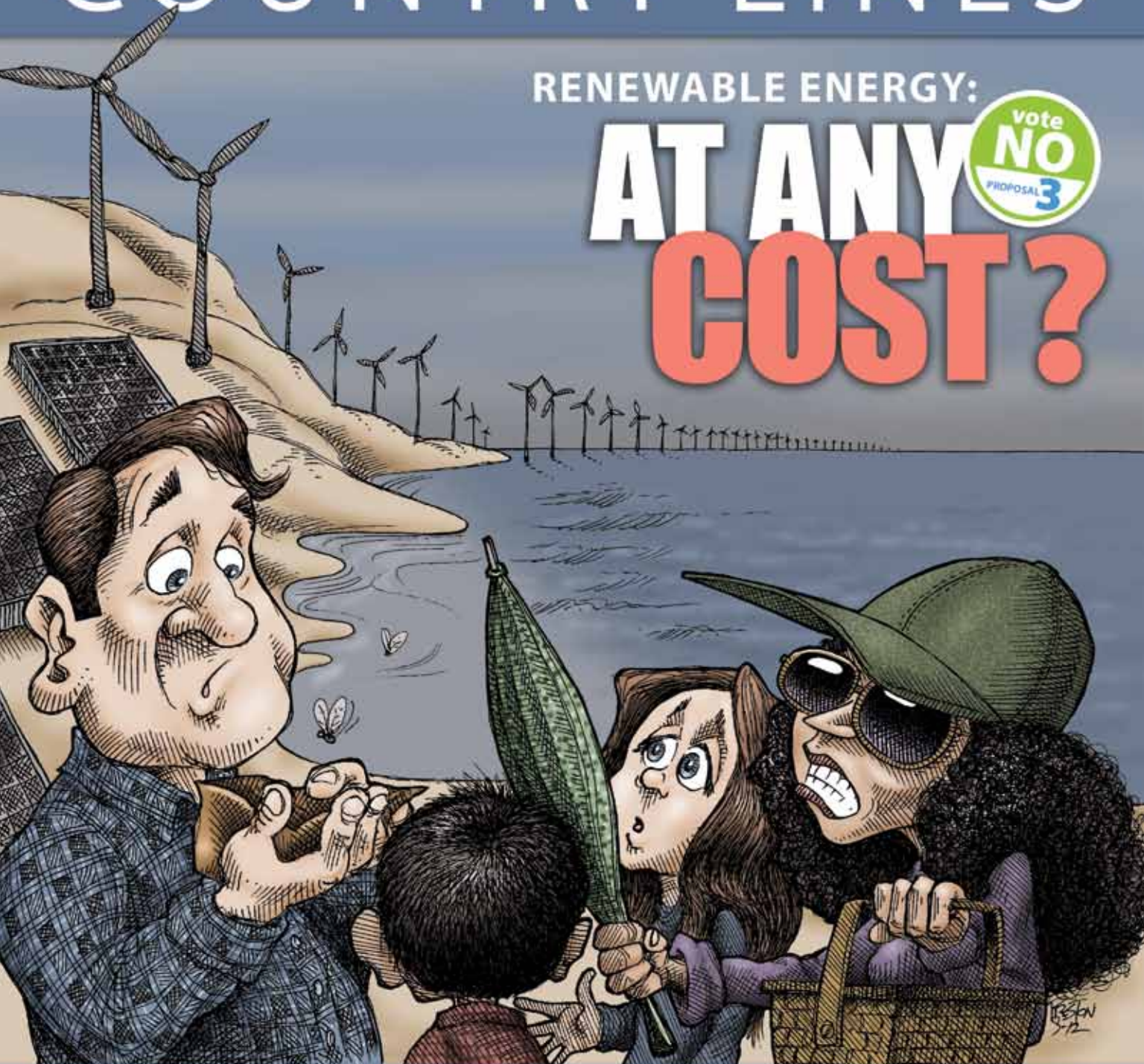


Michigan COUNTRY LINES

RENEWABLE ENERGY:

**AT ANY
COST?**



5 Special Board
Meeting Notice

8 Pay By Phone Option
Now Available

20 Communities First
Fund Annual Report

Hurry, this event ends on
NOVEMBER 30, 2012!

Some choices are clear.

WaterFurnace Geothermal

- ☒ Even, luxurious comfort
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Instant Rebate 12 Mo same as cash²

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Includes 5 Series dual capacity 500A11 with color touch-screen thermostat, IntelliStart, AXB controls & installation accessories.

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¹According to ASHRAE estimate.

²Loans provided by EnerBank USA (1245 E. Brickyard Rd. Suite 640, Salt Lake City, UT 84106) on approved credit, for a limited time. Repayment terms vary from 12 to 132 months. Interest waived if repaid in 365 days. 16.85% fixed APR, effective as of 8/01/2012, subject to change. Rebate available only to residential customers through participating dealers. WaterFurnace is a registered trademark of WaterFurnace International, Inc.

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15



17



18

DEPARTMENTS

6 Readers' Pages
Letters, mystery photo,
utility scams

18 Home Cooking
Take-along dishes
*Christin McKamey &
Our readers*

22 Wolverine Power*
Some Wolverine history
Nancy Tanner

COLUMNS

11 Comment
Prop. 3 is a power grab
Frank Kelley

16 Family
Top gifts for kids
Linda Wacyk

17 Outdoors
Bamboo fly-rod maker
Bob Gwizdz

22 Gardening*
Shrubs
Neil Moran

23 House & Home
Soundproof walls
James Dulley

26 Ramblings
Promises, promises
Mike Buda

FEATURES

10 Our Energy
Understanding window
energy efficiency claims
Megan McKoy-Noe

12 Cover Story
Renewable energy:
At any cost?
Doug Snitgen

14 Winter Wise
Home heating
assistance programs

15 Michigan-Made
The craft lady of Caro
Kath Usitalo

YOUR CO-OP

Pages specific to your
electric cooperative: 1,
4-5, 8-9, 20-21, 24-25, 28

*Not in all editions

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Unsolicited letters, photos and manuscripts are welcome. *Country Lines*, however, will not be responsible for their safe keeping or return.

The appearance of advertising does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services advertised.

Change of Address: Please notify your electric cooperative. See page 4 for contact information.



On the Cover

Cover illustration is by Dennis Preston.
artbypreston.com



Michigan's Electric
Cooperatives
countrylines.com



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Standing United Against Prop. 3

While we, the general managers and CEOs of Michigan's electric distribution co-ops support renewable energy, we also stand united against Proposal 3. This ballot proposal would amend the Michigan Constitution to include a 25 percent Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), which would be very expensive and extreme. Please consider the following important facts about Proposal 3 as you head to the polls on Nov. 6:

YOUR CO-OP IS A RENEWABLE ENERGY LEADER. Michigan's electric co-ops are already leaders in renewable energy, and we support the current 10 percent RPS set by the Legislature in 2008. Electric co-ops are key partners in Michigan's first commercial wind farm, which is located in the Thumb area and was built prior to any RPS requirements. One of our state's largest renewable energy resources, a hydro facility in Sault Ste. Marie, is also owned by an electric co-op.

THE CONSTITUTION IS THE WRONG PLACE FOR ENERGY POLICY.

We strongly believe that the Michigan Legislature—not the constitution—is the place to enact far-reaching energy policy. While the Legislature's work can be "fine tuned" to allow for changes in technology, the economy or unintended consequences, these types of necessary adjustments would be nearly impossible to achieve if enshrined in the Michigan Constitution. The majority of the financial support for Proposal 3 is coming from out-of-state

special interest groups who would profit from binding energy policy into our constitution.

RENEWABLE IS NOT ALWAYS RELIABLE.

Renewable energy has a place in our power supply toolbox, but its limitations make it less-than-ideal. Wind farms in the state typically only generate 30 percent of the time—and this "reliability" is often lower on the hot, still days when electricity demand is highest. By comparison, wind farms in Texas and parts of the upper Midwest often operate at levels exceeding 40 percent.

PROPOSAL 3 WOULD BE EXPENSIVE.

Wind power in Michigan is very expensive. The Mackinac Center for Public Policy reports that it would cost the average residential ratepayer an additional \$170 to \$190 annually to achieve the 25 percent RPS suggested by Proposal 3. This cost estimate does not even include the additional costs of building new transmission lines or generation needed to "back up" the wind when it does not blow. Solar power is even more expensive, and better suited for other regions of the U.S.

We support renewable energy and the current 10 percent RPS, but encourage you to join us in voting "no" against Proposal 3. You can learn more about your co-op's concerns with Proposal 3 in this edition of *Michigan Country Lines* (pp. 11, 12-13) and at CAREforMich.com.

Tom Harrell

Tom Harrell
Alger Delta Cooperative
Electric Association

Steve Boeckman

Steve Boeckman
Great Lakes Energy

Deborah Miles

Deborah Miles
Ontonagon County REA

Tony Anderson

Tony Anderson
Cherryland Electric Cooperative

Mark Kappler

Mark Kappler
HomeWorks Tri-County
Electric Cooperative

Brian Burns

Brian Burns
Presque Isle Electric & Gas
Co-op

Dan Dasha

Dan Dasha
Cloverland Electric Cooperative

Robert Hance

Robert Hance
Midwest Energy Cooperative

Dallas Braun

Dallas Braun
Thumb Electric Cooperative

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

**A Special Board Meeting is set for November 27, 9 a.m.,
at the cooperative's Onaway office**

The board of directors will consider changes to the cooperative's rates and tariffs at its meeting on November 27, 2012, to be held at the cooperative office at 19831 M68 Highway, Onaway, Michigan. The meeting will start at 9 a.m. and is open to all members of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op.

The session will begin with an opportunity for members to provide direct input to the board of directors. Members are asked to come to the lobby by 9 a.m. and request to speak to the board; staff will direct interested members to the meeting room. Time constraints on each member's comments will be at the discretion of the board president, but members are asked to keep comments to less than five minutes.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Reconcile the 2011 Power Supply Cost Recovery Factor collections. The Power Supply Cost Recovery Factor is applied to Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op's retail member-consumers' monthly kilowatt-hour use. It represents power supply costs as established by the cooperative in conjunction with Wolverine Power Cooperative. Historically the factor has been established annually and reviewed monthly.
2. Consider revisions to the allowance for cost of power supply included in base rates for retail electric member-consumers.
3. Establish the 2013 Power Supply Cost Recovery Factor, to be applied to the cooperative's retail member-consumers' kilowatt-hour use. The Power Supply Cost Recovery Factor represents the power supply costs as established by the cooperative in conjunction with Wolverine Power Cooperative. The factor is established annually, and reviewed monthly.
4. Consider revisions to the terms and conditions of service for Seasonal Residential member-consumers.
5. Consider revisions to the cooperative's billing rules.

Notices of changes or additions to the cooperative's rates or service rules shall be sent to all members, as required by P.A. 167, by first class mail or by publication in *Michigan Country Lines* at least 30 days prior to their effective date.

Participation: Any interested member may attend and participate. Persons needing any accommodation to participate should contact Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op at 800-423-6634 a week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. Comments may also be made before the meeting date by calling Chief Executive Officer Brian Burns at 800-423-6634, or by email at bburns@pieg.com.

