

MICHIGAN COURT LINES



— small town to —

CAPITAL CITY

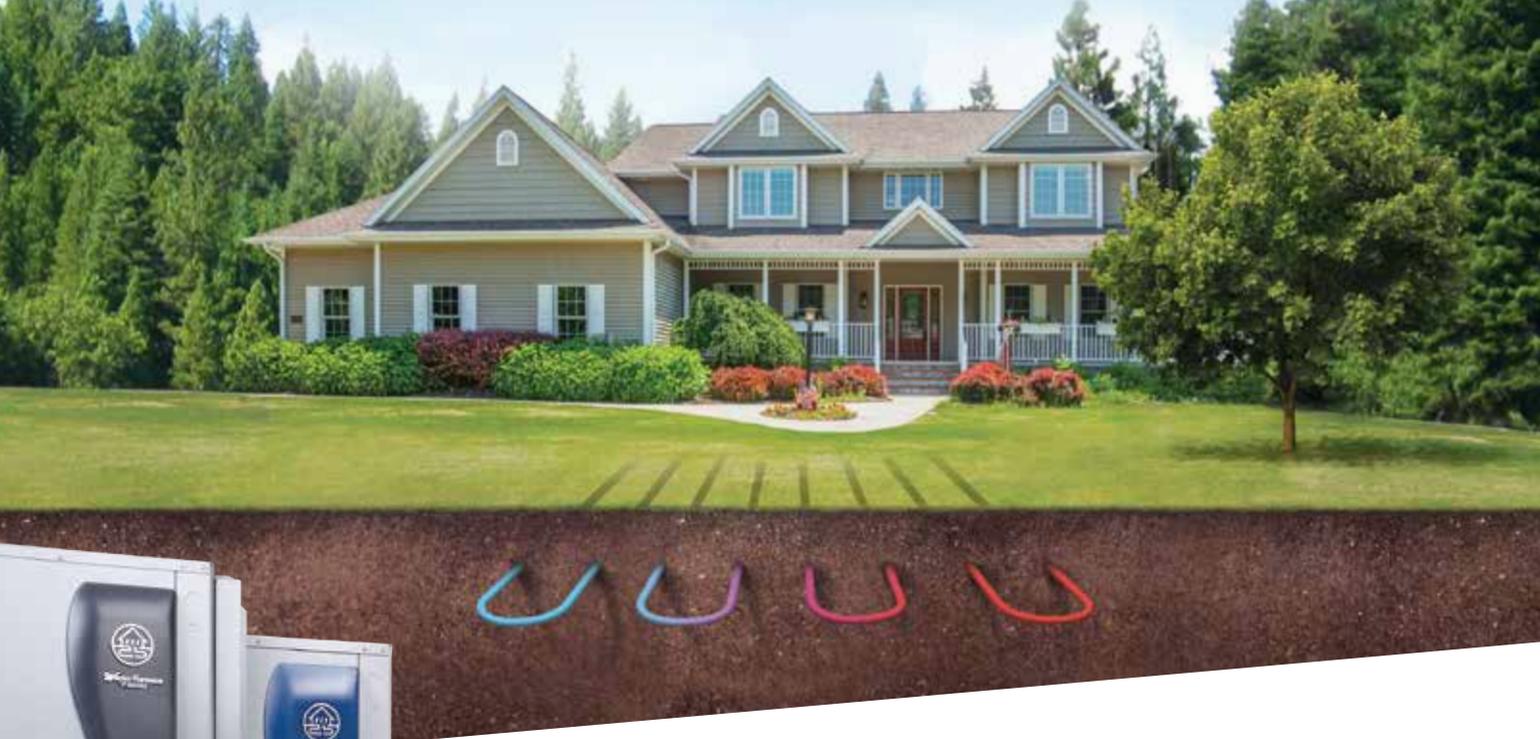
Rural Michigan's Political Couple

**PIE&G Reduces Gas Rates,
Approves Electric Tariffs**

**Director Nominations
Due June 15**

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Change of Address:

Please notify your electric cooperative. See page 4 for contact information.

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Photo courtesy of Julia Nagy/Lansing State Journal

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I Remember...

We invite members to share their fondest memories.

Country Lines will pay \$50 for stories we publish.

Guidelines

1. Approximately 200 words
2. Digital photos must be at least 600 KB
3. Only one entry per household, per month
4. Country Lines retains reprint rights
5. Please include your name, address, email, phone number and the name of your electric co-op
6. Submit your memories online: countrylines.com



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David Smith

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bburns@pieg.com

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op

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Business Office & Billing: **989-733-8515**

Toll-Free: **800-423-6634**

Gas Emergency Toll-Free: **800-655-8565**

pieg.com

Most PIE&G natural gas rates and charges are not regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission.

