

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



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A Barrel Of Fun:

Portable Sauna Is Good Fundraiser, Too



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January 2015
Vol. 35, No. 1

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Publisher
**Michigan Electric
Cooperative Association**

Design and Layout
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Michigan Country Lines, USPS-591-710, is published monthly, except August and December, with periodicals postage paid at Okemos, MI, and additional offices. It is the official publication of the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864.

Subscriptions are authorized for members of Alger Delta, Cherryland, Cloverland, Great Lakes, HomeWorks Tri-County, Midwest Energy, Ontonagon, Presque Isle, and Thumb electric cooperatives by their boards of directors. Subscriptions for nonmembers are \$6 per year.

POSTMASTER: SEND ALL UAA TO CFS.

Letters to the editor should be sent to Country Lines, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864. Phone 517-913-3531. **Email:** gknudtson@meca.coop.

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ON THE COVER*

Zeak DeWyse is a builder and electric co-op member who has started a new business making portable, barrel saunas. Called the U.P. Sauna Company, their cedar saunas are suitable for most any landscape, but are also proving to be a good fundraising draw for charitable causes.

Photo—Shawn Malone/lakesuperiorphoto.com



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Greetings

from Cherryland Electric Cooperative

All Energy Sources Have Value

Value Marketing 101 teaches us that if you are selling a product, you need to convince the consuming public that it has value. If it is a higher-priced product, you really need to focus on value and maybe even attack your competition directly.

Talking about value is a regular occurrence in the energy industry. Proponents of wind and solar energy want to talk about how these forms of energy benefit society because they lack the greenhouse gases associated with coal and natural gas. An often-used term is the “social cost of carbon” and how society is paying a high price due to a myriad of climate change consequences. We seem to be moving from a scientific debate to one of economics.

If you believe there is a cost to society in the burning of carbon fuels, then you have to agree that there is value in nuclear energy, which emits no pollutants. What about the waste? What about the fact that wind and solar products are manufactured and transported through the use of carbon-based fuels? If we reduce an existing coal plant’s emissions, build newer and better coal plants, or construct natural gas generation (60 percent less carbon than coal), we can reduce pollutants in the air. How come this is not supported by proponents of the social cost of carbon?

If there is value in no carbon, there has to be value in less carbon. Yet, a segment of our society says “no” to anything but wind and solar. Think about this: Hawaii and California have an abundance of sun. Yet, they are not 100 percent renewable. Heck, Hawaii is not even at 50 percent. How can this be? It is because there is real value in the reliability of around-the-clock electricity. The sun sets every day and the wind doesn’t always blow, but from the shores of Maine to Hawaii’s beaches, society demands electricity every minute of every day.

Think about this: What is the value of 24/7/365 electricity to any hospital or business in any city in this country? It is hard for some to admit that coal, natural gas or nuclear energy might actually contribute to the success of our nation every day. Take the granddaddy of all generation—the coal plant. Then, think about something as simple as refrigeration. Have lives not been enhanced, extended and saved by this one simple invention? What has powered this invention for more hours over more years than absolutely any other form of energy? Now, let’s hear that argument about coal having no value.

What is my point? Our electric co-op does support wind, solar and other renewables but we also need coal, natural gas and nuclear. We need to all get behind making every form of energy better tomorrow than it was yesterday. You can’t market the virtues of one while ignoring the benefits of the other. Like it or not, they *all* have value. ■



Tony Anderson
General Manager

Crystal Mountain is Big Fan of Patronage Capital, EO Program

Just ask Jim MacInnes about Cherryland Electric Cooperative's "patronage capital" returns and his face lights up like...well, a Christmas tree.

"We appreciate the capital credit returns because they effectively lower our electricity cost," says Jim, who, along with his wife Chris, are the owners of Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville, a long-time Cherryland member. "And not only does it lower our costs, but it allows us to invest that capital in projects like the continuing upgrading of our snowmaking system. That's essential to not only keeping our slopes open, but maintaining the pristine condition of the slopes."

Patronage capital returns, or "capital credits," is money or credit returned to Cherryland members after the cooperative's bills are paid for that year. In 2014, Cherryland returned a record \$4.3 million to its 34,000 members. The amount received depends on how long the member has been on Cherryland's lines and how much electricity is used.

