

Meeker Cooperative PIONEER

July 2019

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Official publication of

**Meeker
Cooperative**
Light and Power Association

www.meeker.coop

Meeker Co-op is an
Equal Opportunity Provider
and Employer

VIBRANT Broadband taking sign-ups in Darwin, Dassel

VIBRANT Broadband is taking orders for their fiber-optic supported fast internet service for residential areas in and around Darwin and Dassel at this time.

If you live in one of these areas and are interested in receiving steady, reliable and super-fast internet speed, go to the website at www.VIBRANTBB.net and sign up there or give us a call at 320-693-3231 and we'll put you on the installation list and let you know what the next step is. Each location will be visited by installers to see which installation method would work best.

It's exciting to know you can finally receive the speed you need for streaming movies and TV shows, playing online games with your kids, working from home or providing what is necessary for your children to keep up with online homework. With VIBRANT Broadband there is none of the buffering, slow-downs or frustrations experienced by slower services.

Finally rural areas can enjoy the same speeds and access to the world wide web that cities have enjoyed for years!

To check out packages and for easy sign-up, go to the website at www.VIBRANTBB.net. Or give us a call at 320-693-3231 and we will get you on the list.

**Vibrant
Broadband is
HERE!**

**NOW INSTALLING
IN AND AROUND
DARWIN & DASSEL**



**VIBRANT
Broadband**

Powered by Meeker Cooperative

Join us for Member Appreciation August 16!

Enjoy loads of family fun at the "A maze'n Farmyard" in Eden Valley



Members get **FREE admission**, a **FREE meal** and a **lot of fun** at our next Member Appreciation to be held at the A maze'n Farmyard on Hwy. 55 just outside of Eden Valley. This event runs from 4:30 to 8 p.m. on Friday, August 16. Here are just a few of the activities available for you and your family:

- Bucket truck rides for all
- Parakeet house with seed pretzels to feed the birds
- Pond stocked with fish and a lovely photo-op bridge
- Dwarf goats with plenty of fun antics
- Huge 150-foot slide
- Two mazes
- Barn full of animals to hold and pet
- Miniature golf putting greens
- Snack & Gift Shop
- Pony Rides and Wagon Rides
- Water races and more!

**MEMBERS
ONLY!**

Look for more information in the next edition of the Meeker Pioneer. Put this on your calendar and make plans to come!





VIBRANT Broadband and Governor Walz

Governor Walz

I’m thrilled to let you know that Governor Walz will be coming to Meeker Cooperative’s office at the end of September for a ribbon cutting ceremony for VIBRANT Broadband. Meeker Cooperative’s VIBRANT Broadband project has created interest at the Governor’s office and within several of the state agencies and the Governor is coming out for a first-hand look. We are going to take that opportunity to have an official VIBRANT ribbon cutting ceremony.

As you may recall, Governor Walz made broadband internet access for rural Minnesota a focal point of his campaign. One of the bills that came out of the legislature this past session — which he signed into law — was allocating 40 million dollars of state funds over the next biennium to help high-speed internet systems get installed across the state.

We will also invite former Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Administrator Ken Johnson to attend. Mr. Johnson signed off on the initial loan for the fiber build out to our substations that is the backbone of the VIBRANT Broadband system.

I have no doubt that both gentlemen will provide us with their insights as to the importance of high-speed internet for rural residents, not only across Meeker’s service territory but across Minnesota and the country as a whole.