Understanding Your Energy Bill

PIE&G representatives are always happy to assist you with billing questions, but a brief review of your bill and some tips below may be all you need to determine why your energy bill is higher this month.

No two households use energy the same way, so comparing your electric bill to your neighbor's is like comparing apples to oranges. It's best to compare your own current energy use to your past use or "consumption history."

▶ Start by looking at the number of days in the service period. Are you reporting meter readings on a consistent basis (same date each month)? More days of use in your service period usually results in greater usage.

▶ Did you report an actual reading before your due date last month or is the reading

estimated? If estimated, your actual use dates back to the last actual reading of record. As a result, a higher bill this month may simply be due to an under-estimated reading on your bill the previous month or months.

▶ When you compare use during your most recent month to the same month one year ago, you will need to ensure that both service periods have the same number of days. And, always consider weather fluctuations, which are a factor in any major difference.

▶ If you leave your home for an extended period of time, remember that any appliances plugged in will continue to use electricity, even while you are gone. We all typically make sure TVs and lights are turned off, but major appliances (water heater, freezer, refrigerator, heating/cooling system and well pump) will

Why Do We Send You *Country Lines*?

We send *Country Lines* to you because it is the most economical and convenient way to share information with PIE&G members. It takes the place of many mailings we would otherwise make to get information to

you about our services, director elections, member meetings, and the staff and management decisions you should know about as an owner of the co-op. The magazine also carries legal notices that would otherwise have to be placed in local media at a substantial cost.

And, sending *Country Lines* to you helps the co-op fulfill one of its basic principles—to educate and communicate openly with its members.

The board of directors authorizes the co-op to subscribe to *Country Lines* on your behalf at a cost of \$2.64 per year, paid as part of your electric bill. The current magazine cost is 44 cents per copy, less than the cost of a first-class stamp.

Country Lines is published for us, at cost, by the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association in Okemos. As always, we value your comments about your magazine.



continue to use energy while you're away. The age and efficiency of these appliances may also impact the amount of energy used.

▶ Family size and lifestyle patterns vary widely. Are there teenagers or young children requiring more hot water for laundry, dishes and bathing? Also, personal preferences vary with cool and warm comfort levels.

▶ A lower thermostat setting in winter and higher one in summer saves energy and will reduce your bill.

▶ The age of a home (including drafty doors and windows), the amount of weatherization, and geographic location relative to wind and sun also affects energy bills. For example, a house in an open field facing westerly winds will be much more difficult to heat in a harsh winter and is more prone to the sun's heat on long summer days.

Therefore, you must consider that the amount of energy necessary to warm or cool a home is highly variable and influenced by many factors.

Letters & More

Babysitting co-ops, the Mystery Photo winner, utility bill scams, a note from the editor, and *lots* on Proposal 3. It's all here in your readers' pages.

Babysitting Co-ops

Co-ops are amazing (Family/Sept. issue). You can find a [babysitting] co-op near you at SittingAround (sittingaround.com) or start your own and invite friends.

—Erica

No, Yes and Maybe On Proposal 3

My wife and I are part-time residents of Delta County in the Upper Peninsula, and members of Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association. Our home of record, however, is in Waukegan, IL. Thus, we cannot vote in Michigan and wonder what we can do to speak up against 25 by 25 [Comment/Sept.]. "The Choice Is Clear: Vote No on Prop 3".

We believe that generation and distribution of energy should, for the most part, be regulated by fair open-market competition.

Executive and judicial branches of government should not be creating or amending law at any level. As [you've] stated, this is the job of the legislative branch. My guess is there are a lot of part-time residents that would not support this initiative, but have little or no say in the matter.

—Michael Galbraith

Editor's Note: You can still sign up at CAREforMich.com to

be a supporter of the campaign opposing Prop. 3, and speak out by encouraging your Michigan friends to learn and vote.

Congratulations on a great and informative magazine. You really did a good job in the October issue on pages 11 & 22 explaining why Prop. #3 is more costly than it sounds, and not a good idea.

Thanks again for your wonderfully informative magazine.

—James Benner

My vote is my business and I really do not appreciate being told how to vote by my electric co-op (Comment, Sept.).

The cover of *Country Lines* glared out at me, and immediately I was angry.

It is one thing to inform people of the initiative...you crossed the line in telling members how to vote.

—Pat Grasser

I read with interest your column (Craig Borr, Sept.) "Choose Reasonable – Vote No on 25 x 2025." I have some thoughts to share with you...

I should inform you up-front that my wife and I are firm advocates of alternative power, developing resources other than coal, oil and gas. We recently were awarded a LEED "Platinum" certification for

our newly constructed cottage in Beulah by the U.S. Green Building Council, the first such designation for a private home in Benzie County. (I believe that it may be the only home with 'Platinum' designation in the tri-county area.)

I would normally agree with you that initiatives such as "25 x 2025" should be discussed and legislation enacted by the Michigan Legislature. However, you know as well as I that any attempt to develop and increase use of alternative energy is not going to come out of our Legislature...or at least our present Legislature. They cannot even get their act together on the new international trade bridge which is strongly supported by Governor Snyder!

I do not really care what former Attorney General Frank Kelley recently wrote in the *Detroit Free Press*. He is entitled to his opinion and I am pleased to see that he has one. I also do not care if this initiative is '...being financially supported by outstate special interest groups and foundations from California and Colorado'. If their money can create jobs in our state, that's fine with me. A job is a job to someone who is unemployed up here in north-west Michigan.

With all this being said,

I am very much opposed to using our constitution for this energy initiative. I do not feel that this is the type of issue that should be a part of our state constitution. I shall probably vote 'No' on this energy issue even though I support the end result.

But I think that energy executives—such as you—should come up with a plan that you CAN support. That is the reason for many voters' concerns. We know what you are AGAINST – '25 x 2025' – but give us a plan that shows what you can support. You are in agreement with 10 percent by 2015. Great. Wonderful news. But, can you do 18 percent by 2025? Can you do 20 percent by 2030? I, like many voters, prefer to review as many alternatives as possible to determine the best course of action.

If you would like to see a "No" vote in November on "25 x 2025," cobble together a plan with your fellow CEOs and lay it out for the public to review.

Thank you for your time.

—Jack Witham

Apparently, the choice is clear for him [Craig Borr]. But he has unnecessarily and needlessly muddled up the waters for your readers.

Passing the 25 x 2025 proposal is critical to Michigan's future, the next generation (children/grandchildren), and our economy. His criticism of the proposal because it would change the Michigan Constitution is a smoke screen for his



◀ DO YOU KNOW WHERE THIS IS?

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

We do not accept Mystery Photo guesses by phone! Email mysteryphoto@countrylines.com, or send by mail to *Country Lines Mystery Photo*, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, 48864. Include your name, 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 January 2013 issue.

The September contest winner is Greg Madill of Lansing, who correctly identified the photo of a display behind the museum in the Escanaba City Park.



Sept. photo

Beware of Phone Scams

The White House is *not* paying your electric bill.

Thousands of consumers from coast-to-coast, including electric co-op members, have fallen prey to a telephone scam promising bogus help with energy bills.

The criminals told residents that President Obama had authorized a special federal program to pay electric bills. Then, they asked each victim for personal information, such as a bank routing number or Social Security number, to get the payment.

While this particular scam appears to have run its course, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) stresses that scammers are always creating new ways to steal personal information. Always guard your personal accounting and banking information and never share it with strangers.

Great Lakes Energy (GLE), headquartered in Boyne City, MI, had reports of two different scams this year. The first was someone who called a member and claimed to be from “MECA’s Energy Optimization program.” The caller asked when he could come over and inspect the house as part of an energy audit. The member said he wouldn’t be available that day, and the caller hung up. Suspicious, the member reported this to Great Lakes Energy, which put warnings on their website and through Facebook and Twitter.

Another GLE member received a call advising him that “they” couldn’t read his electric meter, and to avoid “high charges” he needed to call several 900 numbers. The member called several, then hung up when a recording advised him he would be charged a small sum (about \$1.98) for the call. He then called to verify



that all was well with his GLE account and meter.

“If you are unsure a phone call or e-mail from your co-op is legitimate, contact the co-op through known, published numbers, and do not use contact information given in the suspicious phone call or e-mail,” advises Mike Youngs, GLE’s director of information assurance.

As for the federal scam, six members at a South Carolina electric co-op were bilked, and a few had power cut off as a result. These co-op members thought their bill was paid without checking with the co-op to be sure. At least five other states have issued consumer warnings. The Mississippi attorney general’s office took over 1,000 calls from residents about the scam.

Scams do happen, but it’s usually because a member gives personal information to someone they believe is from the electric co-op or other utility. Falling for a scam can be very expensive, resulting in stolen identity, bank and credit card fraud, and unpaid electric bills.

NRECA offers these tips to help avoid being scammed:

- Only use co-op authorized methods to pay electric bills.
- Electric co-op employees visit a home only in response to a service request. If a service call was not scheduled or requested, do not allow the person to enter your house.
- When an employee does come in response to a service call, check identification and make sure the truck is clearly marked with the co-op’s logo or name.

With the federal scam, much of the crime’s success occurred because the victims, not realizing they were scammed, told neighbors and friends of the wonderful “bill payment program.”

If something seems too good to be true, it probably is.

— Angela Perez

real objection, which he scrupulously avoids stating.

It is being proposed as an amendment to the constitution because neither the governor, nor any state agency, nor the state Legislature has the guts to move forward with the notion that we should get 25 percent of our electrical power from renewable resources. Amending the constitution is the way around all the bureaucrats who will not listen to the people.

The additional costs for electric utilities to move to a 25 percent level of renewables are far below the additional costs we would incur if we continue to rely on fossil fuel, especially coal, to meet our electrical needs in the future.

— Rich Dykstra

I picked up the latest *Country Lines*, assuming I would vote against the ballot initiative on renewable energy. Renewable energy is like motherhood, and I objected to it being on the ballot particularly because I don’t think the average voter has any idea of the enormous difficulty of achieving the 25 percent mandate by 2025.

However, your column has me reconsidering my position. It bothers me to have the CEO of the Cooperative Association, in the co-ops’ magazine, refer to the initiative as a “power grab” by “special interests.”

It seems you are using your private podium to characterize the misguided but well-intentioned proposals with terminology unsuited to a serious discussion of the topic.

I hope any future columns will be more responsible.

— Lee Runk

From the Editor

Thanks to all our readers who take time to send letters or comment online at countrylines.com.

We’ve had lots of feedback in the last few months—both positive and negative—on Proposal 3. Many reader concerns about cost, reliability, the environment

and jobs related to that proposal are addressed on pages 4, 11, 12-13, and 26. This may seem like a lot of coverage, but your electric co-op thinks it’s one of the most important energy issues our state has faced in decades.

We encourage everyone to learn the facts on **all** the ballot proposals before voting (Secretary of State is just one source at michigan.gov/sos).

— Gail Knudtson

HOW TO SEND A LETTER Readers are encouraged to submit thoughtful, courteously-worded letters, and we print as many as possible in the space and time allowed.