"Patronage capital is what sets co-ops apart," explains Cherryland board president, Terry Lautner. "There are other things co-ops do that our members appreciate, but returning money to them as either a credit on their bill, or a check for our larger members, is always popular." Cherryland directors and employees compared notes at the November board meeting, nothing how many phone calls and face-to-face conversations they had with members who appreciated getting help with their bills just before the holidays.

Returning patronage capital, plus educating members on the importance of energy optimization and conservation, is important to both Cherryland's mission, and to its members. Crystal Mountain, for instance, finds huge savings in energy optimization. "We've always been on the cutting edge of energy optimization," MacInnes says. "Reducing consumption of energy and materials is a core business strategy here. We invest in LED lighting for our rooms and public spaces. We monitor our energy consumption on a daily basis and we use electric vehicles. Those are just a few of the things we stress at Crystal."

Crystal and Cherryland have worked hand-in-hand over the years to develop more ways to save energy, and money. "Some of the energy optimization credits and other incentives provided by Cherryland have made a real difference in the decision to move forward with projects," MacInnes adds. "Ultimately, an energy-saving device represents a long term annuity of costs savings that goes well beyond the payback period."

With their patronage capital money in hand and the latest in energy optimization being utilized, Crystal is looking forward to a banner ski season in 2015. "We got off to an early start because of the snow we got in mid-November," MacInnes says. "We always try to offer something new to our guests, and this year is no different."

Crystal has opened two new slopes this year—a glades run named "Last Call," and a beginner's park called "Jester's Alley." Their Burton Learn-to-Ride Center will be just the sixth in the Midwest. Off-slope, Crystal will be expanding its fat tire bike trail system and the Michigan Legacy Art Park will have dedicated snowshoe trails in which to enjoy its 48 sculptures. ■

– Nick Edson



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EATING ETHNIC

Experience distant lands with these flavorful dishes.

Moroccan Tagine in Crockpot *(pictured)*

Olive oil	1 T. honey
6–8 pieces bone-in or boneless pork or chicken	1 cinnamon stick
McCormick® Moroccan Seasoning	$\frac{2}{3}$ c. dried apricots, chopped
$2\frac{1}{2}$ c. chopped onions	2 15-oz. cans chickpeas
$\frac{1}{4}$ c. finely chopped garlic	$\frac{1}{4}$ c. cilantro leaves (optional)
1 c. unsalted stock (chicken, pork or vegetable)	Lemon wedges (optional)

Heat a large skillet on medium-high heat. Add olive oil to pan; swirl to coat. Sprinkle meat with Moroccan seasoning. Add meat to pan and cook 5 minutes until well-browned. Remove from pan and let rest (do not brown the other side). Add extra olive oil if needed, onions and garlic. Sauté for 4 minutes. Add more Moroccan seasoning to taste, cook another minute stirring constantly to loosen browned bits. Add stock, honey and cinnamon stick; bring to a simmer. Carefully pour mixture into crockpot. Stir in apricots and chickpeas. Arrange meat so the browned side is on top of the chickpea mixture. Cover; cook on low for 7 hours. If desired, garnish with cilantro and lemon wedges. Serves great alongside couscous, quinoa or rice.

Leann Butler, Wolverine

Cream Cheese Kieflies

1 c. real butter	1 egg yolk
8-ozs. cream cheese	$2\frac{1}{2}$ c. flour

Filling:

2 c. nuts (pecans), ground fine	$\frac{1}{2}$ c. honey
1 egg white, beaten stiff	$1\frac{1}{2}$ c. powdered sugar

Mix all ingredients and shape into teaspoon-size balls. Refrigerate overnight. Take out about 5 from fridge at a time. Roll out until paper thin. Fill each pastry with 1 teaspoon of filling. Roll like a candy kiss and pinch each end. Place on ungreased cookie sheet and bake at 400° until brown.

Barbara Kedik, Dowagiac

Congratulations

to Patsy Castagne-Miller of Pickford. Her name was drawn from all readers whose recipes we printed in 2014 and *Country Lines* magazine will pay her January electric bill (up to \$200) as a prize.



