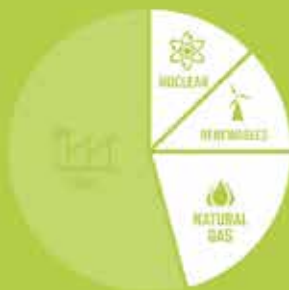


# Michigan COUNTRY LINES



## Shaggy's Company Skis to Success

1.



### ABANDONS ALL-OF-THE ABOVE

The Administration is reversing course: **ditching our All-of-the-Above energy strategy** for an **All-But-One** approach that bans new coal plants.

2.



### TECHNOLOGY GAMBLE

New regulations essentially require technology that's **not commercially viable and prohibitively expensive**—leading to higher bills down the line.

# TOP 4 FACTS

ABOUT THE EPA'S NEW CLIMATE REGULATIONS

3.



### LIMITS ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, DOMESTIC ENERGY

By banning new coal plants, Americans forfeit a **236-year domestic source of energy** with a historically stable price.

4.



### HISTORY REPEATS: ALL-BUT-ONE DOESN'T WORK

A 1978 mandate prevented use of natural gas & forced utilities into coal or nuclear—**before common sense prevailed and it was repealed 9 years later.**



Visit **ACTION.COOP** today to send a message to the EPA



January 2014  
Vol. 34, No. 1

Executive Editor  
Casey Clark

Editor  
Gail Knudtson

Publisher  
Michigan Electric  
Cooperative  
Association

# Michigan

## COUNTRY LINES

### IN THIS ISSUE

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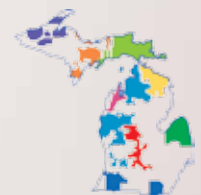
##### Ramblings, Mike Buda, Quilt, Mystery Photo, Letters



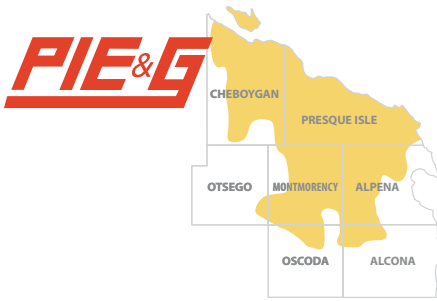
#### ON THE COVER

John (L-R), Shari and Jeff Thompson have made over 1,000 pairs of skis at their family shop, Shaggy's Copper Country Skis, in Boyne City. Featured are their "Brockway" model, and the best-selling "Tubby" (red) all-mountain ski. They have also started making skateboards, and are members of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative.

Photo - Roger Boettcher, Leavenworth Photographics



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## YOUR CO-OP

# A National Energy Policy: 'All-of-the-Above' or 'All-But-One'?

Once again, modern technology appears to be improving our quality of life. The graphic below shows that today's electricity can be produced from coal while significantly improving air emissions.

This makes it all the more troubling that the Obama Administration would vie to eliminate coal as an energy source for producing electricity. But the president's "Climate Action Plan" announced last June, and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) carbon pollution standard proposed last September, appear to be designed to do just that.

Under the EPA's proposed standards, new coal-fired power plants would need to limit carbon dioxide emissions to 1,100 pounds per megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity (1 MWh equals 1,000 kilowatt-hours). Because there is no commercially viable technology to capture and store carbon dioxide, the proposed standard effectively eliminates coal as a fuel source for new power plants.

Michigan electric co-ops are all for environmentally responsible electricity – co-ops were instrumental in developing the first utility-scale wind farm in the state and own the Sault Ste. Marie hydro plant (one of Michigan's largest). But to eliminate by government fiat one of America's most abundant and economical energy sources runs contrary to the electric co-op goal of providing affordable and reliable electricity to you – our member-owners.