CountryLines reserves the right to print letters at the publisher’s discretion, based on length, space and content, and to edit slightly for space and facts. Please limit comments to 240 words or less. Submit by posting online at countrylines.com, email gknudtson@meca.coop, or mail to: Editor, Country Lines, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864.

Communities First Fund Scholarship Winners



Andrew Sumerix



Joshua Cumper



Tasha Leese

In 2012, the PIE&G Communities First Fund awarded scholarships to Andrew Sumerix, Alpena; Joshua Cumper, Atlanta; and Tasha Leese, Wolverine. The Travis Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Paige Lewandowski of Posen.

Secure 'Pay By Phone' Option Now Available!



Paying your energy bill just got easier! Your co-op now offers a secure "pay by phone" option that is available 24/7 to pay by credit card or check, enter meter readings, and check your account balance.

You can also manage your account online at pieg.com. Click on "Manage My Account" on our home page, create a log-in, and access "E-bill" to pay by credit card or check.

If you prefer, you may continue paying by check either by mail or at our office. Or, you can call your bank to enroll in automatic payments. Our customer service reps are available to help you work through the details, whichever method of payment you feel most comfortable with.

To comply with new PCI (payment card industry) regulations and to protect your credit card security, we no longer handle credit card payments by phone. Instead, try our free automated "pay by phone" option to save time, stamps and protect your security.

To Pay By Phone:

Call 1-866-999-4571

Have your account number ready and follow the prompts you'll hear for these options:

- 1** Get your account balance
 - 2** Make a payment
 - 3** Provide a meter reading
 - 4** Create or change your PIN
 - 5** Change your phone number
- ▶ Wait until you receive your confirmation number which tells you your payment was complete.
 - ▶ To pay from your checking or savings account, you'll be prompted to create a 4-digit PIN (personal identification number). Contact our member service reps (1-800-423-6634) to set up your PIN for the first time.

Notice to All PIE&G Members

Your cooperative offers a program called the PIE&G Communities First Fund, which is supported by the voluntary rounding up of your monthly utility bill to the next whole dollar. An all-volunteer board of directors appointed by the member-elected board of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op is charged with distributing the funds throughout the cooperative's service area to support nonprofit organizations in communities we serve.

Money from the Communities First Fund has been given to educational programs, fire departments, medical emergency groups, recreational organizations serving all ages, senior organizations, college scholarships, local economic development initiatives, and numerous local charities. A copy of the Fund's annual report, detailing contributions, is included in this issue of *Country Lines* on pages 20-21.

Your participation in the Communities First Fund is voluntary. If at any time you wish to discontinue participation, please let us know and we will be happy to remove your name. If you are participating, your monthly bill is rounded up to the next whole dollar amount. For example, if your bill is \$58.42, it would be rounded up to \$59. The 58 cents is then contributed by Presque Isle Electric & Gas on your behalf, to be used as explained above. A customer's average annual contribution is about \$6. Your annual contribution to the Fund is tax deductible and is reported on your monthly billing statement at the end of the year.

To join the Communities First Fund, call 800-423-6634.

Holiday Office Hours

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op offices will be closed:

- **Nov. 22-23 for Thanksgiving**
- **Dec. 24-25 for Christmas**
- **Jan. 1 for New Year's**

As always, our 24-hour answering service will be available to report outages or other emergencies; call **800-423-6634**.

Elementary School Friday Folders



Hillman Elementary



Posen Consolidated Schools



Atlanta Community Schools



Onaway Elementary



Johannesburg Elementary



Lewiston Elementary

It's that time of year again for Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op to announce another successful delivery of "Friday Folders" for member students enrolled in local public elementary schools for the 2012-2013 academic year.

PIE&G has donated the student folders to member schools since 2003 to help teachers send important student papers home for parents' review. The laminated folders are custom printed—complete with school name, mascot and colors—and were distributed the first week of school in September.

The folders are purchased by PIE&G with financial support from Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, our national marketing alliance. Good luck to all kids and teachers for a successful year of learning!!

Are Window Efficiency Claims 'Up To' Any Good?

Replacing old windows boosts a home's energy efficiency, but how much? A new Federal Trade Commission (FTC) study cautions consumers not to expect all claims to live up to perceived expectations.

Energy-efficient windows do offer lower heating, cooling and lighting costs; replacing old windows with qualified models can cut a home's energy bill 7 to 15 percent, reports the U.S. Department of Energy's ENERGY STAR® program. But true savings depends on proper installation and the type of windows installed—facts that folks often miss when reading advertisements.

To understand how consumers perceive advertisements, the FTC studied how 360 consumers in five states interpreted the potential energy savings of advertised windows.

One of the ads claimed the following: "PROVEN TO SAVE UP TO 47 PERCENT ON YOUR HEATING AND COOLING BILLS!" Another version removed the words, "up to," while a third added this disclosure: "The average owner saves about 25 percent on heating and cooling bills."

Over one-third of consumers who saw the "Up To" version reported the advertised windows would save homeowners 47 percent on their energy bills—a far cry from the true average savings. And, including a disclosure statement didn't weaken the ad's impact.

The FTC believes its report will help advertisers avoid using misleading 'up to' claims, says David Vladeck, Bureau of Consumer Protection director. Earlier FTC studies stopped misleading or deceptive ads from five replacement window manufacturers.

A Deck-the-Halls Energy Tip:

Using light-emitting diodes (LEDs) for holiday decorating offers you savings and safety.

LEDs use less energy and last longer than incandescent lights, with a life span of about 20,000 hours, or about 40 holiday seasons. Running LEDs on one 6-foot Christmas tree (40 days/12 hours each) can bring energy savings of 90 percent or more over traditional lights.

Because they use less energy, LEDs are safer for connecting multiple strands without overloading the outlet, and are cooler to the touch, which reduces injury and fire risks. And because LED bulbs are so strong (no glass or filaments) one individual outage generally won't darken the whole strand.

Find manufacturers of ENERGY STAR-qualified LED decorative lights at energystar.gov.



An important message from the Federal Trade Commission

Shopping for New Windows?

If you're thinking about replacing windows in your home, the choices you make about style, materials, and installation could have a big impact on your energy bill. Here are some things to consider.

Choosing Your Windows

Cost Price per window ranges from a few hundred to a few thousand dollars, depending on materials, features, and installation costs.	Materials Wood frames offer good insulation, but are heavy and high-maintenance. Vinyl-frames insulate well and don't need painting.	Style Single-hung, double-hung, and sliding windows leak more air than casement, awning, and hopper windows.
Glazing & Glass Technologies Some glazes and glass provide better insulation, light, and condensation resistance. Windows with low-emissivity (low-e) coatings often are more energy efficient.	Cleaning & Maintenance Some materials and features make windows easier to care for. Tilt-in sashes, for example, make cleaning easier.	Installation If windows aren't installed according to manufacturer's instructions, you might not get the savings or comfort expected.

An Energy-Rating Label to Help You Shop

Look for the National Fenestration Rating Council's label when you shop.

ENERGY PERFORMANCE RATINGS		Solar Heat Gain Coefficient
U-Factor (U.S.A-P)		
0.30	0.30	Solar Heat Gain Coefficient: Rates how much heat from the sun is allowed in. This is most important in warm climates. Range: 0 — 1
ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE RATINGS		
Visible Transmittance	Air Leakage (U.S.A-P)	
0.51	0.2	Air Leakage Rates how much outside air comes in. Range: 0.1 — 0.3
Condensation Resistance		
51	—	

U-factor:
Rates how much heat escapes through a window; most important in cold climates.
Range: 0.2 — 1.2

Visible Transmittance
Rates how much light comes in.
Range: 0 — 1

Condensation Resistance
Rates how well a product resists condensation.
Range: 1 — 100

World's Best Window Co.
Millennium 2000®
Single- Hung Window
Double Glazing - Argon Fill - Low E
Product Type: Window Model

U-Factor (U.S.A-P)
0.30

Solar Heat Gain Coefficient
0.30

Visible Transmittance
0.51

Air Leakage (U.S.A-P)
0.2

Condensation Resistance
51

Notes: 1. See also the Energy Star website for more information on energy-efficient windows. 2. U-Factor, Solar Heat Gain Coefficient, and Air Leakage are the most important ratings. 3. Visible Transmittance is only important in warm climates. 4. Condensation Resistance is only important in cold climates. 5. For more information, visit nrgc.org.

For more information visit energysavers.gov or efficientwindows.org

Proposal 3 Is a Power Grab

It was a privilege for me to serve as Michigan's Attorney General for 37 years. During that period of service to the people of Michigan I gained in-depth experience in the fields of constitutional law, consumer protection and environmental protection. I also was able to acquire knowledge in the field of regulatory law governing public utilities and other corporations, public and private.

Like you, I am worried about extreme partisanship in our politics, which is causing our citizens to be confused and disappointed with our government.

I am compelled to write now that special interest groups—whether it's the millionaires pursuing new casinos, or the money behind the energy proposal—are taking advantage of our present legislative impasse. These powerful groups are attempting to avoid the proper way of making laws through our duly elected legislature and congress. These multi-million dollar interest groups want to amend our state constitution by placing a single self-serving law on this fall's ballot.

You will be asked to amend the Michigan Constitution with a proposal called "25 x 25" [Proposal 3]. This scheme would mandate that 25 percent of all energy produced for use in Michigan would be from the sun or the wind by the year 2025. This would allow this special interest group to put millions of dollars worth of wind turbines and solar generation all over Michigan's landscape, without any proof that such tremendous investment can be utilized or will be even needed after its installation.

The whole idea of adding renewable energy to Michigan's power needs has already been provided for in a proper law passed in 2008. After two years of thoughtful debate, the 2008 law, as passed, requires Michigan to generate 10 percent of its electricity from renewable sources,



Frank Kelley

such as wind, solar and hydro by 2015, which is only three years from now.

In my considered judgment, this "25 x 25" special interest proposal to amend the constitution this fall is a reckless abuse of constitutional law and would take away our rights

and flexibility to provide our families and corporations with reliable electrical service in the future.

The constitution is a document that provides what powers our government can have and what rights of freedom we citizens of that government can enjoy. The constitution is not to be used for passing independent laws for enriching special interest groups by granting them uncontrolled power.

I am backed-up in my view of this matter by Abraham Lincoln, who said: "We the people are the rightful masters of both Congress and the courts, not to overthrow the Constitution but to overthrow the men who pervert the Constitution."

Take it from me, "25 x 25" is a power grab and against our interests. It should be opposed by every thoughtful citizen.

Respectfully submitted,

*Hon. Frank Kelley
Former Michigan Attorney General*

Others Who Oppose Proposal 3:

Citizens for Wind Energy
FiveCAP Community Action Agency
Gaylord Chamber of Commerce
Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance
IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers)
Iron Workers Local 25
Manufacturers Supply Company
Michigan Association of Counties
Michigan Assn. of Home Builders
Michigan Association of Realtors
Michigan Building & Construction Trades Council
Michigan Chamber of Commerce
Michigan Electric Cooperative Assn.
Michigan Electric & Gas Association
Michigan Farm Bureau
Michigan Food Producers
Michigan Manufacturers Assn.
Michigan Milk Producers Assn.
Michigan Municipal Electric Assn.
Michigan Steel
Mich. State Utility Workers Council
Michigan Sugar Company
Monroe County Community College
Montcalm County Panhandle Area Chamber of Commerce
Northern Lakes Economic Alliance
Small Business Assn. of Michigan
Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber
OmniSource Corp. - MI Division
Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce
Prairie Farms Dairy
Plumbers & Steamfitters UA Local 85
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
The Port City Group
Traverse City Area Chamber
UWUA (Utility Workers Union of Amer.)
...and many individual citizens.