Patsy and her family have been Cloverland Electric Cooperative members for nine years. Besides cooking and creating, she loves the outdoors, and her other hobbies are growing flowers and vegetables. "I love to try new recipes all the time," she says. "Some people say I can make great soups!"

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "**Healthy Living**" recipes by **Jan. 10** and your favorite "**Pizza**" recipes by **Feb. 10**.

Mail (handwritten or typed on one side, please) to: *Country Lines* Recipes, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864; or email recipes@countrylines.com.

Contributors whose recipes we print in 2015 will be entered in a drawing and *Country Lines* will pay the winner's January 2016 electric bill (up to \$200)!

Visit countrylines.com for more reader recipes!

Photos—831 Creative

Electric Capacity Shortfall Projected for 2016



Craig Borr, CEO,
Michigan Electric
Cooperative
Association

Have you ever wondered why a grocery store builds 15 check-out lanes, but only has three of them open most of the time? Simply put, the store has built its “lane capacity” to meet peak demand, the roughly 10 percent of the year when the store is busiest.

It works the same way for electricity providers, including your electric cooperative. Most of the time

there are enough power plants and renewable resources running to meet our member-owners’ needs. At other times, particularly on very hot or cold days, energy needs increase and additional electricity is needed to meet this “peak demand”.

Unlike the grocery store, where a capacity shortfall means a longer wait in line, a shortfall in electric capacity can cause the lights to go out. And, it is your electric cooperative’s job to make sure it has the capacity to meet its members’ maximum need at all times.

The startling fact, however, is that the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) estimates that Michigan’s Lower Peninsula is facing a 3,000-megawatt (MW) capacity shortfall as early as 2016. The “mitten” needs roughly 15 percent more generating capacity than is currently operating. Ironically, MISO is projecting the Upper Peninsula will actually have a small amount of excess capacity beginning next year.

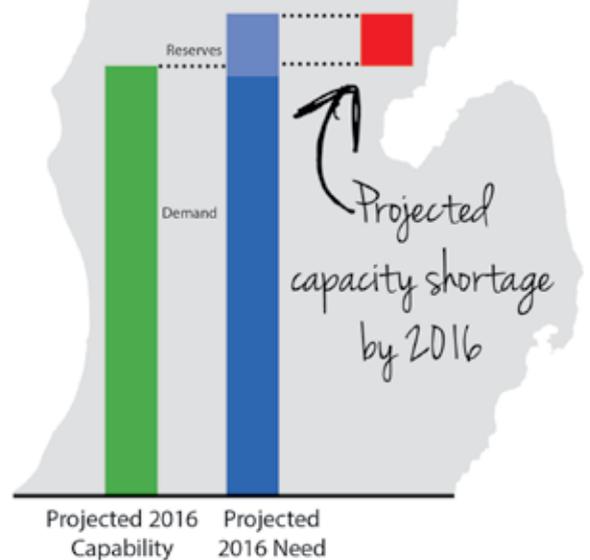
What is causing this projected deficiency, why should you care, and what are electric cooperatives doing to ensure that the lights stay on for you, our member-owners?

Who is MISO and why are they projecting a shortfall?

MISO is the independent nonprofit grid operator, based in Carmel, IN, that is responsible for operating wholesale electricity markets in both of our peninsulas, much of the Midwest, and parts of Canada. Electric utilities in MISO are required to have enough generating capacity to meet their projected peak needs as well as a 15 percent “reserve” margin each year.

Lower Peninsula utilities, MISO warns, will not have adequate generation and reserves, starting in 2016, because of projected growth in electricity sales combined with the closure of many, older coal-fired power plants throughout Michigan and the Midwest that will not meet

Projected Capacity Needs for 2016, Lower Peninsula



new air quality standards required by the Environmental Protection Agency.

What are electric co-ops doing to meet the projected shortfall?

Wolverine Power Cooperative, the Cadillac-based wholesale power supplier to five of Michigan’s nine electric distribution cooperatives, is certainly doing its part.

In October 2015, Wolverine announced the development of a new, 400-plus megawatt clean natural gas-fueled electric peaking plant. Located west of Gaylord, it would meet the future needs of Wolverine’s member distribution cooperatives. However, *the Lower Peninsula needs nearly seven more plants of this size if it expects to meet MISO’s estimated shortfall.*

Wolverine is working to obtain necessary approvals from local, state and regional agencies, and if all goes well, construction on the plant could begin later this year. Named the Alpine Generating Plant, Wolverine will use clean natural gas to generate electricity during times of peak demand and to generate energy that complements the ever-increasing amount of intermittent renewable energy in our state.