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Your Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperative

In Memoriam



Brian J. Burns
President & CEO

For most Americans, Memorial Day is a welcomed day off work and the beginning of summer and vacations. Many will gather on the long weekend with family for a barbeque or attend the local parade. Some will go shopping to take advantage of holiday sales and some will do their spring yard work.

For others, Memorial Day signifies heartbreak and loss. They will visit the graves of their loved ones—fallen soldiers lost in wars—to say a prayer and lay a wreath of flowers. To respect and honor those that have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, let's join those military families to reflect on the true meaning of Memorial Day. Let's not forget those who presently serve, whether near or far from family and friends.

Our Gift to the Fallen

May 25, 2014

Writings by Charlie Gragg, 2007
Penryn, California

*For each soldier that has fallen so that many may stand
We honor their spirit as they pass to God's hand
For without their sacrifice we would live forever in fear
We pray for their loved ones and provide a salute and a tear
God help us heal the wounds of hate and the misery of war
That is our gift to our fallen heroes that are amongst us no more.*

P.S. As this is my last *Country Lines* article before I retire in May, I want to thank the membership, the board and all employees of PIE&G for the opportunity to have served them as CEO over the years. ■



Have a safe and happy Memorial Day weekend!

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op will be closed for Memorial Day on Monday, May 29. Payments may be made at the drop box, online at pieg.com or by calling 1-866-999-4571.

**In case of emergencies,
call 1-800-423-6634**

Your Board In Action

At its special open board meeting, the PIE&G Board of Directors:

- Accepted the Power Supply Cost Recovery (PSCR) factor reconciliation analysis that indicated an under-collection of power supply costs of \$67,372.54 for the 12-month period ending December 31, 2016 (incorporated in the 2017 PSCR factor).
- Accepted the 2016 Electric Times Interest Earned Ratio (TIER) analysis that indicated an adjusted TIER of 2.0 and acknowledged no rate/revenue increase is needed.
- Approved an Energy Optimization surcharge on Scheduled OD-Outdoor Lighting Service.
- Approved revision and implementation of the Renewable Energy Tariffs (for net-metering,

community solar and distributed renewable energy for large and small scale members).

At their most recent regular meetings, the PIE&G Board of Directors:

- Accepted the 2016 audit report of the Harris Group.
- Established the gas cost recovery factor of \$0.47950 for Home Rule communities.
- Announced specific Home Rule gas rates under the 2006 Agreement.
- Approved the amended estate retirement discount factor for early retirement of capital credits to be 6.33%.
- Accepted the retirement of CEO Brian Burns effective May 5, 2017. ■

Annual Meter Readings Begin In May

Over the next three months, PIE&G Meter Readers will begin reading electric and/or natural gas meters for our annual verification. Personnel will carry a PIE&G identification badge.

To help make this annual process easier, we ask that you:

- Please have animals leashed and away from the meter location.
- Make sure the meter is clear from obstructions and easily accessible for our meter readers. ■

Thank you for your cooperation!

PIE&G Meter Reading Schedule By County:

MAY Cheboygan, Emmet, Mackinac

JUNE Alpena, Alcona, Presque Isle

JULY Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego

Natural Gas Rates Reduced, Effective April 1

Effective April 1, 2017, natural gas rates have changed. The Gas Cost Recovery Factor (GCR) will decrease 1.46 cents as the GCR is lowered from \$0.4941 cents to \$.47950/ccf. The monthly and distribution rates have not changed. Please refer to the table below for a review of charges.

	Residential	General Service	Industrial
Monthly Charge	\$12	\$17	\$188
Distribution \$/ccf	\$0.37424	\$0.25629	\$0.19383
GCR \$/ccf	\$0.47950	\$0.47950	\$0.47950
Total \$/ccf	\$0.85374	\$0.73579	\$0.67333



Choosing The Right Air Conditioner For Your Home

Do you have a central air conditioner (AC) in your home that is at least 15 years old that still works but is not very efficient? Replacing an inefficient air conditioner with a more efficient model could reduce your electric bill. A new AC unit is 20 to 40 percent more efficient than one from the 1990s—and ENERGY STAR®-certified systems are even more efficient.