Visit **CAREforMich.org** for a full list of Proposal 3 opponents.

Electric co-ops believe in a responsible approach to achieving clean, affordable, renewable energy.

Renewable Energy:

On Nov. 6, you will have a chance to play an important role in establishing Michigan public policy. Besides having the opportunity to select candidates, six statewide ballot proposals will be presented for your consideration. One in particular, Proposal 3, will have far-reaching effects on our state's economy and environment, if it's approved.

At first glance, Proposal 3 is deceptively attractive. It would require 25 percent of all Michigan's electricity to be generated by in-state renewable sources—specifically, wind, solar, biomass and hydro—by 2025. The devil is in the details, however, and the unintended consequences of this proposal would be particularly harmful to co-op members living in rural areas. Before voting, be sure you understand all the costs associated with locking this renewable energy policy into the state constitution.

FINANCIAL COSTS

Michigan is already on track, by state law, to get 10 percent of its energy from renewable sources by 2015. This law will be reviewed in 2015 to ensure Michigan continues on an affordable, reliable path to clean energy, and it can be changed if needed to adjust to new technologies or spare consumers from unreasonable high costs.

Proposal 3 language limits rate increases to 1 percent annually, but this is misleading. A 1 percent increase every year, over a 13-year period, represents a cumulative 13 percent increase in the final year, and every year after. This cap does not include related costs—such as building necessary transmission systems and back-up generation for when the wind doesn't blow—or normal rate increases not associated with this measure. The Mackinac Center for Public Policy reports that Proposal 3 would cost the average residential ratepayer an additional \$170 to \$190 per year by 2025.

JOBS & OTHER ECONOMIC COSTS

Proposal 3 backers claim it will create tens

At Any COST?

of thousands of jobs in green industries, but there's no credible way to predict such job creation. Similar claims were made when the current Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) was enacted in 2008, but actual job creation has fallen well short of the hoped-for projections.

Ironically, current wind projects under construction in Gratiot County are manufactured overseas and out-of-state. The *Muskegon Chronicle* reported that Muskegon's shipping port has received multiple loads of turbine tower sections from South Korea, and is expecting more turbine blade shipments from Germany this fall. The "value-added" portion of the turbines for this project—hubs, gear box and generator—are produced in Arkansas.

While transporting and assembling of blades and tower sections may provide some short-term jobs, they are not sustainable jobs. More likely, Proposal 3 will kill full-time utility jobs and place another handicap on Michigan's economic growth. The added impact on electric rates will force businesses to spend money on higher energy costs instead of hiring new employees. Worse yet, if energy rates become uncompetitive, Michigan employers will look to relocate across state borders.

None of the states that Michigan competes with for economic development projects has a 25 percent RPS, and no state in the nation has an RPS locked into its constitution. A model simulation coordinated by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy estimates the proposal would result in a loss of over 10,500 jobs.

Many of the state's trade unions, including the Utility Workers Union of America, Iron Workers Local 25, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, oppose the measure. They are concerned about the job loss it would create.

"I've looked hard, but I can't find anything in this proposal that would guarantee real jobs for the people who need them," says

Pat Dillon, national president of the Utility Workers Union of America. "Things are finally looking up in Michigan and people are starting to get back to work. We need to protect those jobs, not gamble with them, and that's what this proposal would do."

ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS

While the proposal is intended to improve the environment, it would change our state's beautiful landscape and lakeshores forever. The 25 percent mandate would require 3,100 more wind turbines in the state, each taller than the Statue of Liberty, which lined up side-by-side would require space four times the area of Detroit, Grand Rapids, Flint, Lansing, Ann Arbor, Kalamazoo, Saginaw and Traverse City—combined!

Proposal 3 does not include any plan for where to locate the additional wind turbines and high-voltage transmission lines, and no environmental impact study has been done to understand the impact on birds and other wildlife. Today, local communities set their own zoning standards and ordinances

to govern the development of wind farms and other renewable energy projects. If the proposal is locked into the state constitution, such zoning laws could be challenged on constitutional grounds and potentially overturned, stripping local officials of their authority. Or, the need for so much land to meet the constitutional requirement could force the state government to step in and impose a statewide zoning ordinance. Some industry observers believe the adoption of Proposal 3 would very likely reignite the debate about placing wind turbines in the Great Lakes.

Simply put, Proposal 3 is bad for co-op members, and bad for Michigan. Michigan electric co-ops support the current 10 percent by 2015 RPS, but do not support amending the constitution to enact energy policy (see related articles on pgs. 4, 11 and 26). Please consider all "costs" associated with Proposal 3 before heading to the polls Nov. 6.

Voting "No" on Proposal 3 is a vote for ensuring that Michigan continues on an affordable, reliable path to clean energy.

BALLOT LANGUAGE

PROPOSAL 12-3

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ESTABLISH A STANDARD FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

This proposal would:

- Require electric utilities to provide at least 25% of their annual retail sales of electricity from renewable energy sources, which are wind, solar, biomass, and hydropower, by 2025.
- Limit to not more than 1% per year electric utility rate increases charged to consumers only to achieve compliance with the renewable energy standard.
- Allow annual extensions of the deadline to meet the 25% standard in order to prevent rate increases over the 1% limit.
- Require the legislature to enact additional laws to encourage the use of Michigan made equipment and employment of Michigan residents.

Should this proposal be approved? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Home Heating Assistance Programs • 2012–2013 Season

The Michigan Public Service Commission and the state's regulated gas and electric companies, including rural electric co-ops, are encouraging senior citizens, low income, and unemployed utility customers to **"Be Winter Wise"** if faced with high bills they cannot pay this winter. "Winter Wise" customers will be protected against loss of their utility service.

Program: Winter Protection Plan

Contact: Your Local Utility Company

Income Guidelines 2012–2013

# in Household	150% Poverty Guide Maximum Income
1	\$16,755
2	22,695
3	28,635
4	34,575
5	40,515
6	46,455
7	52,395
8	58,335
Add \$5,940 for each additional member.	

Note: All customers 65+ are eligible regardless of income. Customers are responsible for all electricity and natural gas used. At the end of the protection period, participants in the plan must make arrangements with their utility company to pay off any money owed before the next heating season.

The **Winter Protection Plan** protects eligible senior and low-income customers from service shut-offs and high utility bill payments during the winter months (Nov. 1–Mar. 31). You may enroll between Nov. 1 and March 31. If you are an eligible low-income customer, your utility service will remain on from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31, if you:

- pay at least 7% of your estimated annual bill each month, *and*
- make equal monthly payments of 1/12 of any past due bills.

When the protection period ends (Mar. 31), from April 1 through Oct. 31, you must begin to pay the full monthly bill, plus part of the amount you owe from the winter months when you did not pay the full bill. **Participation does not relieve customers from the responsibility of paying for electricity and natural gas usage, but does prevent shut-off during winter months.** You qualify for the plan if you meet at least one of the following requirements:

- you are age 65 or older,
- you receive Department of Human Services cash assistance, including SSI,
- you receive Food Stamps,
- you receive Medicaid, or
- your household income is at or below the 150% of poverty level shown in the Income Guidelines chart at left.

Senior citizen customers (65 or older) who participate in the Winter Protection Plan are not required to make specific payments to ensure that their service will not be shut-off between Nov. 1 and March 31. However, seniors are encouraged to pay whatever they can during the winter so they will not have large, unmanageable bills when the protection ends.

Program: Home Heating Credit

Contact: Mich. Dept. of Treasury

# Exemp.	Max. Income	# Exemp.	Max. Income
1	\$12,299	4	25,357
2	16,671	5	29,728
3	21,014	6	34,071
Add \$4,343 for each additional member.			

You can apply for a **Home Heating Credit** for the 2012 tax year if you meet the income guidelines listed at left, or you qualify based on alternate guidelines including household income, exemptions, and heating costs. Additional exemptions are available for seniors, disabled claimants, or claimants with 5-% or more of their income from unemployment compensation.

If you qualify, you may receive assistance to help pay for your winter heating bills. The average Credit for the 2011 tax year was \$135. Forms are available mid- to late-January wherever tax forms are provided, or from the Michigan Dept. of Treasury (517-636-4486, or michigan.gov/treasury). The Home Heating Credit claim form must be filed with the Michigan Dept. of Treasury **before Sept. 30, 2013**.

Program: Earned Income Credit

Contact: U.S. Treasury Dept.,
Internal Revenue Service
irs.gov/EITC

Michigan Dept. of Treasury
michigan.gov/treasury

The **Earned Income Credit (EIC)** is a refundable federal income tax credit for low-income working individuals and families who meet certain requirements and file a tax return. Those who qualify will owe less in taxes and may get a refund. Even a person who does not generally owe income tax may qualify for the EIC, but must file a tax return to do so. If married, you must file jointly to qualify. File Form 1040 or 1040A and attach the EIC.

You may claim a **Michigan earned income tax credit** for tax year 2012 equal to a percentage of the federal earned income tax credit for which you are eligible. See the 2012 MI tax booklet for additional information.

Program: Crisis Assistance Program

Contact: Local Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS)
michigan.gov/mdhs

State Emergency Relief Program (SER): You do not have to be a client of the DHS to apply. This program is available year-round, subject to the availability of funds, to assist low-income households that have a heat or electric shut-off notice or a need for deliverable fuel. However, if you receive a DHS cash grant, you may vendor part of that grant towards heat and electric bills. Contact your local DHS or call the Home Heating Hotline, 855-275-6424.

Program: Low-Income Home Weatherization

Contact: Local Community Action Agency

You may be able to receive help with weatherizing your home to reduce energy use if you meet low-income eligibility guidelines (150% of poverty guidelines shown above) and funding is available. **Weatherization** may include caulking, weatherstripping, and insulating. Contact your local Community Action Agency for more information. Visit mcaaa.org to find one in your area.

Program: United Way

Contact: Call 2-1-1 or UWmich.org/2-1-1

2-1-1 is a free phone service operating 24 hours per day providing callers information about resources that may be available in their particular area to help with utilities and other needs. Learn more at UWmich.org/2-1-1.

Program: Medical Emergency Protection

Contact: Local Utility Company

You are protected from service shut-off for nonpayment of your natural gas and/or electric bill for up to 21 days, possibly extended to 63 days, if you have a proven **medical emergency**. You must provide written proof from a doctor, public health or social services official that a medical emergency exists. Contact your gas or electric utility for more information.

Program: Shut-off Protection for Military Active Duty

Contact: Local Utility Company

If you or your spouse has been called into **active military duty** you may apply for shut-off protection from your electric or natural gas service for up to 90 days. You may request extensions. You will still be required to pay, but your utility company will help you set up a payment plan. Contact your utility service provider.

The Craft Lady of Caro



Mollie Hartel values the combination of handcrafting and family.