Even more capacity needs to be built soon.

I am proud to say that Wolverine is doing its part to meet the future needs of its member cooperatives, as are others, such as municipal electric utilities in Lansing and Holland. But we need more capacity to be built very soon.

To learn more about the exciting new Alpine project, visit alpinecleanenergy.com. ■

Who's Your Legislator?

A s a guide to help you understand who represents you in the Michigan Legislature, we have listed here all the legislators (both House and Senate) that represent districts that include the Cherryland Electric Cooperative service area (see map, below). Whatever their background, most represent districts with large rural populations, which are areas where electric co-ops serve. In fact, several legislators are electric co-op members themselves.

There are a total of 44 new members in the Michigan House of Representatives and 10 new members in the Senate.

Legislation affecting cooperatives and their owners most likely originates in those committees covering utilities, energy, technology, transportation, environment, land use, safety and taxes.

Michigan House of Representatives

In the House, Republicans continue to hold the majority, by 63-47. The House district lines are the same, since the redistricting process that occurs every 10 years was established in the last election. Visit house.mi.gov for more information.



Rep. Ray Franz
(R-Onekema)
101st District
(517) 373-0825



Rep. Phil Potvin
(R-Cadillac)
102nd District
(517) 373-1747



Rep. Bruce Rendon
(R-Lake City)
103rd District
(517) 373-3817



Rep. Larry Inman
(R- Traverse City)
104th District
(517) 373-1766

Michigan Senate

In the Senate, Republicans also continue to hold the majority, by 27-11. Unlike the House, the Senate ran for the first time under new district lines. Visit senate.mi.gov for more information. ■



Sen. Darwin Booher
(R-Evart)
35th District
(517) 373-1725



Sen. Wayne Schmidt
(R- Traverse City)
37th District
(517) 373-2413



**Cherryland Electric Cooperative
Service Area**

Be Ready for Your Opportunity



Nick Edson

We all need a Ben Bradlee in our lives. Bradlee was the late, but great, *Washington Post* managing editor who molded young writers with “tough love.” That is, he could be gruff and to the point. But you always knew where you stood with him and he completely cared about his craft...and his people. The bottom line for him was: “You put in an honest effort and work hard and I’ll have your back all day long.” We all need those kinds of people in our lives.

My “Ben Bradlee” was a former *Associated Press* White House correspondent named Stan Bradshaw, who later became one of my journalism instructors at Central Michigan University. When I wrote my first paper for his class, I was sure he wouldn’t have to do much editing and would come back with words of praise. Instead, it was marked full of red lines (that’s not good) and a note saying, “See me in my office.”

His office was right across from the student newspaper, *CM Life*, where I hung out whenever I could, trying to catch on as a regular writer. Since I was a freshman, I was looked upon as someone who could go get coffee or take the low-ranking stories no one else wanted. So, I was nervous when I went into Mr. Bradshaw’s office the following afternoon. My advantage in this situation, in looking back, was that I had played a lot of sports in high school and was used to “constructive criticism.” I had learned not to take it personally and to listen and learn.

It turned out to be one of the best lessons I’ve ever learned in life.

Mr. Bradshaw was a short, squat man who didn’t talk as much as he barked. He saw me enter his office and I thought I detected a small smile on his face. He didn’t make small talk. He just started talking about my writing. “Mr. Edson, forget about the red marks—which you deserved. I see in you a writer with potential...if you have the right attitude to match that potential. If you do have the right attitude, we may be onto something. If you don’t, then we don’t have anything.”

Over the next few months, I worked hard for Mr. Bradshaw and *CM Life*. After awhile, the amount of red ink on my papers started to lessen. We’d sit in his office and talk about what he called “the art of writing.” He suggested I take poetry classes “because good writing is like good music—it has a tempo.” So, I did.