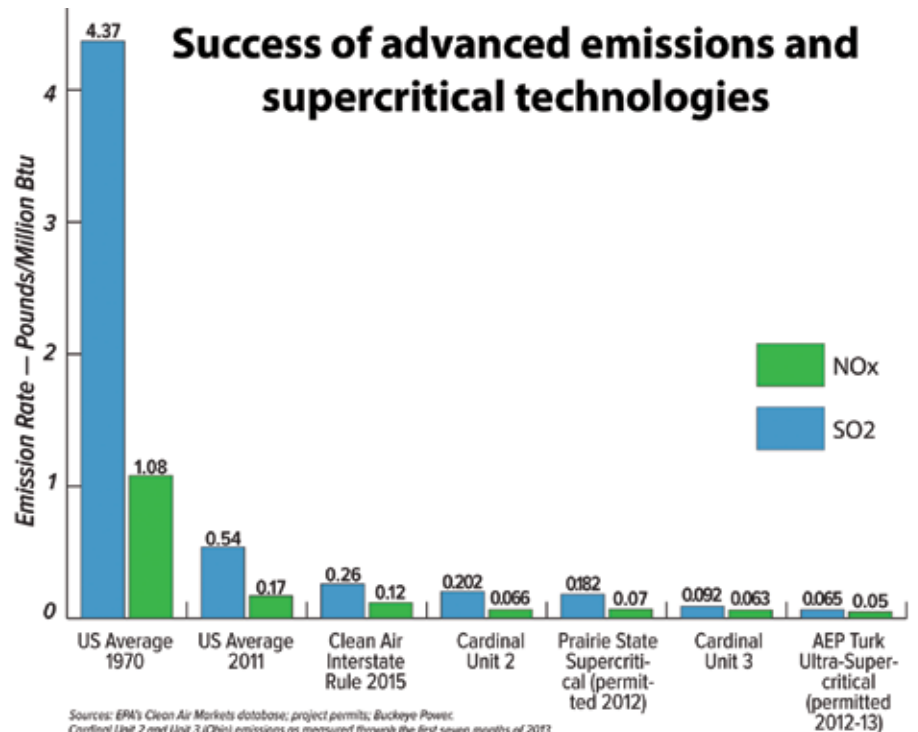
Climate change is a complex and emotional issue – à la politics and religion – but I won't weigh in here. I simply question whether this action will do more harm than good to the average person (see additional information on page 2), and if enacted as conceived,

whether it will affect climate change in any meaningful way.

If this issue concerns you, electric co-op members may comment on the EPA's approach through Action.coop, our grassroots Cooperative Action Network and information website.



**Brian J. Burns**  
President & CEO





About 500 people attended the 76th Annual Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op Membership Meeting at Onaway High School on Oct. 25.

Each year, elections are held for three positions on the PIE&G Board. The candidates winning election for 2013-2016 were: **Robert Wegmeyer** (incumbent, Alpena District), **Kurt Krajniak** (Alpena District), and **Raymond Wozniak** (incumbent, Presque Isle District). The votes each candidate received are listed below.

#### Alpena District (Two Vacancies):

Bonnie Krajniak.....	559
<b>Kurt Krajniak .....</b>	<b>703</b>
Ronald Lucas.....	682
Howard Lumsden.....	448
<b>Robert Wegmeyer.....</b>	<b>748</b>

#### Presque Isle District (One Vacancy):

Ronald Horrocks.....	716
<b>Raymond Wozniak .....</b>	<b>1,132</b>

The board announced the retirement of director Bernice Krajniak (Alpena District) and recognized her for 15 years of dedicated service. Krajniak addressed and thanked the membership for the opportunity to serve.

Brianna Fitzpatrick, a student at Onaway High School, spoke about her Youth Tour experience this past summer. Brianna was selected by PIE&G's board to travel to Washington, D.C., to meet with Congressional representatives, tour our country's capital, and meet with other co-op students from across the U.S. After demonstrating strong leadership skills, Brianna was also chosen by her peers to represent Michigan electric co-ops on the NRECA Youth Leadership Council.