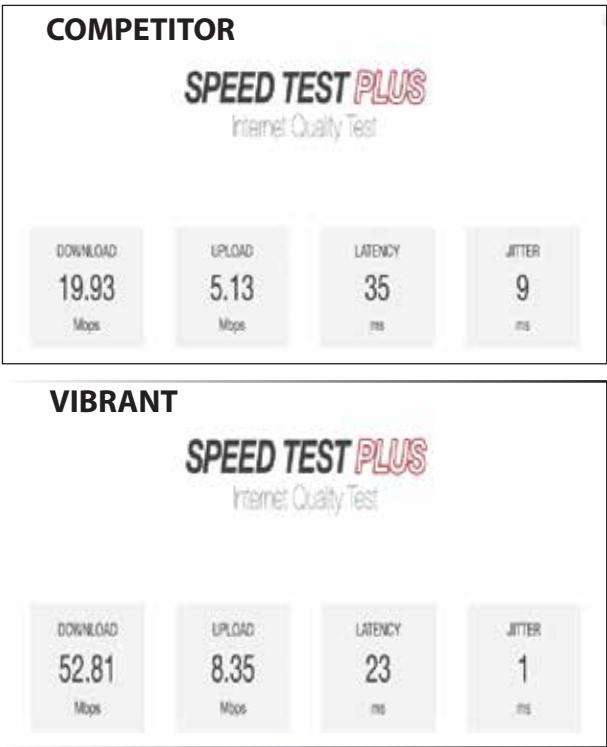
Once we have the time and event specifics finalized, we will keep you informed of this unique and historic occurrence for Meeker Cooperative Light and Power Association in future issues of the *Pioneer* newsletter as well as on our websites. I urge you to attend to meet Governor Walz and other local representatives at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Sign Up For Speed

As I mentioned in last month’s article, we have been in the testing phase for the VIBRANT Broadband system. All systems are a “go”, so as of July first we began connecting customers in the Darwin and Dassel areas to receive high-speed internet services. If you are in this initial roll-out area please give us a call at 320-693-3231 or check out the VIBRANT website at VIBRANTBB.net to sign up.

Speaking of Speed

When it comes to the internet, it’s all about the speed. No one wants to sit there watching the little circle go around and around while something is being downloaded. Maybe that little circle needs to become the emoji for frustration.



The graphics above compare the internet service a member was receiving off a competitor’s DSL internet line versus Meeker’s VIBRANT Broadband fixed wireless system.

This member was paying for a 50 mega bit per second (mbps) download speed and a 5 mbps upload speed for his existing DSL internet service. As you can see, the member was receiving less than 20 mbps download even though they were paying for 50 mbps.

The VIBRANT system the member tested was above the 50 mbps download speed and above the five mbps upload speed they signed up for.

The internet “gamers” also tell me that latency (time delay if you are trying to hit a moving target) is extremely important. Again, you can see that it was greatly improved, going from a 35 millisecond delay down to a 23 millisecond delay with VIBRANT. The gamers tell me that is a game winning difference. I’ll take their word for it as I’m not an internet gamer.

The last item on the test comparison is Jitter. I’m told the simplest way to describe Jitter is if the whole screen bounces or is blotchy. Some portions of your screen may be filled in while another section is fuzzy or out of focus. I relate this as going to the eye doctor and looking

through all the lenses that are out of focus until you hit on the one that is more clear than the previous one.

Great Question

One of the questions I’ve been asked is how will the weather affect the VIBRANT Broadband fixed wireless system. For those of you that have tried any of the satellite internet options, you know severe weather can create issues with those systems. In our testing we have not seen that with the VIBRANT system. With this spring’s weather it seems like we could test for rain issues every day. We just haven’t seen rain interference occur. In one case we were testing a system installed in a home four and 1/2 miles from the pole it was receiving the signal from. Our tests showed an extremely small drop during a windy, rainy day. The fortunate part was it showed up on our testing equipment but the VIBRANT Broadband user noticed no difference.

Construction Update

As of the end of June we have 46 of the 47 monopole bases for the fixed wireless system installed; 26 of those have been stacked. That means the remaining sections have been added so they are at their designed height of 120 feet. Once this is done, electricity and fiber optic lines need to be brought to each pole and additional equipment installed. This is an on-going process.

The construction and equipment connections for four poles are completed. They have been “turned on” and the equipment testing is complete. They are in the Darwin and Dassel area and that is the area where we began to connect customers as of July first.

There is 61 miles of duct in the ground with 43 miles of fiber installed. Obviously, there is much construction left to complete this year.

MAD

Before the VIBRANT ribbon cutting ceremony and the Governor’s visit at the end of September, be sure to join us for our Member Appreciation event at the A maze’n Farmyard just west of Eden Valley on August 16 from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. We will be there ready to help you answer any questions you may have about VIBRANT broadband high-speed internet.

Did You Know –

Seoul, South Korea is the champion of internet connectedness. It has 10,000 government supported free WIFI spots throughout the city.