In the meantime, my hours of doing mop-up work at *CM Life*—writing ski swap stories, getting coffees and writing headlines—came to an abrupt halt one memorable afternoon. Our basketball beat writer burst into the office two days before the season opener and announced that because of his schedule—he wanted to graduate on time—he couldn’t write for the paper anymore. My sports editor was crestfallen. He had nowhere to turn. So, this little voice inside me—buoyed by my coaching from Mr. Bradshaw—spoke up. “I can be your basketball writer,” I offered. “And if you don’t like the job I’m doing, you can take me off the beat anytime with no hard feelings.” He wasn’t relieved that a young freshman was now his head basketball writer, but he didn’t have any other choice. And, I’m proud to say I went on to be the *CM Life* basketball writer for two years before taking over as sports editor myself. But the lesson learned was simple and ties back to Ben Bradlee—work hard, don’t be above doing any little job, and be ready when opportunity presents itself...because it will. ■

Scholarships Offered By Cherryland

Cherryland offers five scholarships—three worth \$4,000 (\$1,000 for four years) for high school seniors, and two for \$1,000 each for adult scholarships (post high school).

High school seniors whose parents or guardians currently receive electric service from Cherryland and live in our service area may apply for the \$4,000 scholarships. Selection is based on grade point average, extracurricular activities, community involvement and/or after school employment. A minimum required GPA is 2.75 on a 4.0 system. To continue receiving the scholarship, students must maintain a minimum college course load of 12 credits per term or semester and receive a 2.5 GPA or higher.

Those interested in applying for the \$1,000 adult education scholarships must also be Cherryland members. The scholarships go toward covering the cost of a course or courses taken in a calendar year and will be awarded on the basis of need, grades and community service. It is a one-time award.

Members may fill out an application at cherrylandelectric.coop or request an application by emailing Nick Edson, communications coordinator, at nedson@cecelec.com (please include your name and address), or by calling 486-9222 or writing to him at Cherryland Electric Cooperative, 5930 U.S. 31 South, Grawn, MI 49637.





Zeak DeWyse (standing, far right) has a crew of six local workers that help him handcraft his company's unique barrel saunas.

Photo—Shawn Malone/Lake Superior Graphics



A Barrel Of Fun:

Portable Sauna Is Good Fundraiser, Too

It's 18 degrees outside. Steam rises from a large hole cut in the middle of Millecoquin Lake. A mixed group of younger and older people are standing around looking like they're getting ready to go to the beach, except their lips are quivering and their teeth chattering. They're getting ready to take the "Polar Bear Plunge" challenge to benefit the Engadine Intermediate School District.

Luckily, after their plunge, warmth awaits these "polar bears" in what looks like a huge wooden keg resting on its side on the frozen lake. The attractive, cedar-hewn structure is actually a sauna, built by the Upper Peninsula Sauna Company in tiny Engadine, MI. Saunas and polar bear plunges certainly aren't new in the U.P., but this type of barrel sauna is definitely a novelty that is catching on fast because they are extremely mobile (trailerable) or can be stationary, and fit into most any lifestyle and landscape.

The saunas are manufactured by a seasoned crew of builders led by Zeak DeWyse, a local, licensed contractor and owner of DeWyse Construction. A Cloverland Electric Co-op member, DeWyse says he was looking for another source of income that would keep his crew busy when he latched onto the idea of building barrel saunas.

"It wasn't my original idea," DeWyse says about the sauna's unique construction. "I saw one for sale on the west end of the U.P." He also bought a barrel-shaped sauna from a backyard mechanic that he and his building crew used as a prototype. The saunas the DeWyse crew builds are crafted out of cedar felled from the woods near Engadine and sawn in local mills.

The Upper Peninsula Sauna Company is a welcome addition to the community and to the employees of DeWyse Construction. DeWyse says it has allowed his workers to stay busy during inclement weather. The company is a part of DeWyse Construction and shares the



The cozy barrel sauna holds four adults comfortably and comes with a custom-fabricated woodstove, solar lights, a thermo-hygrometer, water pail, and a cedar spoon. The stove rocks all come from the U.P.

same building—a very old one on Main Street—which was vacant for several years.

"It's working out really well that my guys aren't losing days from their income," DeWyse explains. "When it rains everybody comes to the shop and we build saunas, so that's been kind of a gift for our employees."