After the meeting, the board elected the following directors to serve as officers in 2014: chairman – John Brown; vice-chairman – Allen Barr; secretary – Dave Smith; and treasurer – Daryl Peterson.



Robert Wegmeyer,  
Alpena District



Kurt Krajniak  
Alpena District



Raymond Wozniak  
Presque Isle District

## Attention Graduating Seniors!

The Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op Communities First Fund has been awarding scholarships to graduating high school seniors since 1999. Recently, the board of directors that oversees this fund made changes to the program.

The scholarship has been expanded to include *all* accredited colleges or universities in Michigan, and the award is now \$1,000 and is payable upon successful completion of the first term.

Eligibility requirements and applications are available online at [pieg.com](http://pieg.com) or by calling 1-800-423-6634. Completed applications with supporting documentation are *due by the last business day of March, 2014*. Scholarships will be awarded by June 1.



## Your Board in Action

**At their October and November 2013 regular meetings, and the 76th annual meeting of the members, the Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op Board of Directors:**

- Approved the co-op's 2014 utility plant capital budget in the amount of \$3,650,000.
- Reviewed and accepted the 2014 operating plan and budget as a reasonable forecast and planning tool.
- Listened to Onaway HS student Brianna Fitzpatrick, who was chosen as Michigan's representative to the NRECA Youth Leadership Council, talk about her co-op sponsored trip to Washington, D.C.
- Gave special recognition to retiring director Bernice Krajniak for 15 years of loyal, dedicated service.
- Authorized quarterly write-offs for bad debt in the amount of \$19,993.64.
- Approved the new membership list for September and October 2013.
- Accepted reports from the executive team.
- Amended the Capital Credit Retirement Policy to identify the manner, method and timing of capital credit retirements, as well as requiring the board to approve annually the amount retired.



# Cooking For One

Cooking for one?

These single-serving recipes will help you save time and energy, are easy to prepare, and sized perfectly for just you!

## Burrata Caprese with Balsamic Glaze

1 small loaf of french bread, cut into 1-inch slices, toasted  
7-8 grape tomatoes, cut in half  
3-4 large basil leaves  
1 container burrata (mozzarella filled with cream) or mozzarella cheese

### Balsamic glaze:

1½ c. balsamic vinegar  
½ t. honey

On a plate, arrange bread, tomatoes, basil, and burrata. For glaze, bring balsamic vinegar to a boil in a small saucepan. Reduce to a simmer, and cook until thick and syrupy. Remove from heat and stir in honey. Let cool completely before serving (it will thicken as it sets). You can also use store-bought balsamic glaze which is much easier. On each piece of

bread, spread the burrata. Add the balsamic glaze, a piece of basil, and top with 2 tomato halves. This is a quick, healthy meal that is perfect for one person. No cooking required.

Christin McKamey

## Grilled Chicken Nachos

1 oz. baked tortilla chips  
¼ c. drained, low sodium black beans, heated  
4 oz. grilled lean boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into small cubes

2 T. salsa con queso  
3 T. chopped tomato  
2 T. thinly sliced jalapeño pepper

Lay chips on plate. Top them evenly with the beans followed by the grilled chicken. Drizzle the salsa evenly over the top. Top with the tomato and jalapeño slices and serve. Serves 1.

Lorraine Green, South Boardman

## Apple Crisp for One

1 T. quick cooking oats  
1 T. brown sugar  
½ T. flour  
dash of cinnamon  
dash of nutmeg  
dash of salt  
½ T. margarine  
1 c. sliced, peeled apples

Combine oats, brown sugar, flour, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt. Cut in margarine with fork until crumbly. Set aside. Place apples in small microwave-safe dish. Top with oat mixture. Microwave on full power, uncovered, 2-4 minutes or until apples are tender, rotating dish once. Serve with frozen yogurt or ice cream, if desired.