According to KnitMeter.com, if Molli Hartel unraveled all the yarn she's crafted into projects this year it would stretch about 173 miles. It would reach from her home in Caro to the family's log cabin at Fife Lake, south of Traverse City, and back to the Thumb.

The online yarn-usage calculator isn't the only measure of her productivity. Molli's hats and mittens are warming the heads and hands of her husband Scott, son Brandon and daughter Rachel and their spouses, four grandsons, and countless other relatives and friends she's gifted with her handiwork. Strangers, too, are cozier in the hats, scarves, mittens and baby sweaters she's made for those in need at domestic abuse and alternative care centers.

You won't, however, find her fiber arts projects for sale. "I've never done a craft show. To have to 'knit to order' turns it into work," explains Molli. She likes to create what and when she wants, even to switch projects midstream. "That's when it's fun for me."

The prolific knitter is a self-described "computer geek" who worked in the IT business for over 25 years before directing her expertise to Scott's company, Testing Services Group, in Lapeer. Her part-time post there allows her plenty of opportunity to knit, crochet and sew—skills she learned as a young girl growing up in Cass City from her grandmother, Mollie Holzwart.

By the time Molli reached high school,

her fiber arts talents were well-known around town. She'd swept the 4-H ribbons at the county fair and, instead of enrolling as a student in Home Ec class, was made an assistant to the teacher. It's not surprising that she made her dress for the high school prom, but Molli also stitched a tuxedo for her date and future husband, Scott. The Cass City couple met in second grade and started dating at age 15. When the bride created her wedding gown, she incorporated lace crocheted by Grandma Mollie.

Although Molli always has a variety of projects in the works, from piecing together quilts to making mosaics from broken Fiesta ware, knitting is her predominant craft, largely because it's the most portable. "I can take it with me anywhere," she says. A recent seven-hour road trip to see the Detroit Tigers play in Cincinnati meant another pair of socks for a future gift. "I've knitted in canoes, innumerable ballgames, movies, in the dark... it's what I do."

Living Crafts magazine has featured two of Molli's projects, both inspired by her grandsons. One is an original design for knitted mittens with long cuffs to cover the skin between the mitts and jacket that is typically exposed to the cold. The cover of the January 2012 issue of *Living Crafts* shows her "Blankie Baby," something Molli created for the boys because, she explains, "Matchbox toys were too noisy for church; they needed a quiet toy, so I made one."

The "Blankie Baby" pattern is included



Molli's Blankie Baby pattern, above, was featured in *Living Crafts* magazine.



Contact Molli Hartel at 989-673-4610, email hartel_m@hotmail.com, and visit her blog at mollismaterials.blogspot.com.

in the magazine and sold at ravelry.com, a website for knitters. The dolls, which her grandsons call "Abba Babies" (after their nickname "Abba" for Molli) measure about 8 inches tall and 5 inches across, and are made of superwash wool and sock yarn because they're washable and durable. The heads are stuffed with a bit of quilt batting to give them some dimension.

"It's an absolute privilege and joy having grandkids to do this for," says Molli of her projects. "The thing I'm most proud of is that I have a family who appreciates what I do."

For self-conscious, would-be crafters she encourages, "There isn't anybody who isn't a crafty person. They just haven't found their medium yet." She suggests experimenting with different materials because, "There's a value to handcrafting. Anybody can spend dollars to purchase a gift, but to make something for someone...it shows time and caring. There's no limit to the value that making things can mean to someone."

Top Finds In toys

Some seasons feel like life in fast motion. Long before Labor Day, my little granddaughters have dog-eared catalogs of coveted Halloween costumes. Now, almost before the Jack-o'-Lantern has cooled, they're dreaming of holiday wish lists. As much as I resist, it's hard not to catch their excitement. But how to choose from a dizzying array of gift options?

One good resource I have found can help. If you're looking for holiday gift ideas for the special kids in your life, now is a good time to check out the National Parenting Center's Seal of Approval program. For two decades, this organization has been testing and finding the latest award-winning products and services, as judged by parents and children.

The testing involves a multi-step process conducted over eight weeks. Staffed by volunteers, the testing facility of The National Parenting Center gives parents, children and educators the opportunity to examine a variety of submitted products. The testers are encouraged to play with, build, read about, and judge by the reactions of the children, each product's quality.

Each product is rated its level of desirability, sturdiness, interactive stimulation and other ingredients essential to a quality product.

The Fall 2012 Seal of Approval report is ready for review at tnpc.com/search/Fall-12soaframes.asp, but you can also browse all the seal winners since 1992 at tnpc.com/soa/listsoa.htm.

Some Top Picks for the 2012 Holidays

This year's list contains some traditional toys and educational products, while reflecting the rising popularity of mobile technology.

"We are surely seeing a movement towards mobile products and apps and even traditional games adding in a level of connectivity to keep current, says David Gaynes, product testing manager for the program. "We have discovered some wonderful apps including, 'The Monster at the End of This Book' from Sesame Street, 'Toy Story Showtime' and 'Brave: Interactive Comic'



These and other toys mentioned in this article meet the National Parenting Center's Seal of Approval.

from Disney Publishing."

There's even an app that can teach your child (ages 4 and up) how to speak a new language. Little Pim Spanish, French, and Chinese apps impressed the testers with their crisp, clear graphics and vibrant colors. Testers say the narrator's voice is easy on the ears and the vocabulary being taught is simple and helpful. Categories include child-friendly concepts such as waking up, eating, drinking and playtime. While only an introduction to language, the apps do what they are supposed to: make learning other languages fun.

When it comes to gifts, Gaynes has some recommendations:

"For crafty kids I'd recommend 'Duct Tape Bangles' from ALEX, 'My Friendship Bracelet Maker Traveler' from Choose Friendship, 'PlusCraft BFF Pillow' from The Orb Factory, and a book called '101 Great Gifts Kids Can Make' by Gryphon House." He also recommends the "Play-Doh Candy Cyclone" from Hasbro.

"It's not traditional crafts, but a blast," he notes.

For video game fans, Gaynes urges parents

to consider the Kinect games.

"There are two amazing games that get kids up and moving and are fantastic," he says, 'Kinect Star Wars' and 'Kinect Rush: A Disney/Pixar Adventure.'"

Gift-givers can also check out "LEGO Batman 2: DC Super Heroes," which is a more traditional Xbox controller game.

When it comes to more traditional toys, look for "Tranquil Turtle" from Cloud B, which is bound to melt everyone's heart. Other 2012 favorites include "Pour and Float Froggy" from VTech—a great bathtime toy—and Folkmanis "Little Puppets." "Trucky 3" from Smart/Tangoes is a truck toy that doubles as a logic puzzle for ages 3 and up. "Stuffedies" animals/pillows from martFIVE are adorable and will surely elicit lots of smiles.

Gaynes said "Imaginext Eagle Talon Castle" from Fisher-Price will thrill any little boy, and their "Fantastic Gymnastic Dora" will make any little girl's holiday.

While on the Seal of Approval site, parents can complete a questionnaire to better understand their child's personality. The extensive questionnaire was developed by psychologists to rate the personalities of children, adolescents, and adults of any age. Parents can also search through an extensive collection

of parenting articles written by experts in subjects ranging from sibling rivalry and explaining divorce to potty training and talking back.

Don't forget to add a good book!

No holiday would be complete without a good book or two. Each year a committee of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) identifies the best-of-the-best in children's books for readers birth through age 14.

Visit ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncb to check out the 2012 Notable Children's Books list.



Linda Wacyk is a regular contributor to Country Lines magazine....and yes, a grandmother too.



Highly Prized

Bob Summers' handmade bamboo fly rods are some of the best in the world.

Ours is a mass-production society, and those of us who live in Michigan have been smack in the middle of it ever since Henry Ford first dreamed up the assembly line.

The advantages of mass production are obvious—not only are the costs of consumer goods reduced, but service and parts become readily available, too. Still, there are plenty of folks who are willing to pay more—sometimes significantly more—for unique items. That is especially true for sporting goods.

Bob Summers knows this and has made a living his whole life by providing sportsmen with something truly unique: handmade bamboo fly rods.

Summers, of Traverse City, was bitten by the fly-fishing bug as a youth, and as a teenager in 1956 took an after-school job at a Detroit fly rod shop. He hasn't stopped making fly rods since then.

After 17 years working at the company founded by the legendary Paul Young, Summers decided it was time to go out on his own. Today, he is among the best-known bamboo fly-rod builders in the world, with a customer base that extends to Europe and Asia.

Although most fly rods are now made from graphite, some aficionados prefer bamboo because of the tradition behind them. Others say simply that bamboo rods “feel more alive” than modern graphite rods.

“There’s definitely a different feel,” says Summers, 74. “It’s a slower action. It’s heavier in your hand than a graphite rod

for the same size line, but I kind of like the feel in your hand.”

Summers compares the two rods to using a heavy hammer or a light one—in the end, both will get the job done—it’s just a matter of personal preference.

“Bamboo isn’t for everyone,” Summers says. “The stroke of the rod is slower. I wouldn’t say it’s ‘better.’ I prefer to say it’s different. Some people fall in love with it right away. Some people don’t. “A person’s got to really fish a lot to appreciate it,” he adds.

Bamboo—also known as cane—is a tropical or semi-tropical grass with a hollow stem and woody exterior that provides both the strength and flexibility required for fly rods. It was the premier fly rod material before the advent of fiberglass (which eventually gave way to graphite) and is still highly prized by traditional fly fishermen. The best cane for fly rods is Tonkin cane, from South China, and it’s the only bamboo Summers has ever used in his craft.

Summers begins the rod-building process with lengths of cane that measure anywhere from 2 to 2½ inches in diameter. He immediately splits them lengthwise—to keep them from cracking on their own—and heat-treats them over an open flame to temper the cane and give it that rich caramel color. He then cuts lengths of cane into strips (about ¼-inch wide) and machines the lengths into

60-degree triangles that taper lengthwise. The strips are glued together into a six-sided section of rod. The lengths of rod are filed smooth, steel-wooled and varnished, at least twice.

Summers typically makes two-piece rods—a butt and a tip—and fabricates all of his own hardware (except for the line guides)—including the reel seats and the nickel silver ferrules that join the sections. Most Summers rods come with two tips, so the angler has a spare should he break it, though he says some of his customers prefer to buy a rod with just one tip so they can put the money they save toward another rod.

“There’s no one rod that does everything best,” Summers explains. “You use different rods if you’re fishing for 8-inch brook trout than you do if you’re fishing for steelhead. You’ve got to have a couple of rods—at least.”

Summers rods aren’t cheap. Prices begin at around \$2,100 for a two-tip set, but they are apparently worth the investment; used Summers rods are starting to show up as collectibles, fetching far more than Summers charges for a new one.

“You’ve got to feel alright about that,” he says. “I’m not getting a big head about it, but it’s better than them not being collectibles.”

If you’re thinking about a Summers rod for your angling sweetheart for Christmas, you’re probably out of luck. These rods are in such demand that there’s a waiting list to buy one. But if you order one now, you can have it by next Christmas.

Visit rwsummers.com to learn more about Bob Summers and the rods he makes.



Grandma's
Lemon
Squares

Take-along DISHES

From salads to main dishes and desserts, these recipes are sure to be a hit at your next event.