How much money you save by replacing your current AC unit depends on how often your AC runs and your electric rate. The best way to determine possible savings is to have an in-home assessment conducted by a qualified heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) professional or a certified energy auditor. Electric co-ops are often interested in reducing peak summer loads and sometimes offer information, rebates or a list of qualified professionals.

Your contractor needs to size the system to your home. A unit that is too small will not cool your home to the levels you want. If it is too large, it may not dehumidify your home sufficiently, and it will cycle on and off more frequently, which can increase wear and tear on the system and shorten its life significantly. To size the system, the contractor will look at the efficiency of the home by checking insulation levels. If you add insulation where it's most needed, you may be able to install a smaller AC unit and enjoy greater comfort and lower cooling costs. The contractor should also assess your ductwork, which is often poorly designed, leaky or inadequately insulated.

It's good to know there are several air conditioning options suited to different situations. It may or may not be practical to change to a different type of system.

Central air conditioning is one of two types: either split or packaged. A split system, which has the cold coils inside the home and an outside unit exhausting heat, is the most common. Packaged systems, which are sometimes installed because of space constraints, combine these functions into one box located outside the home.

A heat pump can provide cooling and heating in homes with or without ducts. If you are currently using propane or natural gas as your fuel source, this may be a good option.

A ductless mini-split heat pump can be an efficient way to cool up to four zones inside the home. If your existing ductwork is in bad shape or poorly designed, this could be a good solution.

Window units are much less efficient than other options, but they can still be effective for cooling a single room. It's worth paying a little more for a new ENERGY STAR-compliant unit, rather than the dusty \$80 unit from the yard sale.

Evaporative (or "swamp") coolers are an alternative in very dry climates. While they use a quarter of the energy and are less expensive to install than central air conditioning, they also require more frequent maintenance. ■

Replacing an aging air conditioner is a great way to improve comfort, cut energy costs and reduce peak energy demand.

Thunderstorm Safety Tips

When thunderstorms are rolling your way, stay safe with these helpful tips from the American Red Cross:

- Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates. Watch for signs of a storm, like darkening skies, lightning flashes or increasing wind.
 - Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are likely to occur. Many people struck by lightning are not in the area where rain is occurring.
 - If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, take shelter in a substantial building or in a vehicle with the windows closed. Get out of mobile homes that can blow over in high winds.
 - If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning. If thunder roars, go indoors! The National Weather Service recommends staying inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder clap.
 - Avoid electrical equipment and telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead.
 - Shutter windows and close outside doors securely. Keep away from windows.
 - Do not take a bath, shower or use plumbing.
- 
- If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.
 - If you are outside and cannot reach a safe building, avoid high ground, water, tall and isolated trees, as well as metal objects such as fences and bleachers. Picnic shelters, dugouts and sheds are also NOT safe. ■

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

For your safety and for the protection of underground utility lines, always follow these steps before starting any digging project.

1. Contact MISS DIG at 811 or missdig.org
2. Wait three business days for utility owners to mark their lines
3. Respect the marks
4. Dig with care



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**
visit missdig.org for more information

Is Your Central A/C Ready To Take The Heat?

Along with all the wonderful things summer brings comes the costly effort of keeping your home cool and comfortable. If your central A/C is due for an upgrade, or if a tune-up is enough to keep it running efficiently, the Energy Optimization program is here to help! We provide cash incentives to help make energy-saving improvements more affordable.

New Central A/C: If your central A/C system is more than 20 years old, it's time to upgrade! Install a new ENERGY STAR® central A/C and save up to 20 percent in cooling costs annually. Or, opt for a central air-source heat pump or mini/multi-split air-source heat pump system to save even more. **Energy Optimization program cash incentive: \$150-500.**

A/C Tune-up: Ensure your central A/C runs as efficiently as possible by scheduling a tune-up. A tune-up can help reduce energy usage,

prevent costly breakdowns, and will allow you and your family to enjoy cleaner, healthier indoor air. **Energy Optimization program cash incentive: \$50. ■**

COMBO CASH INCENTIVES NOW AVAILABLE! Save even more when you purchase a combination of qualifying energy-saving equipment:

Cash Incentive	Equipment	Bonus Incentive	Maximum Total Incentive
HVAC Combo Bonus	New qualifying ECM blower motor AND new central A/C unit, air-source heat pump, or ground-source heat pump system at the same time.	\$100	\$800
Smart HVAC Combo Bonus	New qualifying ECM blower motor AND new central A/C unit, air-source heat pump, or ground-source heat pump system AND a WiFi-enabled or smart thermostat at the same time.	\$150	\$950

Visit michigan-energy.org or call 877.296.4319 for additional energy-saving information and rebates.