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Meeker Pioneer

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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.”

Keeping pets comfortable while saving energy



This pup understands the comfort of an insulated bed to sleep on. Photo Source: Torsten Dettlaff

We love our pets, and we love saving energy! Often, what we do for our pets wastes unnecessary energy. Here are three common ways to save energy while caring for our pets:

Pet Doors

Pet doors are convenient for pet owners and pets, but they can impact energy bills. A pet door that is poorly made or improperly installed will create unwanted drafts that increase energy bills and reduce the overall comfort level of your home. The wrong type of door may also be pushed open during high winds.

Consider installing a pet door that is certified by the Alliance to Save Energy (ASE) or has a double or triple flap. These types of pet doors can reduce energy loss and make life easier for you and your furry friends. The best solution may be a high-quality electronic door that is activated by a chip on your pet's collar.

It's difficult to undo a pet door installation, so before taking the leap, we suggest doing your homework. There may be other strategies that will give you and your pet some of the convenient benefits without the downsides.

Keeping pets at a comfortable temperature

Cats and dogs can handle the cold better than humans. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which regulates facilities



Cats love blankets too! Photo Source: Patricia Hebert



Consider installing a pet door that is certified by the Alliance to Save Energy (ASE) or has a double or triple flap. These types of pet doors can reduce energy loss and make life easier for you and your pets. Photo Source: NRECA

that house cats and dogs, requires these facilities to maintain temperatures above 50 F. Some exceptions are allowed for breeds accustomed to the cold or if some form of insulation for the animals is provided. Your pet's tolerance really depends on their breed and the thickness of their coat.

A report by the Purdue Center for Animal Science says that Siberian huskies can tolerate temperatures below freezing, but some short-haired dogs require temperatures of 59 F or higher. Older animals may require warmer temperatures than younger ones. During summer, cats and dogs handle the heat in different ways. Cats clearly enjoy warmer temperatures than dogs, and they do a good job of reducing their activity level as temperatures climb. But



Pet houses can help keep your furry friends comfortable. Photo Source: Angel Garcia

both cats and dogs can get overheated. The USDA says that room temperatures in facilities housing dogs or cats should not exceed 85 F for more than 4 hours at a time.

Garage living

The USDA rules suggest that pets may live in the garage if your garage temperature stays between 50 F and 85 F. Pets might be able to handle a lower temperature if they have a warm, insulated bed.

Heating and cooling your garage could lead to extremely high energy bills, which makes sense because an uninsulated but heated garage could easily cost more to heat than a home. A better solution is a heated pet house, which you can purchase from multiple retailers. If you're willing to spend a little more, you can even find climate-controlled pet houses that include heating and cooling options.

You can also purchase heated beds for cats and dogs. Some beds use as little as 4 watts of electricity, so they won't drain your energy bill. We hope these tips will be helpful as you work at saving energy while caring for your favorite furry friend!

Source: Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information on house pets and energy, please visit: www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.



38th Annual Farmfest – August 6, 7, & 8 Gilfillan Estate in Redwood County, MN

THE Largest Outdoor Agricultural Event in Minnesota!

As a trusted resource with over 36 years of proven credibility, Farmfest connects industry leading manufacturers/ providers with decision making producers. Farmfest strives to provide both the traditional programs that bring attendees back year after year while also offering new dynamic events and programs which are designed both to entertain and entice new attendees. Visit the Co-op booth #2301 in the Ag tent.

- Connects 35,000+ attendees with over 625 local and leading companies in the farming industry.
- Presents successful field demonstrations which feature the latest technological advancements in the farming industry.
- Offers programs and entertainment for the family.



ELECTRIC VEHICLE EVENT
7 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 7
Farmfest

Visit us along with other Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, at Farmfest 2019, play a game for prizes, and enter for chance to win battery operated electric yard tools!

FARMFEST 2019 • AUGUST 6 - AUGUST 8 • REDWOOD FALLS, MN

Bring this coupon to Booth #2301

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE # _____
EMAIL ADDRESS _____

You must be a member one of the participating electric cooperatives to be eligible to win.



Heartland Security offers GPS medical alerts

Hearthland Security offers in-home and GPS medical alerts to help seniors live in their own homes and be able to go about their activities independently, safely and securely.