Grandma's Lemon Squares

2 c. flour
1/2 c. powdered sugar
1 c. butter, melted
4 eggs, beaten
2 c. granulated sugar
4 T. flour
1/2 t. baking powder
1/3 c. lemon juice

powdered sugar to sprinkle on top

Preheat oven to 350°. Mix flour, powdered sugar, and butter together. Press into greased and floured 9x13-inch pan. Bake 20 to 25 minutes. Combine the rest of the ingredients and pour over the bottom crust. Bake 20 to 25 minutes more. Cool and sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Jenn Seif, Shelbyville

Enchilada Stuffed Shells

15 uncooked jumbo pasta shells
1 lb. lean ground beef
1 10-oz. can enchilada sauce
1/2 t. dried minced onion
1/4 t. dried basil
1/3 t. dried oregano
1/4 t. ground cumin
1/2 c. fat free refried beans
1 c. reduced fat cheddar cheese, shredded

Cook pasta according to package directions; drain and rinse in cold water. In a non-stick skillet, cook beef over medium heat until no

longer pink; drain. Stir in enchilada sauce and seasonings; set aside. Place a rounded teaspoon of refried beans in each pasta shell, then fill with beef mixture. Place in 11x7 x2-inch baking dish coated with cooking spray. Cover and bake at 350° for 25 minutes. Uncover; sprinkle with cheese. Bake 5 minutes or until cheese is melted. Makes 5 servings.

Sandy Amenson, Interlochen

Sweet Potatoes with Apple and Cranberries

4 lbs. orange-fleshed sweet potatoes, peeled and thinly sliced in rounds
4 Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored and thinly sliced in rings
1 c. sweetened, dried cranberries
1 1/3 c. clover honey
1/3 c. frozen orange juice concentrate
1 c. apple cider or unsweetened apple juice
3/4 c. chopped pecans

3/4 t. fine sea salt or regular salt

Butter a 9x13-inch glass baking dish. Arrange half of the potato slices in four overlapping rows in dish; place half the apple slices over the potatoes in the same fashion. Sprinkle with a third of the cranberries. Repeat with a layer of potatoes and apples. Tuck remaining cranberries in gaps between apple slices. Sprinkle with pecans. In a saucepan over very low heat, combine honey, orange juice concentrate, apple juice and salt; cook and

stir until honey dissolves. Pour mixture over potatoes and apples. Cover with foil and bake at 350° for 45 minutes. Uncover and bake 15 minutes longer, or until potatoes are tender. Serves 12 to 16.

Marilyn Partington Frame, Traverse City

Picnic Potato Salad

3 1/2 lbs. red-skin potatoes, peeled and cut into 3/4-inch pieces

3 T. white wine vinegar
2 hard boiled eggs, chopped
1/2 c. chopped onion
1/2 c. chopped celery
1/3 c. chopped italian parsley
3/4 c. mayonnaise
3/4 c. sour cream
4 t. dijon mustard

Cook potatoes in large pot of boiling salted water just until tender, about 12 minutes; drain and transfer to a large bowl. Drizzle vinegar over hot potatoes and cool to room temperature. Mix eggs, onion, celery and parsley into potatoes. Whisk together mayonnaise, sour cream and mustard; mix into potato mixture. Season with salt and pepper. This can be made one day ahead. Cover and refrigerate. Serves 6.

Paula Brousseau, Bellaire

Ham & Cheese Poppyseed Melt

2 T. dried minced onions
1 T. dijon mustard
1 t. poppy seeds
1/2 c. butter, melted
1 dozen (1 pkg.) King Hawaiian Sweet Rolls
1/2 lb. sliced deli ham
thinly sliced swiss cheese

Preheat oven to 325°. In a small mixing bowl, stir together onions, mustard, poppy seeds and melted butter. Leaving the dinner rolls intact, slice them open so that you have one solid top and bottom. Place bottom half on sprayed baking sheet or pan; place ham slices to cover the rolls. Top this with slices of cheese. Place the top part of the rolls on the ham and cheese. Drizzle the slightly cooled butter mixture evenly over the rolls. Cover with foil and bake for 20 minutes. Use a knife to separate the rolls into individual sandwiches.

Jean Alexander, East Jordan

Ranch Beans

1 lb. hamburger
1 onion, chopped
1 lb. bacon, fried and crumbled
1 can kidney beans, drained
1 can butter beans, drained
1 can pork and beans, undrained

1/4 c. ketchup
2 T. molasses
1/2 c. brown sugar
1/2 c. white sugar

Cook hamburger and onion together. Drain. Add fried bacon, then rest of ingredients. Mix well. Put into 3-quart baking dish. Bake 1 hour at 350°. Can also make in crock pot.

Bonnie Gauld, Fife Lake

Quick Taco Salad

4 c. shredded iceberg lettuce
1 c. tomatoes, diced
1/4 c. green peppers, diced
1 c. ground beef
1 packet taco seasoning mix
1 c. taco cheese, shredded
1 c. nacho Dorito chips, crushed
thousand island dressing (to taste)

Place lettuce, tomatoes and peppers into a large bowl. Cook ground beef over medium heat and add taco seasoning as directed on package. Once cooled, add to salad. Toss with thousand island dressing. Add crushed Dorito chips just before serving.

Danielle Cochran, Grayling

Pumpkin Cheese Dip

1 pie pumpkin
1 bar of hot pepper Monterey jack cheese
croutons, any flavor
1/4 c. milk
2 T. butter

Cut off top of pumpkin and scoop out seeds and pulp. Cut cheese into cubes and layer cheese and croutons in pumpkin until full. Pack down and add milk and butter. Place top on pumpkin and place on a cookie sheet. Bake at 250° for a couple hours until it all melts.

Serve straight out of the pumpkin with cut up vegetables and crackers. This is also easily made ahead, refrigerated and baked later. It's a perfect recipe for fall.

Marianne Murphy, Kalkaska

Chocolate Raspberry Streusel Squares

1½ c. flour
1½ c. oats
1/2 c. sugar
1/2 c. brown sugar, packed
1 t. baking powder
1/4 t. salt
1 c. butter
1 c. raspberry jam
1 c. chocolate chips
1/4 c. chopped almonds

Preheat oven to 375°. Combine flour, oats, sugar, brown sugar, baking powder, and salt. Cut-in butter until mixture is crumbly. Set aside 1 cup of mixture to use for streusel. Press remaining mixture into the bottom of an ungreased 9-inch-square pan and bake for 10 minutes. Spread jam over crust; sprinkle evenly with chocolate chips. Combine reserved oat mixture with almonds and sprinkle over chocolate chips. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes or until golden brown. Cool completely before cutting into squares.

Jenn Seif, Shelbyville

Pina Colada Pie

1/3 c. butter or margarine, melted
1/4 c. sugar
1¼ c. crushed graham crackers, about 18 crackers
1 8-oz. can crushed pineapple, with juice
1/3 c. sour cream
1 small package vanilla instant pudding
1 8-oz. Cool Whip, thawed
1 3-oz. package cream cheese, softened
1 t. vanilla
1 c. shredded coconut

Stir butter, sugar and crackers together. Press into pan and bake at 350° for 4-5 minutes, or until edges are lightly browned. Set aside to cool. In a bowl, mix pineapple and sour cream with dry pudding mix. Add cream

cheese and mix well. Add coconut, vanilla and Cool Whip (save a couple tablespoons of graham cracker crumbs, Cool Whip and coconut for garnish). Pour mixture into pie crust. Garnish gently with reserved graham cracker crumbs, Cool Whip and coconut. Cover and refrigerate for a couple of hours before serving.

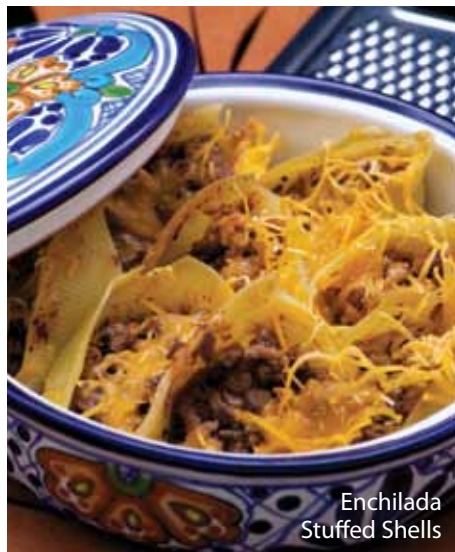
Dave Richards

Ham and Cheese Melts

1 package puff pastry
1/2 lb. sliced ham
6 slices Kraft American or cheddar cheese
4 slices provolone cheese
salt and pepper

Thaw puff pastry for 2 hours before using. Preheat oven to 400°. Spray a large cookie sheet with nonstick spray. Take one sheet of puff pastry and unroll onto cookie sheet. Lay Kraft cheese on puff pastry, leaving a 1-inch border around the puff pastry (so the cheese doesn't leak out of the pastry). Layer the ham over the Kraft cheese, then layer the provolone cheese over the ham. The last layer is the second sheet of puff pastry. Crimp the 1-inch edges with a fork. Make three 2-inch slits on the top layer of the puff pastry. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Cook for 20-25 minutes or until golden brown. Cut into a total of 9 pieces.

Danielle Cochran, Grayling



Enchilada
Stuffed Shells

Take-along Tips:

- If invited to bring food to a potluck or party, bring a dish that's enough for roughly 12 servings.
- If bringing a cake or cupcakes, coat the plastic wrap with nonstick cooking spray. The frosting will arrive intact.
- If your dish has a sauce on the side, provide paper or foil muffin cups. The guests can put the condiment in the cup so it doesn't run all over their plate.
- Bring your own serving ware, such as a large serving utensil, and expect that you may lose it. Put a piece of tape with your name on any dishes.

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE! Contributors whose recipes we have printed in 2012 will be entered in a drawing to win a prize: *Country Lines* paying their January 2013 electric bill (up to \$200)! The 2012 winner will be announced in the Jan. 2013 issue.

Thanks to all who sent in recipes! Upcoming: Please send in **CHOCOLATE** recipes by Nov. 10 and **BRUNCH** recipes by Dec. 10. Mail to: *Country Lines Recipes*, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864; or email recipes@countrylines.com.

Photography by: 831 Creative



Powering Communities, Empowering Members

The generosity of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op members and their desire to better their communities allows the PIE&G Communities First Fund to fulfill its philanthropic mission of distributing funds to help individuals and organizations in need in our service area. Members volunteering to “round up” their energy bill to the next dollar (averages 50 cents monthly) provide funds overseen by a nine-member volunteer board of directors. Funds are given through an application process and allow small contributions to make a BIG difference in northeast Michigan. To those who participate in the fund—**THANK YOU!** For those who would like to join the cause and help their communities, please call the co-op office at 800-423-6634.

Sampling of grants awarded in 2011...

