coal Creek Station, the largest power plant in North Dakota and learn why this plant is vitally important to our generation needs.
- Tour the Garrison Dam fisheries project and see the massive Dam
- Tour the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site to see how early Native Americans lived.

- Visit North Dakota Historical Center Museum, which has been remodeled and expanded.
- Two-night stay at the all-suite StayBridge Hotel in Bismarck with pool, spa, theater room, in-room kitchens, plush bedding, and nearby shopping.

Most meals are included in this trip, with the exception of fast food/coffee stops during the bus trip to and back from North Dakota and any restaurants you may visit during your free time.

Children 10 and older are welcome when accompanied by an adult.

Cost: \$175 per person single or double
Deadline: June 28 or when seats are filled!

We'll send a letter two weeks before we go with the schedule and trip details.

Energy Tour Reservation

Please reserve _____ places for the Energy Tour on July 24-26, 2019.

Name(s): _____

Account Number: _____

Phone: _____

Number of Reservations at \$175 each _____ Total \$ _____ **DEADLINE JUNE 28**

Return to: Meeker Cooperative, 1725 US Hwy. 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355, ATTN: Becky Sorenson. Persons listed above will share a room.

Minnesota Twins vs. Seattle Mariners at Target Field!

Thurs., June 13, 2019
12:10 p.m. game.

Leave Meeker Co-op
at 9:30 a.m.



Enjoy an action-packed day at the ballpark and leave the driving to us! See the Minnesota Twins battle the Seattle Mariners. Game time is 12:10 p.m. We'll leave the Meeker Co-op parking lot at 9:30 a.m. to enjoy time to shop for souvenirs and grab some food before the first pitch.

Reserve your spot on the bus by sending in the sign-up slip (below) by Friday, May 17, along with your check.

Cost: \$45 per person.
Includes a light snack and beverage on the bus. Food at the park is on your own. We hope you'll join us!

Meeker Cooperative Bus Trip: Twins vs. Seattle Mariners at Target Field! — 12:10 p.m., Thursday, June 13, 2019.

Bus departs from Meeker Co-op at 9:30 a.m.

Name(s): _____

Acct #: _____ Phone: _____

of reservations: _____ @ \$45 = \$ _____ Deadline: **May 17**
Make checks payable to Meeker Cooperative. Clip and send this form to:
Meeker Cooperative, 1725 US Hwy. 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355
Attn: Becky Sorenson

Chicken Bacon Ranch Penne

Melissa Niska submitted this month's winning recipe for **Chicken Bacon Ranch Penne** (Best Pasta recipe). She will have \$10 credited to her account. Congratulations!

Chicken Bacon Ranch Penne

1 lb. penne (cooked, drained)	6 clices chopped, cooked bacon
2 cups shredded cooked chicken	2 cups shredded Mozzarella cheese
1 jar Alfredo pasta sauce	
1/2 cup Ranch dressing	

Heat oven to 350°. Grease a 9x13 pan. In large bowl, place cooked pasta, shredded chicken, Alfredo sauce and Ranch dressing. Stir to combine. Pour mixture into pan and spread evenly. Sprinkle the chopped cooked bacon on top evenly. Cover with the 2 cups Mozzarella shredded cheese and spread evenly. Bake 15-20 minutes or until hot & bubbly. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

For May, submit your favorite Cake Recipe by April 29 to:

Meeker Cooperative, ATTN: Becky Sorenson,
1725 US Hwy 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355

ALERT TODAY, ALIVE TOMORROW:

HEADS UP FOR FARM SAFETY

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

If you can safely drive away...

If you must exit the machinery...

If you are inside farm machinery that makes contact with a downed power line, know what to do!

If you can drive safely away from the power source without bringing down the utility pole and lines, travel at least 40 ft. before exiting.

If you are unable to drive the machinery due to injury, obstacles or it is inoperable, do NOT exit. Call for help and warn anyone nearby NOT to approach.

40 ft. radius safe distance

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.

Worried about Water in Your Basement?

Prevent expensive water damage with a water sensor from Heartland Security.

Our system will notify you immediately if your sump pump stops working or water starts leaking into your home.

Call us today and be prepared before seasonal rains turn into a headache!

A Subsidiary of:

Light and Power Association

1-888-264-6380

HEARTLANDSS.COM

Pioneer Ads — Free want ad service for members. Please limit your ad to nine words, one word per line. One phone number please. Use the coupon below or pick one up in our office. Ads will be printed for one month only. Please submit a new ad if you want it published more than one month. Include your name and address, which will be used for identification purposes only. Ads received by **April 29** will be included in the May issue.