While Heartland Security's home-based units rely on landline phones or cellular communicators, their GPS medical alerts use the AT&T cellular network and satellites. This dependence on cellular/satellite coverage is beyond Heartland Security's control, so there may not be service in certain areas. However, being able to utilize GPS technology

allows much greater freedom, even at the grocery store, the hair salon, grandchildren's events, and more.

Heartland Security's GPS medical alerts are called SentryPal Mobile personal emergency response system. The SentryPal medical alert is a pager-like unit that can be worn as a necklace or on a belt-clip holder. It must be charged nightly and tested monthly.

In an emergency, simply press and hold the emergency button until it vibrates. The SentryPal connects to the GPS network and retrieves your

last known location. It then connects to the cellular network to send the emergency call notification and connects you with a dispatcher at Heartland Security's local response center. The dispatcher speaks to you through the hands-free speakerphone on the SentryPal.

This GPS medical alert system is available as a leased system and there are no long-term contracts.

To get more information or to sign up, call 888-264-6380 or visit Heartland Security at www.heartlandss.com.



Electricity on the go!

Everyone enjoys the great outdoors. The fresh air, getting in touch with nature and physical exercise are key highlights of camping. Today, while exploring and adventuring, you can also still stay connected. Although the great outdoors does not come equipped with ready-to-use electricity, nature already provides energy that can power various on-the-go gadgets. While spending time outside, you can harness power from the sun, wind and water to charge devices that can make your camping experience even better.

One example is a portable light powered by the sun, like BioLite's portable solar light. The device includes a built-in solar panel that can be placed on a backpack during the day. In about seven hours of charging in the sun, you can reach 50 hours of burn time from the small device. Just think, after a full day of exploring, you can relax in your tent and enjoy a new book. This product is just one of many by BioLite, which sells various products meant for off-grid households and recreational use of fuel-independent charging.

LuminAID offers a similar product, the PackLite Firefly USB, which is an inflatable lantern with five lighting modes. The device is compact, waterproof and portable in size for easy charging on the go. The Packlite Firefly USB needs about 10 hours of sunlight to fully charge.

If you want a smaller solar-powered gadget for lighting, try products like Davis Instruments LightCap. This cap fits any 2-inch water bottle, like those sold by Nalgene or Camelback, and it's extremely convenient since you don't need to worry about the gadget as long as you keep it on your water bottle. At night, the water bottle lights up from the cap shining through. A few different versions are available on Amazon for about \$30 or less.

To power all your USB-based devices, such as cell phones, speakers, camp lights or GoPros, you can walk around with a USB solar backpack. There are several varieties of backpacks available from different manufacturers, ranging in price from \$50 to more than \$200, and normally taking about four to six hours to fully charge.

For longer camping trips, there are portable showers that can be heated by the sun. The reservoir bag holds



Today, while exploring and adventuring, you can also stay connected. Nature already provides energy that can power various on-the-go gadgets. Outdoors enthusiasts can harness power from the sun, wind and water to charge devices that make camping even better.



LuminAID's PackLite Firefly USB is an inflatable lantern with five lighting modes. The device is compact, waterproof and portable for easy charging on the go. It can be charged by direct sunlight (about 10 hours) or through a micro USB input (one to two hours). Photo Credit: LuminAID

five gallons of water, which can be used for multiple showers, and warms up through a heat-locking material when left in the sun. These are convenient for camping but could also come in handy for emergencies when hot water isn't accessible. Solar-powered portable showers are available from different manufacturers. Visit Amazon.com or check local retail stores like Walmart and Cabela's to review your options.

When the skies are cloudy or there's a lot of tree coverage, there are additional energy sources to be found in nature. Although less common, another way to charge your USB devices is by using a small turbine by Waterlily that harnesses either wind or hydro energy. By letting the turbine run in the wind



Who says you can't listen to your favorite songs in the great outdoors? LuminAID's Suncat Solar-Powered Speaker is waterproof, sandproof and ideal for use anywhere. Photo Credit: LuminAID

or in a fast-moving stream, you can charge any of your devices. Even when there isn't a strong gust or a fast stream, the turbine comes with a hand crank that generates power as well. Visit www.waterlilyturbine.com for more information.