APPLICANT, PURPOSE	AMOUNT GRANTED
United Way of NE Michigan, Project Connect-Montmorency Co.	\$1,500
Rogers City Little League, Equipment and Uniforms	\$1,000
Onaway Area Schools Library, Scholastic Reading Books	\$2,000
Lamplighters of Montmorency Co., Dolly Parton Imagination Library. . .	\$1,500
Johannesburg-Lewiston, High School Robotics Competition	\$500
Greenwood Twp. Parks & Rec., White Pine Trail & Park Project	\$500
Cheboygan Area High School, Project Graduation.	\$500
Case Township, Carbon Monoxide Safety Protection	\$1,460
Winfield, Chelsea, 2011 Scholarship	\$2,400
Strzelecki, Leann, Travis Memorial Scholarship	\$500
Mulka, Tracy, 2011 Scholarship	\$2,400
Belanger, Rachel, 2011 Scholarship	\$2,400
American Legion Post 198, Lewiston, Pavilion/Storage Shed	\$1,000
Friends of Hoeft State Park, Playground Equipment	\$500
Village of Millersburg, Summer Recreation Program	\$350
MSU Extension, Alpena, Fur, Fins & Feather 4-H Camp	\$413

Posen Area Fire & Rescue, Accident Scene Equipment	\$500
Great Start Collaborative of COP, Indian River, Back Pack & Go Project . . .	\$750
Onaway Area Comm. Schools, Green Lab Equipment/Supplies	\$1,965
Posen Consolidated Schools, Anti-Bullying Program.	\$3,000
Presque Isle County Sheriff's Dept., Equipment for K-9 Unit	\$1,204
Inland Lakes Schools, Instructional Workstations.	\$2,300
The Caring Place, Atlanta, Food Pantry Supplies.	\$1,500
Calvary Episcopal Church of Hillman, Community Food Pantry	\$1,500
Alcona Community High School, Woodworking Program	\$2,000
Hospice of Michigan, Alpena, Grief Support Program	\$1,000
North Country Animal Assisted Therapeutic Prog., Equipment.	\$1,000
Metz Township, Posen, Metz Fire Historical Signage	\$3,600
Cheboygan Middle School Library, Kindles	\$310
VSA Michigan-Northeast, Mackinaw City, Artistic Expressions Program. . .	\$600
Rogers City Elementary School, Fifth Grade Camp Wolverine	\$800
Grand Lakes Community Chapel, Presque Isle, Food Party Equipment . .	\$1,330
Fire/EMS Members Charity, Atlanta, Holiday Giving Project	\$1,000

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Communities First Fund
Statement of Financial Position
Dec. 31, 2011 and 2010

Assets	2011	2010
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 89,966	\$ 73,823
Cash – restricted	3,000	3,000
Account receivable	4,753	4,691
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 97,719	\$ 81,514
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	\$ 62,863	\$ 46,366
Unrestricted, designated	31,856	32,148
Permanently restricted	3,000	3,000
TOTAL NET ASSETS	97,719	81,514
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 97,719	\$ 81,514
Activities and Change in Net Assets		
REVENUE:		
Contributions – members	\$ 58,139	\$ 59,619
Contributions – PIE&G	9,564	12,907
Interest	136	265
TOTAL REVENUE	67,839	72,791
EXPENSES:		
Grants	35,395	33,932
Scholarships	6,500	7,100
Professional fees	2,500	2,400
Program expense	6,277	9,871
Director's expense	962	856
TOTAL EXPENSE	51,634	54,159
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	16,205	18,632
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	81,514	62,882
NET ASSETS, end of year	\$ 97,719	\$ 81,514

Audit completed by Harris Group, Traverse City. Complete audit report available upon request.



Support for the Alcona Community High School After School Woodworking Program.



Kindle e-book readers were purchased for Cheboygan Middle School Library.



Food bags for Project Connect, United Way of Northeast Michigan.

How Can I Help My Community?

The PIE&G Communities First Fund was created in 1998. The funds for this program are generated when PIE&G members volunteer to "round up" their utility bills to the next dollar. The average cost is 50 cents per month, or \$6 per year. All contributions are tax deductible.

You can participate by calling our Member Services Department at 800-423-6634, by mailing the coupon at right with your next payment, or enrolling online at pieg.com and clicking on "Contact Us."



I want to participate in the COMMUNITIES FIRST FUND. Please "round-up" my bill to the next highest dollar each month.

Name (please print) _____

Phone Number _____

Mailing Address _____

Signature _____

Include this coupon in your next bill payment, or mail to:
 PIE&G COMMUNITIES FIRST FUND, P.O. Box 308, Onaway, MI 49765

Wolverine Traces Roots to Late 1940s

Four of Wolverine Power Cooperative's members marked 75 years of service to their own co-op members in 2012: Great Lakes Energy, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Midwest Energy Cooperative, and Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op. Cherryland Electric Cooperative will celebrate its 75th service anniversary in 2013.

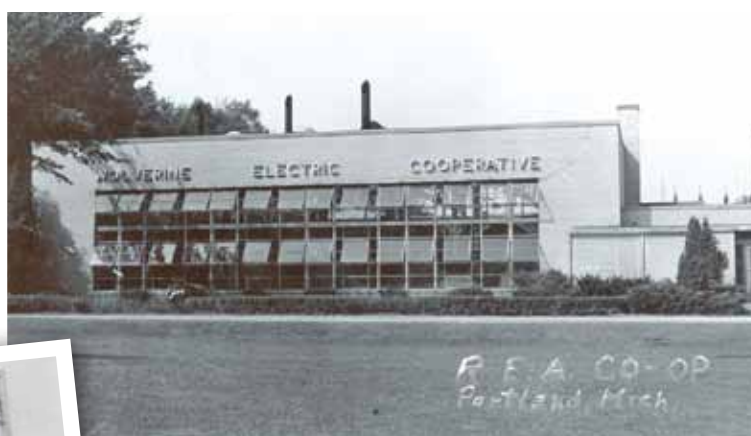
Wolverine's history dates back to 1948, nearly 65 years ago, and the formation of Northern Michigan Electric Cooperative and Wolverine Electric Cooperative.

At the time, distribution electric cooperatives in the state decided to work together to secure their power supply and benefit from economies of scale. They chartered generation and transmission (G&T) electric cooperatives to carry out these tasks. Northern Michigan Electric was headquartered in Boyne City, and Wolverine Electric was located in Big Rapids.

The new G&T cooperatives operated power plants, purchased additional power supply as needed, and took on the challenge of building high-voltage transmission lines to connect the distribution systems they served.

In 1983, Northern Michigan Electric and Wolverine Electric merged to form Wolverine Power Cooperative as it is known today. The cooperative has grown to seven members served by a diverse power supply portfolio and a 1,600-mile transmission system. Today, Wolverine member co-ops together serve over 265,000 homes, businesses and farms in the Lower Peninsula. Yet, over six decades of service, Wolverine's mission has remained steady—to provide

outstanding service to its members by delivering reliable, competitively-priced power supply.



Photos: (Top) Wolverine's Energy Control Center in Cadillac in the mid-1980s.

(Center) Wolverine's power plant in Portland. The plant closed about 20 years ago, and the building space is used today by HomeWorks Tri-County.

(Inset) Construction on Wolverine's transmission system.

(Bottom) The interior of Wolverine's power plant in Hersey. The units shown have been decommissioned and removed from the plant.

Soundproof for Peace, Quiet, Efficiency

Q: *Our house walls need more insulation for efficiency and perhaps better soundproofing. We are also planning to add a bedroom. Will insulation make the existing rooms quieter and the new room more soundproof?*

A: Adding wall insulation can be an expensive project and above the skill level of most do-it-yourselfers. In many older houses, particularly ones with masonry wall, there is little space inside the walls for additional insulation. In many cases, it's worthwhile to spend more on insulation with the highest R-value per inch, which is a number showing the ability of insulation to resist the transfer of heat. Higher R-values indicate more effective insulation.

Any type of insulation you add to save energy will help somewhat to soundproof the walls, but you need additional improvements for significant noise-dampening.

For a new room addition, carefully installing fiberglass batt insulation boosts your home's energy efficiency. The key word is "carefully" because fiberglass batts don't provide protection from gaps at the wall joists—it's up to you to make sure you caulk or use spray foam in the spaces before insulating. Every unfilled crack and gap reduces the overall efficiency of the new wall.

Another option is to build a second insulated wall against the inside existing wall.

You'll lose only about four inches of floor space, which you can frame with 2 x 4-foot pieces of lumber, insulate with foil- or kraft paper-faced fiberglass batts, and then cover with drywall. This is particularly effective for older houses with full masonry walls.

Installing new windows makes the greatest improvement in saving energy and blocking outdoor noise. Most new windows also use heavy inert gases in the gap between the panes that further reduces sound transmission.

Also, simply caulking and weather stripping your old windows can have a dramatic effect on reducing noise, and it improves the energy efficiency of your house. In turn, your heating and cooling system won't need to use as much energy.

When planning a new bedroom, do some research regarding the STC (sound transmission class) rating for various types of wall construction. A typical uninsulated interior wall with drywall on each side of 2-by-4 framing has an STC of about 34.

If there are common heating ducts and holes for electrical outlets and phone jacks, the STC of that interior wall may be only 25. These

openings are also culprits for drafty rooms, so using an inexpensive outlet insulation kit is one more way to improve energy efficiency. Adding insulation inside the wall increases the STC by very little—normal conversation would still be easily heard. At the other extreme, with an STC of 66, yelling is barely audible in adjacent rooms.

Your first step in soundproofing interior walls is to get out the caulk gun and seal any gaps in the walls and at joints. It won't help energy efficiency much, but it does block the vibrations that create sound.

If it's normal household sounds and voices, many standard soundproofing methods are effective. If you want to block deep bass vibrations from music or a home theater, a thicker wall is best. You can create that by installing two layers of drywall or using a high-density wallboard. If using drywall, you can nail them tightly together or leave them slightly separated for the benefits of decoupling.

Decoupling the two surfaces of a wall is critical to block sound transmission. That means drywall on one side is not attached to the same wall studs as the drywall on the adjacent wall. One simple method is to install a second layer of drywall over the existing one. Make sure not to screw it into the wall studs or very tightly to the existing drywall so it stays decoupled. This method also increases the thickness of the wall for blocking bass vibrations.

Another method is to stagger the studs on wider headers and footers in the wall cavity. The drywall on each wall is attached to every other stud, so there is no direct path for the sound to travel.

The following companies offer soundproofing products:

Acoustic Sciences

800-272-8823 • asc-soundproof.com

Certainteed

800-782-8777 • certainteed.com

Homasote

800-257-9491 • homasote.com

Owens Corning

800-438-7465 • owenscorning.com

Serious Energy

800-797-8159 • quietrock.com

If you have a question for Jim, please email jdulley@countrylines.com, or mail to James Dulley, *Michigan Country Lines*, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864. Be sure to let us know which electric co-op you receive service from.

Visit dulley.com for more home improvement and do-it-yourself tips.

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STATE OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR THE REGULATED NATURAL GAS DIVISION CUSTOMERS OF PRESQUE ISLE ELECTRIC & GAS CO-OP CASE NO. U-16487-R

- Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op requests Michigan Public Service Commission approval to reconcile its gas cost recovery costs and revenues for the 12-month period ended March 31, 2012 and incorporate its anticipated \$177,267 undercollection into its 2013/2014 Gas Cost Recovery plan for its regulated natural gas division.
- 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: November 21, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. This hearing will be a prehearing conference to set future hearing dates and decide other procedural matters.