Please run this ad in the next Pioneer

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Remember to limit your ad to nine words!

1 _____	2 _____	3 _____
4 _____	5 _____	6 _____
7 _____	8 _____	9 _____

Clip and Send to: Meeker Cooperative, 1725 US Hwy. 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355 Attn: Becky Sorenson or email rsorenson@meeker.coop

Please check ad category

☐ For Sale, Misc.

☐ Agricultural

☐ Automotive

☐ Wanted

☐ Giveaway

☐ Service

☐ For Rent

For Sale - Miscellaneous

- Coronado upright freezer 56"Hx28"Wx28"D. 320-582-1954.
- Electric guitar. 320-582-1954.
- 1993 Suzuki Intruder, 800cc M.C. 23,150 mi. \$1,000. 320-212-5094.
- Lk. Manuella lot w/septic, well, 75'x200' level. \$175K/obo. 320-420-3074.
- Rocker recliner, recliner, hide-a-bed sofa (oak). 320-593-8229.

- Whirlpool over range microwave. Bisque, exc. cond. \$40. 320-974-8073.
- 2013 Fat Bob motorcycle, loaded, 12,907 mi., gd. cond. \$12,500. 612-518-5919.
- Lots of REO concrete pavers. \$50. 612-720-5197.
- Outdoor grill, very clean, propane tank not incl. \$75. 320-894-5976.
- 2005 Honda Rebel 250. Well-maint., exc. cond. 13K+ mi. 320-221-2888.
- Two TV stands, gd. shape. 320-583-3749.

- Porta Dock 40-ft. w/ "L" bench, \$2,000. 2007 Newman pontoon lift, \$1,000. 612-849-4125.
- Swivel rocker, \$75; Matching loveseat, \$100. 612-968-2508.
- 500-gal. Propane tank, gd. Cond., new paint. \$1,100. 320-406-5423.
- Tanning bed. 320-583-3749.
- Tables 43x54 w/6 chairs. Fold. chairs. 320-693-8492.
- Breville 4-slice toaster, new, 220V. \$25. 952-938-8269.

- Antique fireplace wood holder. \$100/obo. 952-938-8269.
- King size box spring, approx. 9 yrs. old. \$25. 952-938-8269.
- Spearing decoys, gd. shape (some lk. new). 320-221-2487.
- Coronado upright freezer 62"Hx32"Wx27"D. 320-693-8492.
- Tap & Die set in wood box, very old. 320-693-8492.
- Arctic Cat snowmobile, doesn't run. Best offer. 320-693-3800.

For Sale - Automotive

- 2016 Polaris Ranger SxS/570 UTV Hunter Model. 320-212-7655.
- 2000 Motorhome, Class A, 31K mi., slideout, generator, BU camera. \$21,500/obo. 320-905-6597.
- Grill, 1982 Chev. 2-lamp sys., new in box. \$20. 320-764-7063.
- 1984 Corvette, midnight blue, in storage. \$6,900. 320-894-4835.

For Sale - Agricultural

- Calf dehorner; balling gun; bull calf bonder. All for \$10. 320-764-2286.
- 21' disks, White mech. fold wings & Lindsey Hydefold 30' drag. 320-693-8390.

Wanted

- Any kind of metal; will pick up/clean up. 320-905-5625.
- Help learning Dobro. 320-333-4171.
- Location #25-13-202

Giveaway

- June bearing strawberry plants; rasp. plants. You dig. 320-583-8938.
- Toshiba 36" tube TV, grt. cond. w/stand. 320-275-4299.
- DirecTV Antenn. Dish, brackets/braces. 320-221-2487.
- DVD player, Apple USB super drive. 320-221-2487.

Services

- Stump grinding, any size job. John's Stump Grinding 320-583-9158.
- Fertilize, spray, mow laws & more. Radtke Lawn Care. 320-582-2130.
- Larry's Barber & Style. Litchfield. Thurs-Fri. 8-5:30; Sat. 8-3:30. 320-693-2421.
- Lawn mowing, cutting edge, lawn care services. 320-828-6057.
- Quality paint/stain, int./ext. decks/woodwork. Perfectpaint22@yahoo.com. 612-201-3076.
- Snow removal & towing; tree trim/removal. 320-333-7552.
- RN Footcare nurse, Stearns Co. Home Care, Pedi-Care 612-356-0207.

Find your location number

Four location numbers have been hidden within this **Pioneer**. If you find your number and claim it by calling Meeker Cooperative by April 29 you will have \$10 credited to your account! If you find your number and your information is correct in our system, you'll receive a bill credit equal to one month's output from a Member Solar panel.

Good luck!