Just five years ago, many of these gadgets were still prototypes, and now most of them are easily accessible to buy online. Thanks to these advances, we can enjoy the outdoors and stay connected while keeping a clean footprint.

Maria Kanevsky is a program manager 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.



Did you know the refrigerator is one of the biggest energy hogs in your home? Use these simple tips on how to keep your fridge running efficiently.

- **REMEMBER TO COOL DOWN.** Warm food in the refrigerator forces the appliance to adjust the temperature, using more energy.
- **A FULL FRIDGE IS A HAPPY FRIDGE.** When your refrigerator and freezer are full, the appliance runs more efficiently.
- **KEEP IT CLEAN.** Remember to clean dust and dirt from the coils behind or underneath the refrigerator.
- **TAKE COVER.** Uncovered food and liquids release moisture and force the compressor to work harder.



Photo source: General Electric

Industry News

Researchers: Bitcoin's carbon footprint equal to Las Vegas

The virtual currency bitcoin is responsible for the same amount of carbon dioxide emissions as a city like Las Vegas or Hamburg and efforts to reduce its climate footprint should be considered, researchers said.

A study by researchers at the Technical University of Munich and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, examined how much power is consumed by computers used to generate bitcoins and process transactions.

Writing in the journal *Joule*, researchers said they then combined the results with the carbon emissions from electricity production in the countries where the computers were located. They concluded that, in late 2018, the entire bitcoin network was responsible for 22-22.9 million tons of CO2 per year — similar to a large Western city or an entire developing country like Sri Lanka. Total global emissions of greenhouse gas from the burning of fossil fuels were about 37 billion tons last year

~Associated Press

Texas regulated power prices near par with deregulated prices

Texans who live in Houston, Dallas, Corpus Christi and other parts of the state where electricity prices are deregulated have consistently paid more for power than Texans who live in cities such as Austin and San Antonio where power prices are regulated.

But the difference has almost completely vanished, according to a new study of power prices by the Texas Coalition for Affordable Power, a group of cities that buys electricity in deregulated markets. The coalition reported the gap has narrowed so much that there's not much price difference anymore between those who must choose their electricity provider like they choose their cable company and those whose power is provided by a municipal utility or electric cooperative.

The average cost of residential deregulated electricity in Texas was 11.1 cents per kilowatt hour in 2017, according to the coalition, compared to 10.8 cents per kilowatt hour in areas exempt from deregulation. The coalition, which used data from the Department of Energy, said the gap hasn't been this narrow since electricity deregulation began in Texas in 2002.

The biggest gap was in 2006 when residential customers in the deregulated parts of Texas paid nearly 14.8 cents per kilowatt hour, or \$732 more per year, than those who lived in regulated areas and paid 10.1 cents per kilowatt hour for their power.

In 2017, customers in the deregulated parts of Texas paid only \$18.88 more a year than those who live in regulated areas, the smallest amount on record, according to the coalition.

~Houston Chronicle

EPA gives coal a reprieve

Amid scientists' increasingly urgent warnings, the Trump administration ordered a sweeping about-face Wednesday on Obama-era efforts to fight climate change, easing restrictions on coal-fired power plants in a move it predicted would revitalize America's sagging coal industry.

As miners in hard hats and coal-country lawmakers applauded, Environmental Protection Agency chief Andrew Wheeler signed a measure that scraps one of President Barack Obama's key initiatives to rein in fossil fuel emissions. The replacement rule gives states more leeway in deciding whether to require plants to make limited efficiency upgrades. Wheeler said he expects more coal plants to open as a result. But one state, New York, immediately said it would go to court to challenge the action, and more lawsuits are likely.

The EPA move follows pledges by candidate and then President Donald Trump to rescue the U.S. coal industry, which saw near-record numbers of plant closings last year in the face of competition from cheaper natural gas and renewables. It's the latest and one of the biggest of dozens of environmental regulatory rollbacks by his administration.

"Americans want reliable energy that they can afford," Wheeler declared at the signing ceremony, with White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney alongside to underscore Trump's approval. There's no denying "fossil fuels will continue to be an important part of the mix," Wheeler said.