Barb Spencer, Petoskey

## Curried Chickpea Stew

1 t. olive oil  
1 c. onion, diced  
1½ c. carrots, diced  
2 cloves garlic, finely dice  
1½ -2 T. curry (depending on taste)  
1 14.5-oz. can diced tomatoes  
1 16-oz. can chickpeas  
1½ c. water  
1 cube chicken or vegetable bouillon  
1 whole chicken breast cut into ½-inch pieces  
1 T. butter  
1 t. sugar

In a 4½-quart stock pot, add ½ c. water, carrots and onions. Simmer until carrots are tender. Add more water if needed, remove carrots and onions. Add olive oil and curry, and heat for 30 seconds or until bubbles appear. Add garlic, remaining water, tomatoes (juice and all), drained chickpeas, chicken



and bouillon cube. Stir until bouillon cube is dissolved. Simmer until chickpeas are tender. Add more water, if needed. Stir vigorously to thicken. Remove from heat, add sugar and butter, stir to dissolve sugar. Garnish with Greek yogurt (optional). This is a delicious, one-pot meal.

Jeff Ullen, Bellaire

Photography by: 831 Creative

## Recipe Contest Winner!



Chris McAfee

Congratulations to Chris McAfee of Pointe Aux Pins on Bois Blanc Island. Her name was drawn from all readers whose recipes we printed in 2013 and *Country Lines* magazine will pay her

January electric bill as a prize.

Chris and her family have been members of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op since the co-op brought electricity to the Island in 1964. She loves her piece of paradise with lots of wonderful people, miles of ATV trails, beautiful woods, and the surrounding crystal-clear water of Lake Huron.

**Submit your recipe!** Thanks to all who send in recipes! Please send in your favorite "**Easter**" recipes by **Jan. 10** and "**Hawaiian Luau**" recipes by **March 10**.

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

Contributors whose recipes we print in 2014 will be entered in a drawing and *Country Lines* will pay the winner's January 2015 electric bill (up to \$200)!



Visit recipe editor Christin McKamey's website, **veggiechick.com**, for healthy, vegetarian recipes and info!

# HYDROPOWER

## TIME-TESTED RENEWABLE ENERGY

This is fi th in a series on how electricity is generated. The first (January) was about coal, the second about new nuclear options (June), the third about wind (July-August), and the fourth about natural gas (October). Watch future issues for stories about other fuel sources.

**E**nergy from fl wing water has been harnessed and used for over 2,000 years, beginning with the ancient Greeks using water wheels to grind wheat. In the 1880s, converting a rush of water into electricity became a reality in the United States.

Today, hydropower provides about 80,000 megawatts (MW) of capacity in the United States—enough to power over 25 million average homes—and accounts for about 75 percent of all renewable electricity used by co-ops.

But how does it work? Simply, hydropower converts the natural energy of moving water to mechanical energy, using a turbine that is attached to a generator. With these highly efficient turbine-generators doing the job formerly performed by water wheels, electricity fl ws in a number of ways:

**Impoundment:** When most people think of hydropower, dams come to mind. By plugging a river and amassing water in a reservoir, its fl w (and the resulting electricity) can be better controlled and generated as needed.

**Diversion:** Water is channeled away from a river, typically near natural falls, down to generators at the falls' base. This can be done without any visible impact to a river's natural course. In fact, this kind of generation was used to bring electricity to Buffalo NY, from Niagara Falls in the late 1800s.

**Pumped storage:** This method essentially uses off-peak electricity to make electricity for use during times of high consumption. Two reservoirs are filled, one typically uphill from the other, with an electric pump/

generator in between. At night, when demand is low and electricity less expensive, water from the lower reservoir is pumped uphill. During the day, when demand for power increases, that water is released down through the generator to make electricity.

Over 600 electric co-ops across the country buy power from 134 federally-owned and operated dams, most of which were built between the late 1930s and early '60s. Despite the incredible importance of these resources, maintenance has lagged in recent years and created room for improvement.