Cool off and save energy this summer!

Beat the heat without breaking the bank! Upgrade to a high-efficiency cooling system or tune up your existing system to save energy and money. Receive cash back from the Energy Optimization program for:

- New central A/C (\$150-\$500)
- Central or mini/multi-split air-source heat pump (\$150-\$500)
- Central A/C tune-up (\$50)

ONLINE: michigan-energy.org PHONE: 877.296.4319



Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan electric service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit michigan-energy.org.

Planes, Trains & Automobiles



Our son, Detective Tim Wood, purchased a four passenger Piper Cherokee. Last year, for Mother's Day, he flew to Atlanta, Mich. and took me for a ride around northern Michigan. We landed in Mio for lunch and then flew back to Atlanta. What a thrill that was for me!
By Marion Wood, Onaway



John Garavaglia, Sr. inspects an F-16. By John Garavaglia



Oscar Mayer Wienermobile on display at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Mich.



Our preschool class enjoyed learning about trains and the letter T! The electric train is a hit every year! By Kati Ek



Photo Fun

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op invites members to share their amazing photos. Selected photos will be published in *Michigan Country Lines*.

Upcoming topics and deadlines are: **The Art of Nature** due **May 20**—July/August issue and **Birds and Feathers** due **July 20**—Sept./Oct. issue.

To submit photos, and for details and instructions, go to <http://bit.ly/countrylines>

We look forward to seeing your best photos!

BREAKFAST AND BRUNCH

These sweet and savory breakfast or brunch ideas are sure to please.

Orange Cranberry-Carrot Muffins

Luise Bolleber, Cherryland

- ⅓ cup butter, melted
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- Juice and zest from 1 orange
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1¾ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 cups finely shredded carrots
- 1 cup fresh or frozen cranberries, coarsely chopped

Heat oven to 350 F and place paper cups in a muffin tin. Whisk sugar and butter together in a medium bowl until blended. Beat in eggs, orange juice and vanilla. Combine the flour, orange zest (peel), baking soda, baking powder and salt in a separate bowl. Add to creamed mixture just until combined. Fold in carrots and cranberries. Fill muffin cups three-fourths full. Bake 25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

 Watch a video on this recipe at <https://goo.gl/HN697I>

Photos—831 Creative





Peggy's Stolen Stuffed French Toast

Jessica Waite, Great Lakes Energy Cooperative

- 1 loaf Italian bread
- 1 stick butter, melted
- ¼ teaspoon cinnamon
- 8 ounces cream cheese
- 8 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- ¼ cup maple syrup

Preheat oven to 375 F. Tear half of bread loaf into ¼" cubes and place in bottom of 13×9 greased pan. Cube cream cheese and place evenly throughout. Top with the remaining loaf in ¼" cubes. In a separate bowl combine remaining ingredients. Pour over bread mixture. Pat down with a spatula, so bread is soaked. Cover with tinfoil and let sit overnight. Bake for 45 minutes covered. Serve immediately with extra maple syrup.



All-In-One Breakfast Bake

Mary Ellen Seguin-Adomat,
Cherryland Electric Cooperative

- 1 pound plain pork sausage
- 6 eggs
- 2 cups milk
- 1 cup shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
- 6 slices bread, torn into pieces
- 1 tablespoon dry mustard
- 1 cup sliced fresh mushrooms

Preheat oven to 350 F. Butter a 13×9 glass baking dish. Brown sausage and drain on paper towels; set aside. In a large bowl, beat eggs, then add milk and beat again. Stir in remaining ingredients, including sausage. Pour into baking dish. Bake for 45 minutes. This can be prepared the night before and refrigerated; pop it in the oven in the morning.



Submit your favorite recipe for a chance to win a \$50 bill credit and have your recipe featured in *Country Lines*:

- "All About Apples" due July 5

Go to microopkitchen.com for more information and to register.

Raspberry Pie (pictured above)

Rep. Julie Calley

If you're as busy as Rep. Julie Calley, you'll appreciate this simple, but scrumptious, pie recipe that's a favorite in the Calley home.

- 1 pie crust, store bought or homemade
- 1 3.4-ounce package vanilla instant pudding
- 2 cups milk
- 3 ounces cream cheese
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 3-ounce package raspberry Jell-O
- 1 cup boiling water
- 9 ounces fresh raspberries
- ¼ cup chopped nuts (optional)

Prepare and bake pie shell for open face pie. Let the pie shell cool. Combine pudding, milk, cream cheese and almond extract. Beat for 2 minutes. Pour into pie shell and chill until firm. Mix Jell-O with boiling water and chill until partially set. Gently stir in the raspberries and nuts. Pour over vanilla filling and chill until set.