~Associated Press

Air conditioner tips to stay cool and save money this summer



The summer heat is here and the Minnesota Commerce Department has air conditioner tips to help you keep your home cool while also saving money.

AC maintenance and repair

AC systems should be inspected annually. Proper maintenance will improve your AC's safety and performance, reduce energy use and electricity costs, and prolong the life of your system.

Meeker Co-op offers a rebate program for central A/C or Air Source Heat Pump unit five years or older. You can receive \$25 back when you have your unit "tuned-up" by a professional. Call us at 320-693-3231 for details.

You can receive a \$100 rebate on your central air unit maintenance if you enroll on our money-saving Cycled A/C Program and another rebate up to \$100 for a tune-up of your unit five years old or older. If you are already on our Cycled A/C program, your tune-up rebate will be \$25.

What you can do

Between annual checkups, homeowners can do several things to keep AC systems operating efficiently and safely.

One essential maintenance task is to routinely replace or clean AC filters. Clogged, dirty filters block normal airflow and reduce a system's efficiency.

Central AC filters are usually located in the return duct near the furnace or air handler, while room air conditioners have a filter mounted in the grill that faces into the room. Location #36-32-301

Ductless or high-velocity systems also have filters that need cleaning or replacing

on a regular basis. Some filters may require more frequent attention if the AC is in constant use, operating in dusty conditions or there are fur-shedding pets in the house.

Other do-it-yourself AC maintenance tips include:

- Keep the area around the outside unit free of foliage or anything that can block airflow.
- Make sure the coils of the outside unit don't get clogged with leaves, dust or other debris. This can affect A/C efficiency. Clear the coils by spraying with a water hose.
- For window units, keep filters clean, make sure drain lines are clear and away from siding, and check for proper sealing between the window and the unit.

If your central air or window A/C needs to be replaced and you are looking for the most energy and cost-efficient option, you can't do better than an Air Source Heat Pump. They will cool your home during the summer at up to 300 percent efficiency! Even better, they can provide supplemental heat in the winter at around 200 percent efficiency...all with one unit.

For the most savings, putting your heat pump on the Co-op's Energy Management program will earn you the privilege of cooling and heating your home with nearly half-price electricity through our low Energy Management electric rate.

Call the Co-op and ask to speak with one of our knowledgeable Energy Management Technicians for more information or to take the next step and learn about our \$100 Energy Management rebate.

BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.

■ WATER

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.

■ TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.

■ FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.



Learn more at www.ready.gov

Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency

STATE FAIR Senior Day August 29



Enjoy all the fun of the Minnesota State Fair with none of the driving, parking and standing in the ticket line! Join fellow members and Co-op personnel for a luxury motorcoach trip to the State Fair for Senior Day and leave all the worries to us!

We'll leave Meeker Co-op's parking lot at 8 a.m., spend about 7 hours at the fair and leave about 4:30 p.m. before the fair gets really crowded. Your time and all meals at the fair are on your own.

Price includes the bus, the fair entrance ticket, and snacks/beverages on the bus.

Costs: Seniors (65 and over) \$24
Adults \$29
Kids (5-12) \$27
Kids under 5: FREE

Everyone on the bus must have a cell phone and supply the trip host with your cell phone number before the bus leaves Litchfield.

Deadline: August 24, or when bus fills

State Fair Member Trips

Please reserve _____ places for the State Fair Bus Trip on August 29

Name(s): _____

Account Number: _____ Phone: _____

Member Cost: Sr. \$24; Adult \$29; Kids \$27 Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Return to: Meeker Cooperative, ATTN: Becky Sorenson, 1725 US Hwy. 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355 by August 24.

Rainbow Salsa

Sandy Mueller of Eden Valley submitted this month's winning recipe for Rainbow Salsa. She will have \$10 credited to her account. Congratulations!

Rainbow Salsa

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Roma tomatoes, cored and diced | 1 cup chopped fresh cilantro, loosely packed |
| 1-2 jalapeno peppers, seeded and diced | 1/2 cup chopped red onion |
| 1 large red bell pepper, cored and diced | 2 Tbsp. freshly squeezed lime juice |
| 1 large yellow bell pepper, cored and diced | 1/2 tsp. garlic powder |
| 1 (15 oz.) can black beans, drained/rinsed | 1/2 tsp. cumin |
| 1 (15 oz.) can whole kernel corn, drained | 1/2 tsp. salt |

Combine the first nine ingredients and set aside. In a separate bowl, whisk together the lime juice, garlic powder, curry and salt until combined. Serve immediately or cover and refrigerate for up to 48 hours. Location # 02-24-433

Serve with tortilla scoops.