Electric co-ops are making efforts to address this problem, advocating that the government set aside funds to repair and maintain the dams and turbines. Researchers are also looking to create more efficient and fish-friendly ways to generate hydropower. Careful studies of aquatic environments have given dam operators a better idea of how to simulate a natural river downstream.

A 2012 report from the U.S. Depart-

ment of Energy (DOE) revealed many of the nation's dams hold untapped power. Roughly 2,500 provide conventional and pumped-storage hydropower in the United States. But the vast majority of dams—some 80,000, ranging from 4 to 770-feet-high—are non-powered. The DOE analyzed 54,391 of them.

Locks and dams on the Ohio, Mississippi, Alabama and Arkansas rivers—facilities owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—offer the most untapped potential. The top 10 sites alone could provide about 3,000 MW.

“Many of these dams could be converted to generate electricity with minimal impact to critical species, habitats, parks or wilderness areas,” the DOE report states.

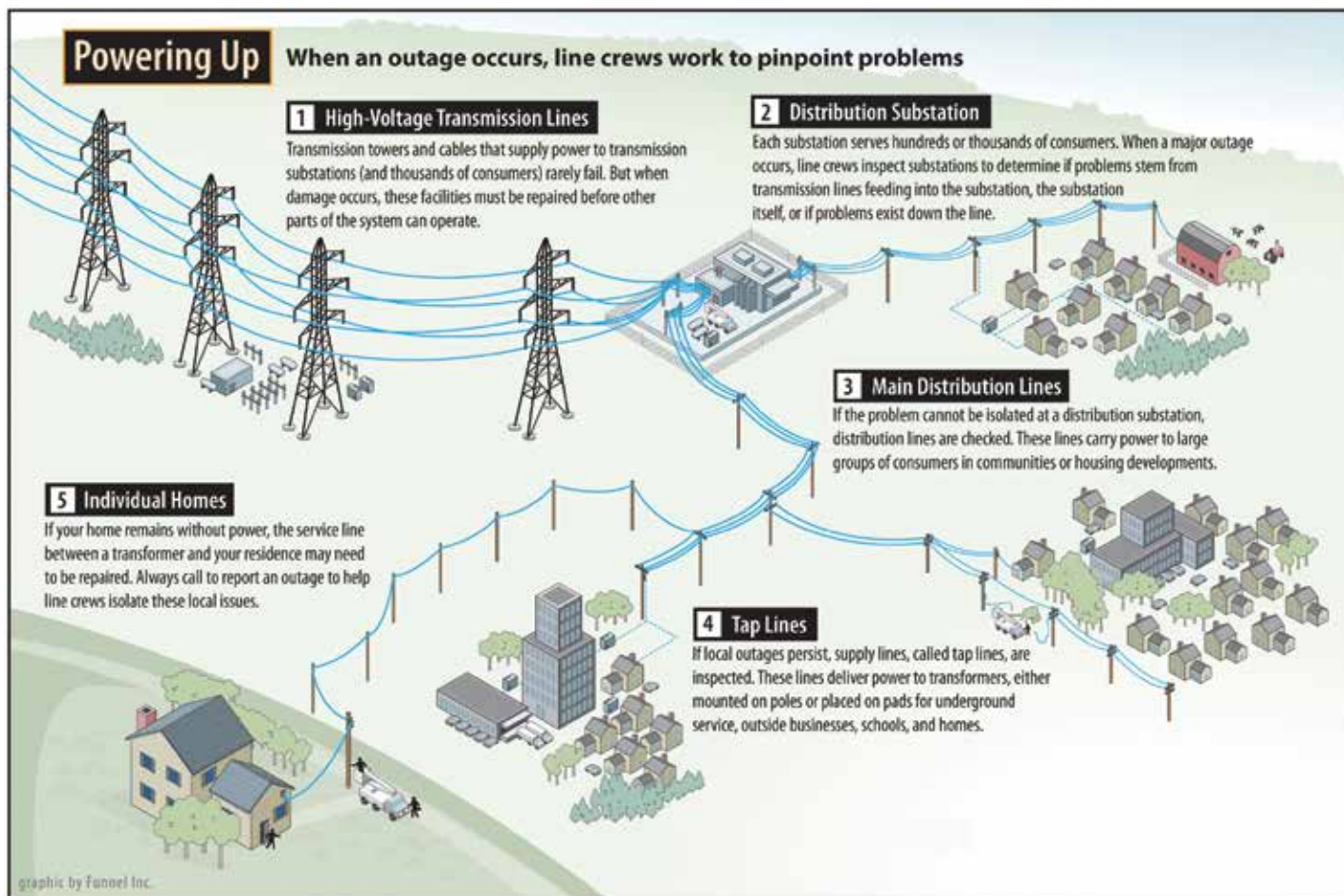
Co-ops' efforts in pushing for increased maintenance and technology development will ensure that hydropower remains a reliable, affordable, renewable resource for decades to come.