BEFORE: Administrative Law Judge Theresa A. Sheets

LOCATION: Constitution Hall, 525 West Allegan, 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) 241-6160 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) June 29, 2012 application to reconcile its 2011/2012 Gas Cost Recovery (GCR) plan for the 12-month period ended March 31, 2012 for its regulated natural gas division. Presque Isle represents that for the 12-month period ended March 31, 2012, it undercollected \$177,267 from its regulated natural gas division customers, and it requests authority to incorporate said undercollection into its GCR plan for the 12-month period ending March 31, 2014, to be filed by December 31, 2012.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: michigan.gov/mpscedockets. 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: mpscedockets@michigan.gov. If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 241-6180 or by email at: mpscedockets@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 November 14, 2012. (Petitions to intervene may also be filed using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Presque Isle's attorney, Shaun M. Johnson, at Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, Michigan 48933.

Any person wishing to appear at the public 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 will become public information: available on the Michigan Public Service Commission's website, and subject to disclosure.

Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure R 460.17315 and R 460.17335. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 241-6060.

A copy of the Presque Isle's request may be reviewed on the Commission's website at: michigan.gov/mpscedockets, and at the office of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-Op, 19831 M-68 Highway, Onaway, MI. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Commission at the above address or by telephone at (517) 241-6180.

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.; 1982 PA 304, as amended, MCL 460.6h et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, as amended, 1999 AC, R 460.17101 et seq.

September 24, 2012

Energy Efficiency Rebates Help Holiday Budget

This is a great time of year for shopping deals, and the same goes for energy efficient appliances and equipment. As a member of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op, you can receive cash-back incentives through their Energy Optimization (EO) program.

Residential Rebates

Since 1992, ENERGY STAR has been the gold standard for reliable, high-quality energy efficient products, and its label is found on over 60 categories. Your electric co-op offers rebates on the items listed here, with details and forms available at michigan-energy.org.

Not only will you receive a convenient energy efficiency rebate, but you will continue to save energy for years to come and feel more comfortable in your home well after your holiday guests leave.

Commercial & Industrial Options

There are savings opportunities for business owners, too. Energy use is the largest operating cost in commercial buildings, potentially

representing 33 percent of an operating budget. Reducing the amount of energy a business uses has significant financial and other benefits.

With the EO program, your small business, farm or industrial facility can take affordable energy efficiency measures.

These rebates include:

- Light bulbs and fixture replacements, \$8 to \$50 per item.
- Low-energy livestock waterer, \$50.
- Variable frequency drives on pump or fan motors, \$60 per horsepower.
- Circulation or exhaust fans, \$2 per blade-inch.
- Milkhouse electric water heater, \$250 per unit.

Custom Projects

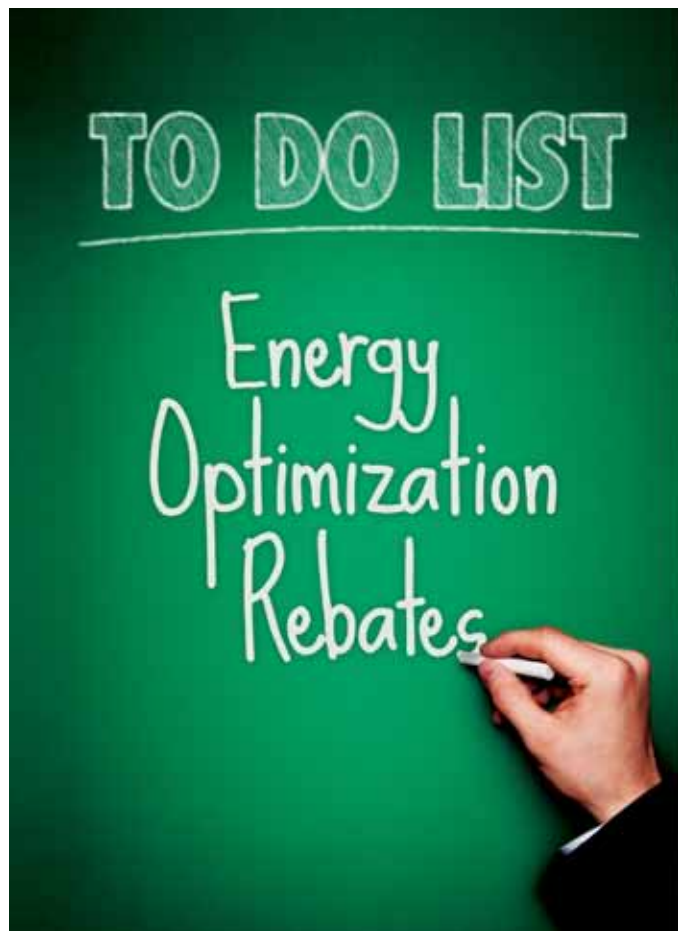
You can also work with program engineers

on customized energy-related projects to suit your unique business needs. Visit michigan-energy.org or call 877-296-4319 for help in getting started. Up to 40 percent of your total project cost may be covered.

Act now. Save now.

Before 2012 closes, read about all of your electric co-op's EO programs. And, you don't have to camp-out or brave a crowded mall to take advantage of them.

Sample Energy Efficiency Products	Rebate
Compact Fluorescent (CFL) Lightbulbs	<i>In-store discounts</i>
LED Lightbulbs	\$10
ENERGY STAR Ceiling Fan (w/light kit)	\$15
ENERGY STAR CFL Fixture	\$15
ENERGY STAR LED Fixture or Downlight kit	\$20
Smart Power Strip	\$20
ENERGY STAR Room Air Conditioner	\$20
ENERGY STAR Dehumidifier	\$20
CEE Tier 2 or 3 Electric Clothes Washer	\$50
Electric Clothes Dryer (w/moisture sensor)	\$25
CEE Tier 1 Dishwasher	\$25
ENERGY STAR Refrigerator	\$20
Low Flow Aerator Kits	\$10



ACT NOW

There are REBATES with your name on them.

There is still time to save! Our Energy Optimization programs help businesses and residents save energy. **Cash-back rebates** are available for ENERGY STAR® appliances, efficient farm equipment, lighting replacements and more. Your to-do list: 1) View rebates online. 2) Decide what energy-saving actions to take. 3) Claim your savings.

ENERGY TIP: You can get 30% energy savings per year with ENERGY STAR.

Online: michigan-energy.org Phone: 877.296.4319

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

Promises, Promises

The wind blows often on our country acre just outside Mason. It gathers speed over the open field to our west and rises over an incline to attack us full force. Mostly it's just a nuisance, but sometimes it blows so hard it makes being outside uncomfortable.

I once thought this would be the perfect location for a windmill. That was the early '80s, when, like now, there was big interest in the promise of free energy. I looked into it, but it would've taken 20 years of reduced electric bills to pay off the cost of a system—and that's assuming the equipment would never require maintenance.

There are few things in this world that are

It's good to look for additional energy sources; finding them has helped civilization prosper. But over the years they have succeeded or failed by virtue of their economic sense, and without being imbedded in a government constitution.

Since you're reading this magazine, you already know about the "25 by 25" ballot Proposal 3 (pages 12-13).

No other state has such a mandate, and it seems a step too far. It's like putting in the constitution that one-quarter of the food grocery stores sell, and every shopper eats, must be organic. That would satisfy organic farmers and grocers, since they would make

thorough analysis and debate can give our elected representatives something to do. Freezing a mandate in the constitution, without the flexibility to respond to changing market conditions, would put Michigan at a disadvantage.

Another reason is that wind is a fickle worker. It doesn't blow all the time, and can't be relied upon when you need it most. As we see more wind turbines in Michigan, we will also see more gas-fired electric generation plants to back up those wind turbines when the wind isn't blowing, which is about three-quarters of the time. That's an expense Proposal 3 proponents don't acknowledge.

Proponents also suggest that it will foster jobs—sure, but probably no more than the jobs lost by replacing other types of generation, and many will be temporary. They say it will make Michigan a leader in the renewables industry and keep it competitive with other states, but other states don't have to comply with a costly constitutional mandate. They say it will keep more of the money we spend on energy in the state. But what if other states enacted similar policies about our cars or the products of our growing renewables industry? It's a harmful economic policy for Michigan and a myopic view of the world.

We don't dictate in the constitution what people eat, and it shouldn't be used to dictate where we get our energy. I agree we should move ahead on renewable energy as fast as we can, for all kinds of health and environmental reasons—but in the marketplace, not the constitution. Given the pace of improvements in technology, it's entirely possible that we could reach 25 percent renewable energy in 13 years, but it should be on a path that is free to respond to market forces.

The promise of renewable energy is real, the promises of Proposal 3 proponents are as uncertain as the wind. I'm voting No on 3.

“As we see more wind turbines in Michigan, we will also see more gas-fired electric generation plants to back up those wind turbines when the wind isn't blowing, which is about three-quarters of the time. That's an expense proponents of Proposal 3 don't acknowledge.”

as charged with false promise as free energy. Whenever energy costs spike, gadget hawkers make promises. There's the gizmo that attaches to your car's fuel system to double your mileage, the magic juice you pour in the gas tank, the space heater that cuts heating bills, the secret contraption that was hijacked by the oil and car companies to preserve their monopolies. (Oh, the fantastic things you can find on the internet!)

A few years after ditching the windmill idea, I became intrigued by geothermal heat pumps. (Also called geoechange, these systems use electricity to move heat from the earth to your home. It also works in reverse. It produces up to five times the heat you get from the same amount of electricity used in a resistance heater. And, it's not magic—it's practical and it works.) We had one installed in our 1944 Cape Cod-style home in 1989. Out went the gas furnace and wood stove. In was cleaner air and more comfortable heating and air conditioning. Our energy bills went down, paying for the system cost in just under eight years.

money on the deal, but it would impose a cost on consumers they may not be able, or wish, to pay.

So, I looked up the definition of constitution: “a body of fundamental principles or established precedents according to which a state or other organization is acknowledged to be governed.”

I don't think Proposal 3 is a fundamental principle, and I don't think we want to make it a precedent.

Utilities in the state currently operate under a renewable portfolio standard of 10 percent by 2015, based on a law passed in 2008. I watched negotiations for that legislation. It was a tough, lengthy process. No one got everything they wanted. But the result was fair, progressive, flexible and doable. By all accounts, the renewable mandate will be met by your co-op and other utilities.

But it's not cheap, and, come 2015, after all the data from this experiment is digested, we'll have a better idea of how we should move to the next goal. The place for that determination is in the Legislature, where

Mike Buda is editor emeritus of Country Lines. Email Mike at mbuda@countrylines.com or comment on his columns at countrylines.com/column/ramblings



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Michigan Electric Cooperatives Oppose Proposal 3

Your electric co-op supports a clean, affordable and reliable energy future, and we're already working towards achieving Michigan's 10 percent renewable energy requirement by 2015. That's why we oppose Proposal 3, which would lock a 25 percent renewable energy standard into the state constitution, costing Michigan families and small businesses an additional \$12 billion.

**We urge co-op members to vote NO
on this costly ballot proposal.**

Visit CAREforMich.com to learn more.