For August, submit your favorite Apple Recipe by July 30 to:
Meeker Cooperative, ATTN: Becky Sorenson,
1725 US Hwy 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355

Safety Tips for Portable, Standby Generators

Generators can be a lifesaver for some after a major storm, and can improve the quality of life during restoration of an outage.

"However, it's critical that proper safety precautions be taken to prevent accidents that could affect you, a family member, neighbor, or utility lineworker," says Molly Hall, Director of SafeElectricity.org.

Generators can be temporarily or permanently installed. A permanent generator is wired into a house by a qualified electrician using a transfer switch. This protects you, your neighbors, and repair crews from electricity backfeeding onto power lines. This can seriously injure anyone near those lines, especially co-op crews working to restore power. A temporary generator fired by gasoline or diesel fuel should not be attached to a circuit breaker, fuse, or outlet.

Because the improper use of a standby generator can lead to injury or death, SafeElectricity.org urges you to follow these tips to keep you and your family safe:

- Read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions to properly ground the generator. Be sure you understand them before starting it up.



Portable generators are helpful during an extended power outage, but they can be extremely dangerous if not used properly.

- Standby generators should have a transfer safety switch installed by a professional. Portable generators should never be plugged directly into a home outlet or electrical system—use an extension cord to plug appliances into an outlet on the generator.
- Never operate a generator in a confined area, such as a garage or basement. Generators produce gases, including deadly carbon monoxide. They require proper ventilation.

- Generators pose electrical risks, especially when operated in wet conditions. Use a generator only when necessary when the weather creates wet or moist conditions. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles or drain under it. Always ensure that your hands are dry before touching the generator. Location # 28-29-306
- When you refuel the generator, make sure the engine is cool to prevent a fire, should the tank overflow.
- There should be nothing plugged into the generator when you turn it on. This prevents a surge from damaging your generator and appliances.
- Be sure to keep children and pets away from the generator, which could burn them.

For more safety information on the use of portable and standby generators and safety after a storm, go to SafeElectricity.org.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When it's warm out, avoid using the oven. Try cooking on the stove, using the microwave or grilling outside instead.

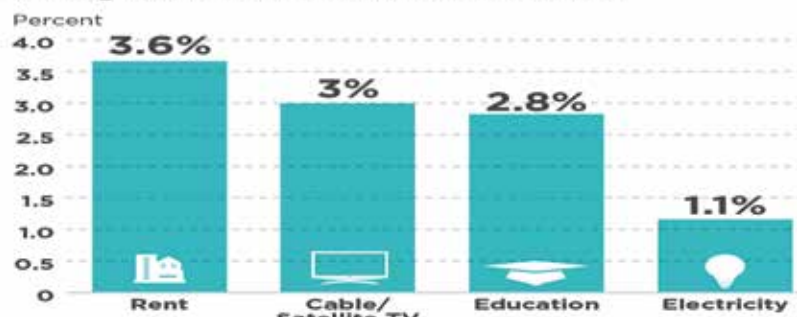
Source: *energy.gov*



ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

Average Annual Price Increase 2013-2018



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Consumer Price Index

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. Submit again for addtl. months. Three ads per member per month limit. Include your name and address, which will be used for identification purposes only. Ads received by **July 30** will be included in the August 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 _____

Please check ad category

- ___ For Sale, Misc.
- ___ Agricultural
- ___ Automotive
- ___ Wanted
- ___ Giveaway
- ___ Service
- ___ For Rent

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

For Sale - Miscellaneous

- Lump charcoal for all charcoal grills. \$12/20-lb bag. 239-738-0303.
- 1949-50 3hp Evinrude outboard motor. \$100. 239-738-0303.
- Antique spinning wheel, working cond. \$100. 320-398-2216.