Read the full story about the Calleys on page 14 and visit microopkitchen.com for this recipe and others.

Notice to Members of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op

Electric Tariff Changes

The Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op Board of Directors adopted the following changes to the cooperative's electric rates and tariffs at a Special Open Meeting held on March 28, 2017, in accordance with P.A. 167:

- Accepted the 2016 Power Supply Cost Recovery Factor reconciliation analysis indicating an under-collection of power supply costs of \$67,372.54 for the 12-month period ending December 31, 2016 (incorporated in the 2017 PSCR factor).
- Accepted the 2016 Electric Times Interest Earned Ratio (TIER) analysis and acknowledged no rate/revenue increase is needed.
- Approved an Energy Optimization surcharge on Schedule OD-Outdoor Lighting Service.*
- Approved revisions to and implementation of Renewable Energy Tariffs (for net-metering, community solar and distributed renewable energy for large and small scale members).*

* (effective for bills rendered on or after June 1, 2017)

For specific details of any Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op tariffs or fees, please call 1-800-423-6634 or visit pieg.com.

YOU'LL BE ATTRACTED TO THE SAVINGS ON EXEDE TOO.

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*FCC, 2013 Measuring Broadband America

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Any qualified member can be elected to serve. The term of office is three years.

Get Involved In Your Co-op

It's time to nominate potential directors.

Electric co-ops are governed by seven principles. One is "Democratic Member Control," which means that co-ops are self-governing organizations controlled by their members who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. It also means men and women serving as elected representatives on a cooperative board of directors are accountable to all of its members. Since Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op (PIE&G) is a democracy, it works best when you participate in the organization.

Any qualified PIE&G member-owner can be elected to serve on the cooperative's board of directors and the term of office is three years. **In 2017, one director from each of the following districts will be elected: Cheboygan, Montmorency and Presque Isle.**

Potential nominees must meet the qualifications for the office of director as set forth in Article III, Section 2 of the PIE&G bylaws (available on our website, pieg.com). Any member interested in becoming a candidate is invited to visit the cooperative's office and learn about the duties performed by the directors. Board of director meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m.

To be considered for nomination, submit a letter of interest by June 15, 2017, to: **Nominating Committee, PIE&G, P O Box 308, Onaway, MI 49765.** All letters will be given to the Nominating Committee for review, and nominations will be made in July. Check future issues of *Country Lines* for further information about the Annual Meeting to be held Friday, October 27, in Posen. ■

— small town to — CAPITAL CITY

Rural Michigan's Political Couple

By Emily Haines Lloyd



Rep. Julie Calley with her husband, Lt. Gov. Brian Calley and children Collin, Reagan and Karagan.

Down a country road in Ionia County, not too far from where she grew up on a sesquicentennial farm, Julie Calley lives a fairly normal life. Julie is a wife, mother of three and devoted public servant. Of course, she's also married to the lieutenant governor of Michigan, Brian Calley, but her career takes her to Lansing as the representative for the 87th District in the state's House of Representatives.

The pair are a rare commodity in Lansing, with Brian serving his final two years as the lieutenant governor of Michigan while Julie began a two-year term in January. She now holds the seat that her great-grandfather Herbert Powell, grandfather Stanley Powell and her husband have all held. Both Calleys also have served as Ionia County commissioners.

One wouldn't think of small-town Portland as a hub of Michigan politics, but for Representative Julie Calley, it's sort of the family business.

"My family has a legacy of public service," said Calley. "My mother has served at the township level for almost as long as I've been alive. She just retired last



“It boils down to making government work better for the average citizen. Politics can overcomplicate things. It has to center back on the community we’re serving—a person-centered approach.”

year as a township trustee. My grandfather and great-grandfather both served in the state legislature, so public service is definitely in my blood.”

Julie notes that one doesn’t need to have a long heritage of politics in the family in order to serve. “There are usually a number of local boards which need more interest and participation. There are numerous empty roles on the county level that sometimes have only one candidate or sometimes not even one. There is a definite need for public servants.”

It may have been that desire to serve that drew Julie and Brian together. High school sweethearts, the Calleys married as she was finishing a degree at Northwood University and Brian at Michigan State University.