Supporting local events is nothing new for the DeWyse company. They're very much involved with the community, especially the schools, and helping other volunteers with fundraisers, parades, and similar events. The saunas are a good draw and have been used to raise funds for different causes. Besides the Polar Bear Plunge, DeWyse recently offered a barrel sauna to anyone who can make a hole-in-one during golf scrambles. The prize is placed on the designated hole.

Along with beating the winter blues, DeWyse adds, there are health benefits to taking a sauna, including removing toxins from your body and sweating-out colds, the flu, and sore muscles—and avoiding hypothermia after an icy plunge in a lake! ■

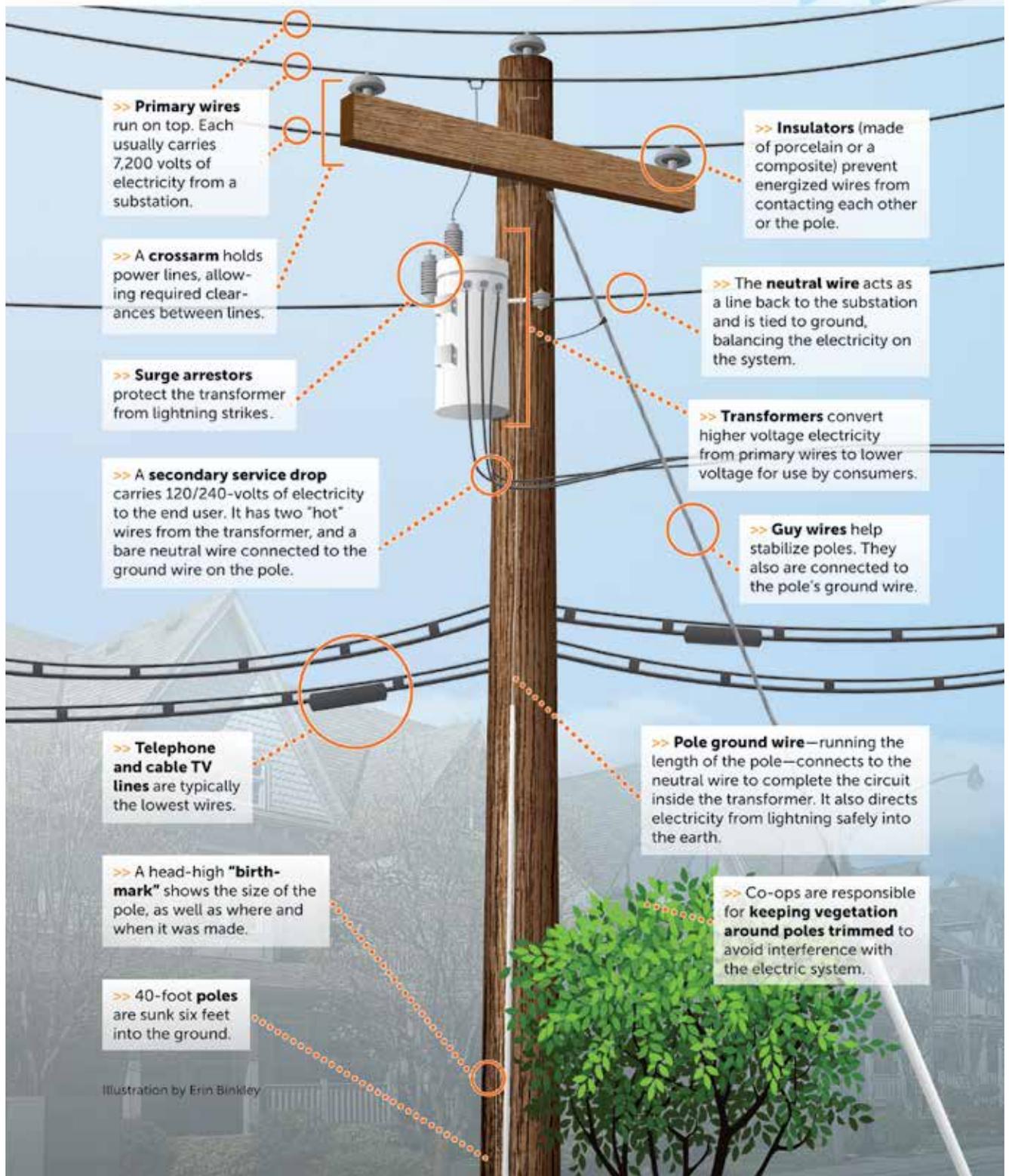
Below: An aerial view of the "Polar Bear Plunge" local school fundraiser. Plunge participants can warm up in the Upper Peninsula Sauna Company's barrel sauna set up at the right of the hole cut into the lake.