- Gun safe. Browning Medallion Pro steel, 26x30. Lk. new. \$600/obo. 320-275-2493.
- Mercury 10-inch garden tiller, works gd. 320-693-8464.
- Roman shade blinds, blueberry, 2 38x67. \$30. 320-420-2649.
- Utility trailer, 6' x 8'. \$200. 320-398-8582.

- 2001 600VLX Honda Shadow, 12k mi., runs grt. \$2,800. 320-979-0605.
- Peis/Jotus #1 wood burning stove. \$200. 320-310-1963.
- EZGO Elec. golf cart, runs grt. \$950. 320-212-8545.
- Twin XL mattress, used 8 mo., covered. \$75. 320-398-2774.
- Men's black Harley leather jacket, size L, lk. new. \$275. 320-905-6597.
- Stihl MM55 roto tiller. \$75. 763-607-1794.
- 150cc Schwinn Graduate motor scooter. \$500. 763-607-1794.
- Elec. ignition water pump, Northern Indust. Tool 1.2, #999362. \$70. 763-607-1794.

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 July 30, 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!



- Fish trap Yukon fish hse. VG cond. \$250. 612-819-7921.
- Ice fishing auger, heater, locator, misc. equip. 612-819-7921.
- Haier Keg Meister, Co2, 16-gal., very gd. cond. \$225. 612-819-7921.
- Antique 45" dia. oak pedestal table. \$125. 320-275-4059.
- 20-ft. Weeres pontoon, 2004, 40hp Johnson 4-stroke motor. 320-223-3801.
- G.M. 256 cylinder engine. Make offer. 320-221-3461.
- Titan airless paint sprayer. Used very little. Exc. cond. \$175. 320-275-2421.
- Zap-it Game Wave System. 6-player remotes/4 games. \$300. 320-275-2421.
- Charcoal grill \$20; 6' cedar swing stand/rope swing, \$30. 612-710-4112.
- Anti-gravity chair \$30. 612-710-4112.
- Fence pole driver, 12 5-1/2 ft. steel posts, 2 sect. snow fence. \$40. 612-710-4112.
- 2005 StarCraft hard-sided camper w/popouts. Sleeps 6. Kit., heat/AC. \$4,000. 320-224-7506.
- Diehard 12C-A, drycharge motorcycle/ATV battery, new. \$35. 320-275-4059.
- "The Golden Hour" by Derk Hansen. Beaut. Lighthse. Scene. \$75. 320-275-4059.

- Full/Twin adj. bed frame on wheels. 320-693-8405.
- Metal picnic table 3' x 4-1/2'; 2 metal chairs. 320-693-8405.
- Ducks Unlimited Green Wings tricycle, horn, 10"/8" wheels. 320-693-8405.
- Screen tent, \$10. New brown plastic planters, 8"x24" \$16. 612-710-4112.
- LP Grills: foldable deck size, \$35; Sm. picnic/camp, \$10. Exc. cond. 320-221-2487.
- Picnic cooler, L 100-qt., exc. cond. \$20. 320-221-2487.
- 20-lb. LP tanks: 1 full, \$15; 1 empty, \$10. Exc. cond. 320-221-2487.
- Garden Cart, wood w/steel frame, 37"L x 26"W, can tow. \$45. 952-938-8269.
- Picnic table, redwood, new boards, bench style. \$45. 952-938-8269.
- Dog kennel 6'H x 5'W x 18'L. Large Dogloo doghouse, lk. new. 320-275-3601.

For Sale - Agricultural

- 10-24 ft. free-standing cattle panels. \$260/ea. 320-333-6540.
- Location # 25-33-148
- Bantam Red old English chicks, hatched May 6. Real nice. 320-693-8464.
- 3 pt. 8' Ford disc. \$525/obo. Leave msg. 320-293-6050.

Wanted

- Help learning Dobro. 320-333-6330.
- Collecting Lk. Superior agates. 320-493-7555.
- 12 or 16-gal. stainless milk pail; elec. barn fogger/cow fly sprayer. 320-693-8340.

Giveaway

- Large roof antenna, exc. cond. Should improve local reception. 612-616-6481.
- Approx. 75 concrete blocks. 719-209-8146.

Services

- Quality paint/stain, int./ext. decks, woodwork. Perfect Paint. 320-201-3076.