After college, the Calleys moved back to Ionia County. Julie had worked in commercial real estate while her husband made his mark in the state political scene, but Julie always stayed involved in local politics. Calley was chairwoman of the Ionia County Board of Commissioners and chairperson of the Michigan Community Service Commission. She also served two terms on the Republican State

Committee. Now, as Julie is still in the early part of her two-year term in the Michigan House of Representatives, she is taking her local experience to the state level.

“It boils down to making government work better for the average citizen. Politics can overcomplicate things. It has to center back on the community we’re serving—a person-centered approach.”

Julie’s experience living in a rural setting has actually driven her work approach. While she notes that the jump from roughly 9,000 constituents to approximately 90,000 constituents is daunting, she is utilizing the same relationship-building skills she used on the local level in her new role. Her experience in small-town Michigan is an inspiration as she moves forward, building relationships in the state’s House of Representatives.

“Those who choose to live in the country tend to have a certain independence and yet reliance on one another,” Julie concluded. “So when a problem arises, it’s typical for neighbors to band together and take care of one another. Identifying a need and taking care of it—I wish we could see more of that.” ■

STATE OF MICHIGAN
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOTICE OF HEARING
FOR THE REGULATED GAS DIVISION CUSTOMERS OF
PRESQUE ISLE ELECTRIC & GAS CO-OP
CASE NO. U-18259

- Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op requests Michigan Public Service Commission approval for its report relative to its Times Interest Earned Ratio (TIER) Ratemaking Mechanism for the 12 month period ended December 31, 2016, and the Company's requested Regulatory Cost Monthly Charge Adder (RCMCA) for a 12 month period for its Regulated Gas Division customers. If the request is granted, rates and charges for Regulated Gas Division customers will be increased by \$409,394 and Regulated Gas Division customers will be assessed a RCMCA monthly charge of \$3.27 per month per account beginning the first billing month following issuance of a Commission Order in this docket.
- The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.
- You may call or write Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-Op, 19831 M-68 Highway, P.O. Box 308, Onaway, Michigan 49765, (800) 423-6634 for a free copy of its application. Any person may review the application at the offices of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op.
- The first public hearing in this matter will be held:

DATE/TIME: **Thursday, June 15, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.** This hearing will be a prehearing conference to set future hearing dates and decide other procedural matters.

BEFORE: **Administrative Law Judge Mark E. Cummins**

LOCATION: Michigan Public Service Commission
7109 West Saginaw Highway
Lansing, Michigan

PARTICIPATION: Any interested person may attend and participate. The hearing site is accessible, including handicapped parking. Persons needing any accommodation to participate should contact the Commission's Executive Secretary at (517) 284-8090 in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a public hearing to consider Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-Op's (Presque Isle) April 10, 2017 application for a TIER ratemaking mechanism review for the 12-month period ended December 31, 2016 for its Regulated Gas Division. Presque Isle proposes to increase rates in the amount of \$409,394. Presque Isle also requests approval of an RCMCA of \$3.27 per month per account beginning the first billing month following issuance of a Commission Order in this docket for its Regulated Gas Division customers.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: michigan.gov/mpscdockets. Requirements and instructions for filing can be found in the User Manual on the E-Dockets help page. Documents may also be submitted, in Word or PDF format, as an attachment to an email sent to: mpscdockets@michigan.gov. If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 284-8090 or by email at: mpscdockets@michigan.gov.

Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the case shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by June 8, 2017. (Petitions to intervene may also be filed using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Presque Isle's attorney, Richard J. Aaron, at Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, Michigan 48933.

Any person wishing to appear at the hearing to make a statement of position without becoming a party to the case may participate by filing an appearance. To file an appearance, the individual must attend the hearing and advise the presiding administrative law judge of his or her wish to make a statement of position. All information submitted to the Commission in this matter becomes public information, thus available on the Michigan Public Service Commission's website, and subject to disclosure. Please do not include information you wish to remain private.

Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to the Michigan Administrative Hearing System's Administrative Hearing Rules R 792.10422 and R 792.10432. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 284-8130.

A copy of the Presque Isle's request may be reviewed on the Commission's website at: michigan.gov/mpscdockets, and at the office of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-Op. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Commission at the above address or by telephone at (517) 284-8090.

Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1909 PA 300, as amended, MCL 462.2 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.54 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; 1982 PA 304, as amended, MCL 460.6h et seq.; and the Michigan Administrative Hearing System's Administrative Hearing Rules, 2015 AC, R 792.10401 et seq.