Photos—Sigurd Utych



>> What's on that pole?

This illustration shows basic equipment found on electric power distribution poles. Not all poles have all this equipment on them. They vary according to location and the service they provide.



Co-op News

You Can Serve On Cherryland's Board

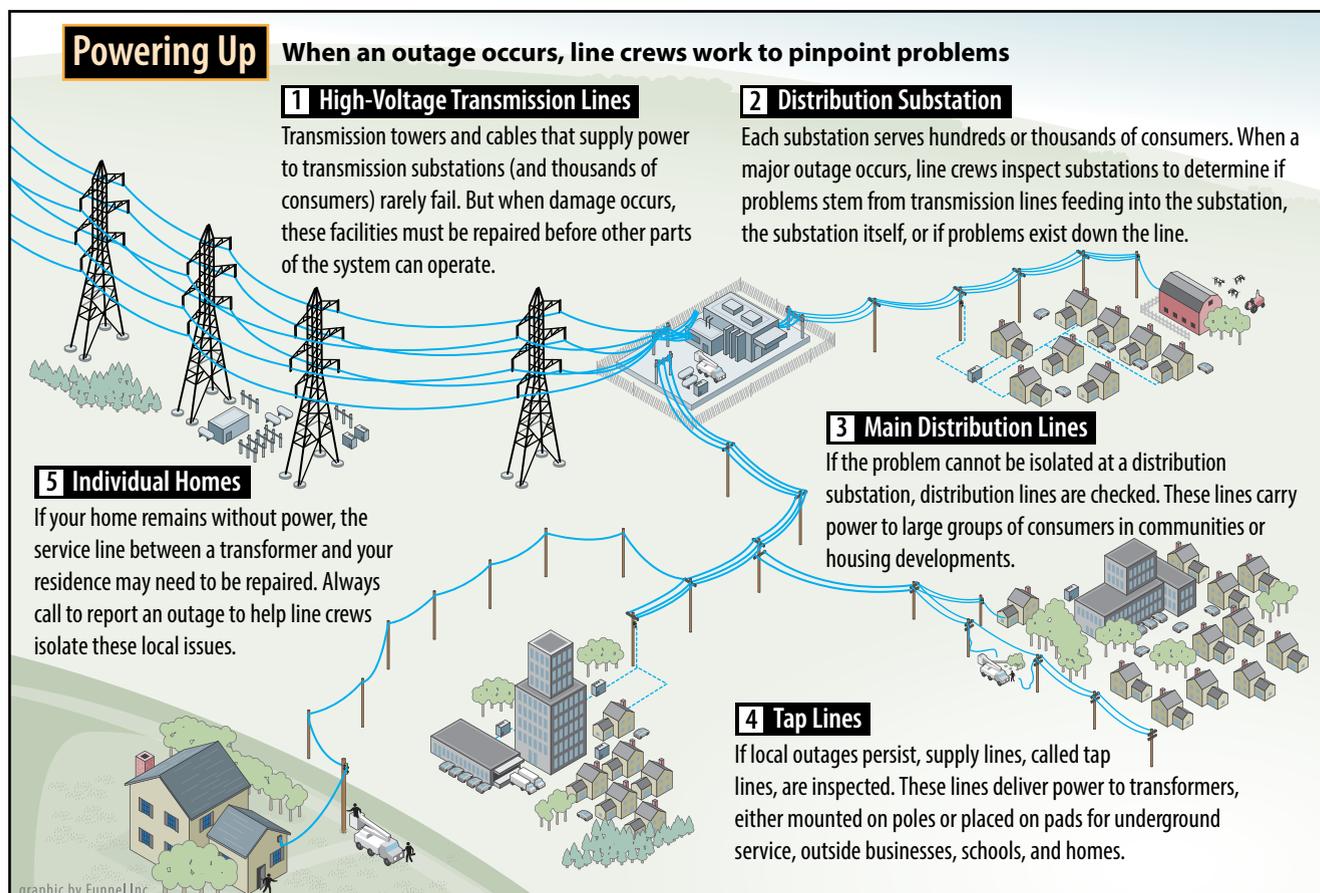
Any qualified Cherryland Electric Cooperative member can be elected to serve on the cooperative's board of directors. To be nominated in 2015, candidates can file a petition with the cooperative's human resources administrator starting on the first day of March and ending at 4 p.m. on the last business day of March.