JOSHUA DAVIS



MICHIGAN'S MUSIC MAN

By Emily Haines Lloyd

Many people were introduced to Joshua Davis on NBC's *The Voice*, where he stunned audiences with his authentic, grassroots sound and Midwest charm. However, those who are tuned into the Michigan music scene have known Davis for ages, both as a solo artist and member of the popular band, *Steppin' In It*. Fans close to home weren't at all surprised by his popularity on the show or that he made it all the way to the show's finals.

Born in Marquette and raised on the east side of the state, Davis comes from deep roots in both music and humility.

"My parents lived off the grid—in the woods, no running water, no electricity. Real pioneer-type stuff," Davis said. "They took me to folk music festivals as a kid and all of that really had an effect on me."

Davis describes folk music as "music by and for the people," and that legacy has definitely impacted his career and his lifestyle.

"There was a point where my wife and I knew we either wanted to move to a larger city or find a place in the country," explained Davis. "Eventually we chose a home in Leelanau County. We'd been coming up here for years—playing music, vacationing, camping—it's remarkable—all the beauty, fresh water and community we have here."

Community is another popular theme with Davis, who is a member of *Earthworks Music*, a collective group of independent artists who use music to raise awareness, mentor youth, build community and celebrate local culture. While Davis is involved with many community efforts that range from social and hardship causes to environmental work, he notes that fine arts education for kids is especially close to his heart.

"Obviously, I love music and I think it's important to pass on the history and power of music to kids," said Davis.

Davis has taught classes at *Interlochen*, the prestigious music school in northern Michigan. He has taught songwriting and instrumental classes to children, as well as adults, through the school's *College of Creative Arts* program.

"Interlochen is an incredible place," said Davis. "There's such a unique energy there and so much talent and enthusiasm; it's hard not to be inspired by the students."

Davis has settled back into life in the Mitten State after the rush of additional attention created by *The Voice*. While Los Angeles provided an opportunity of a lifetime, this husband, father, activist, teacher and, of course, musician has returned home to Michigan where there's nothing like real life to inspire new music. ■

Disability 101: A Lesson in Respect

By Jack O'Malley, WTCM 103.5 FM Traverse City and host of Jack's Journal on 9 & 10 News

"Well, Jack," said the doctor, examining my foot while studying X-rays of my heel. "If that tendon tears, it's going to be a bear to fix. You need foot surgery." Not one to argue, I took his advice.

In the days prior to surgery, I prepared for my recovery: two to four weeks off my feet, hobbling unsteadily on crutches and learning how to steer my scooter, followed by a week or two walking with a cane.

"Easy enough," I thought. With a foot brace, prescriptions and disability parking permit in hand, I was feeling confident!

After a relatively pain-and-incident-free first few weeks, I had mastered the dance—juggling my brief case, foot brace, scooter and crutches, jostling them in and out of the car, all while balancing on one leg. Lugging everything through a near freezing parking deck at least twice per day, I quickly tired of the hassle. But the end was near! Soon the doc would give me the all-clear, and it would be just me, my brief case, and my intricately-carved, walnut-stained Beechwood walking cane, which was an accessory I hoped would offer an air of distinction (unlike my scooter).

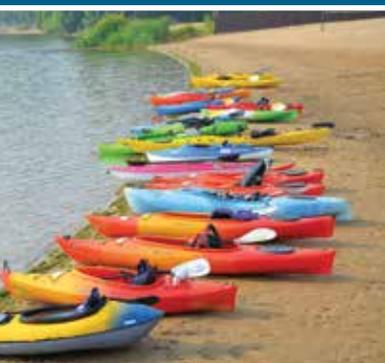
But then, a complication—a complication setting my recovery back at least two weeks. And then another setback.

In mid-December, with mobility still dependent on the knee scooter and crutches, my wife and I attended a music program in search of some much-needed holiday cheer. Entering an auditorium brimming with families, grandparents and students, we noticed all handicapped-accessible rows were full, many seats occupied by young children. While obvious I couldn't use the stairs, no one moved. Dismayed, I found a folding chair by the entrance while my wife took a seat elsewhere in the auditorium.

Initially frustrated at being separated from my wife, I paused. Since surgery, folks had repeatedly grabbed doors, held elevators and carried bags for me. While some were oblivious, the vast majority of those I "bumped" into kindly offered assistance. Plus, I had a light at the end of the tunnel. I would recover. Eventually.

Yet this situation forced me to ask a tough question. What about those people suffering permanent disabilities, many of whom regularly experience these types of situations? What about people discouraged from going out because of limited parking and seating, who feel uncomfortable asking for help, overburdened with medical equipment, and just overwhelmed with the situation in general?

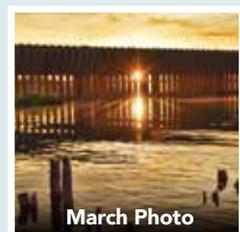
Though I'm still not 100 percent, doctors assure me I'll make a full recovery. In the meantime, my respect and appreciation for those with a permanent physical or cognitive disability has only deepened. My hope now is to encourage others to think twice when in public. Save those reserved parking spaces and seating sections for those people and families who could really use it. Open a door, offer a seat, and give a smile to someone who genuinely needs it. I know I will. ■



«« Where In Michigan Is This?

Identify the correct location of the photo on the left by June 10 and be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 electric bill credit. Enter your guess at countrylines.com or send by mail to: *Country Lines* Mystery Photo, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. Include the name on your account, address, phone number, and the name of your co-op.

Our Mystery Photo Contest winner from the March 2017 issue is Walter Seavoy, an Ontonagon County REA member, who correctly identified the photo as the Lower Harbor Ore Dock in downtown Marquette, Mich. Winners are announced in the following issues of *Country Lines*: January, March, May, July/August, September and November/December.



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2017 Community Calendar

MAY

- Apr. 30-June 3 **Sturgeon Guarding**—Black River, Cheboygan, sturgeonfortomorrow.org
 13 **Blessing of the Bikes**—Hillman, hillmanchamber.org
 26 **Presque Isle Lighthouses (Old & New)**—
 Open Memorial Day through Labor Day, visitalpena.com
 27-28 **40 Mile Point Lighthouse Arts & Crafts Weekend**—
 Near Rogers City, 40milepointlighthouse.org
 26-28 **Bridge Race, Parade, Historical Reenactments, Fireworks**—
 Mackinaw City, mackinawinformation.com

JUNE

- 2-11 **68th Annual Lilac Festival**—Mackinaw Island, mackinawinformation.com
 10-11 **Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Free Fishing Weekend**
 16-17 **25th Annual Presque Isle Harbor Wooden Boat Show**—
presqueisleharborwoodenboatshow.com
 23-25 **42nd Annual St. Ignace Car Show Weekend**—mackinawinformation.com
 23-25 **36th Annual Lumberjack Festival**—Wolverine, wolverinelumberjackfest.com

JULY

- 1-2 **Mill River Days**—Craft show, Fireworks—Hillman hillmanchamber.org
4th of July Celebrations:
Alpena—Parade @ 11 a.m., Fireworks & Maritime Festival—visitalpena.com
Atlanta—Parade, Fireworks @ High School—atlantamichiganchamber.com
Cheboygan—Parade @ 10 a.m., Fireworks @ County Fairgrounds—cheboygan.com
Lewiston—Parade @ 11 a.m. lewistonchamber.com
Indian River—Parade @ 11 a.m., Fireworks, irchamber.com
Mackinaw City—Fireworks & Waterfront Events, mackinawinformation.com
Onaway—Parade @ Noon, Arts & Crafts, VFW Chicken Dinner,
 Fireworks, onawaycommunitychamber.com
 6-9 **Waterways Festival**—Cheboygan, waterwaysfestival.com
 14-23 **43rd Annual Michigan Brown Trout Festival**—Alpena, visitalpena.com
 19-23 **36th Annual Summer Fest**—Indian River, irchamber.com
 25-29 **Montmorency County Fair**—Fairgrounds, Atlanta
 29 **Mackinaw Area Historical Festival**—Mackinaw City, mackinawinformation.com
 July 29-Aug. 5 **143rd Alpena County Fair**—Alpena, visitalpena.com

AUGUST

- 1-6 **Nautical Festival**—Rogers City, nauticalfestival.org
 4-5 **27th Annual Timberfest**—Lewiston, lewistonchamber.com
 5-12 **Cheboygan County Fair**—Cheboygan, cheboyganfair.com
 12 **V-J Day Celebration**—Hillman, hillmanchamber.org
 19 **PIE&G Charity Golf Classic**—Stoney Links Golf Course, Onaway

SEPTEMBER

- 4 **59th Annual Labor Day Mackinaw Bridge Walk**—mackinawinformation.com
 8-10 **66th Annual Posen Potato Festival**—Posen, posenchamber.com
 Sept. 29-Oct. 1 **33rd Annual Elk Festival**—Atlanta, atlantamichiganchamber.com