Nominating petitions shall be signed by at least 25 active members of the cooperative, in good standing, and all signatures must be obtained within 60 days prior to the date the petition is filed. Nominating petitions shall be in the form prescribed by the board and are available at Cherryland's headquarters in Grawn. The petitions must specify the geographic service area for which the candidate is being nominated.

The term of office is three years. Two directors will be elected at this year's annual meeting, which will be

held Thursday, June 11, at Incredible Mo's, near Grawn. This year's directors will represent Grand Traverse/Kalkaska and one at-large position. Nominees must meet the director qualifications set forth in the bylaws under Section 2 of Article III.

Any member interested in becoming a candidate is invited to visit Cherryland's office and learn about a director's duties. If no qualified candidate is nominated to fill the vacancy of a director whose term has expired, the newly elected board will appoint sufficient directors to fill the vacancies. The election will be by majority vote of the board and must be done within 60 days of its first meeting. Directors elected in this manner will serve until the next annual meeting, when members will be given an opportunity to fill the balance of the regular three-year term. ■



When a major storm causes widespread damage, it can cause longer outages. Co-op line crews work long, hard hours to restore service to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark.

Snowmobile Museum, Trails Are Winter Fun

Did you know that over 6,500 snowmobile trails run throughout Michigan? To survive winter, you may want to buck-up with boots and a snowsuit to explore some of them. A few phone calls or an easy internet search reveals resorts and sport shops that rent snowmobiles.

Once #1 in the country for registered snowmobilers, Michigan now ranks second behind Minnesota. But don't let that cool your sleds. Bill Manson, of the Michigan Snowmobile Association (MSAsnow.org), says the related family time draws folks in and keeps them coming back. "In the early days of snowmobiling, the sport was a 'guy thing.' Now, everyone including the grandparents are out enjoying the woods together."

Higher quality machines are credited with the wider range of people enjoying the sport. Ergonomic seats with warmers, smooth suspensions, and easy handling allows the entire family to ride comfortably, go fast, and have fun.

Originally, snowmobiles were designed as work vehicles, says Charlie Vallier of the Snowmobile Museum in Naubinway, MI (on U.S.-2). "Sleds first appeared in Wisconsin around 1924 and were used by utility companies, trappers and commercial fishermen. Not until the late '60s did consumers realize they could be used for recreation."

Nostalgia for the old machines runs deep—enough so that the Snowmobile Museum recently expanded. "Throughout winter, enthusiasts can find at least one vintage snowmobile show on the Great Lakes every



1962 Polar

weekend," Vallier adds. "People love the old sleds. Seeing them, restoring them, and riding them. They represent a simpler time."

A walk through the Snowmobile Museum is a walk through that time (open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at \$5

for adults and kids 16 and under free). Over 130 different machines spanning the decades are displayed, and the folks who restore them love to share stories of the days when sleds didn't have seat warmers!

Share a story idea by email to jack@countrylines.com or write J. O'Malley, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864. ■



Jack O'Malley



«« Do You Know Where This Is?

Every co-op member who identifies the correct location of the photo at left by **Feb. 10** will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 credit for electricity from their electric co-op.

We do not accept Mystery Photo guesses by phone. Enter your guess at countrylines.com or send by mail to: *Country Lines Mystery Photo*, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, 48864. Include the name on your account, address, phone number, and name of your co-op. Only those sending

complete information will be entered in the drawing. The winner will be announced in the March 2015 issue.

The November-December contest winner is Keith Kettinger, of Lake Ann, a Cherryland Electric Cooperative member who correctly identified



Nov/Dec Photo

the photo as the blacksmith building at the Almira Historical Society Museum in Lake Ann.

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