Cloverland Electric Cooperative's hydroelectric plant in Sault Ste. Marie generates between 25 and 30 megawatts of electricity. Clean, renewable hydro makes up nearly 35 percent of the co-op's fuel mix. To see a recent chart showing what your electric co-op's fuel mix is, visit [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) and click on the co-op name and then click the Sept. 2013 issue.

Photo Courtesy - Cloverland Electric Co-op





When electricity goes out, most of us expect power will be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm causes widespread damage, longer outages may result. Co-op line crews work long, hard hours, often in bad weather, to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark. ▲

# When Will I Get My Power Back?

**E**ver wonder how Presque Esle Electric & Gas Co-op decides where to start restoring power after an outage? When your co-op's staff begins assessing storm damage, they focus on fixing the biggest problems first, prioritizing repairs according to how quickly and safely they can get the most homes back into service.

## Step One: Clearing the Path

Think of the flow of electricity as a river in reverse. It originates at a single ocean of power (a generation plant) and diverges from there into a series of transmission lines, substations and smaller feeder lines until it reaches homes and businesses at a trickle of its original strength.

Transmission lines, which carry power at high voltages from power plants, and local substations, where the voltage is lowered for

**Plan ahead!** If you or a family member depends on special medical equipment, be sure you have a backup plan or arrangements in place with a family member or neighbor before an emergency arises.

safe travel to neighborhoods, must both be inspected for damage and repaired before any other restoration efforts take place. After all, if the substation linked to your neighborhood's power supply is damaged, it doesn't matter if lineworkers repair every problem near your home—the lights will stay dark.

## Step Two: Bulk Efforts

After restoring the flow of power to local substations, co-ops focus on getting power back to the greatest number of members. Distribution lines in more populated cities

and communities are checked for damage and repaired quickly, delivering electricity to most members.

What does this mean? You may live on a farm with neighbors a mile or two away, or you may live in a neighborhood surrounded by 20 homes. Folks in neighborhoods will likely see power return before those in remote areas. Line repairs are once again prioritized by the number of members who benefit.

## Step Three: One-on-One

After fixing damage that blocks power from large pockets of members, your co-op focuses on repairing tap lines (also called supply or service lines). These lines deliver power to transformers outside homes and businesses. This is the final stage of power restoration, requiring a bit more patience.



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# Shaggy's Company Skis to Success

**L**ike most kids, Jeff and Jonathon Thompson loved taking things apart and putting them back together, never thinking that their inquisitiveness might lead to a new family business.

They were teenagers when they first built a surfboard with the help of their dad, John. That winter, Jeff wanted to build a "ski bike" by cutting apart an old pair of Dynastar skis to attach to a bike frame. Noticing how

they were built in layers, the boys decided to build a pair of skis, too.

That was 2005, and that first pair of skis was not a successful start.

"We built them in a barn that was about 40 degrees, and discovered that it needs to be warmer for skis to cure in a press. My brother brought them to the U.P. for a race that winter right after they were made, and they de-laminated before we got them on

the slopes," laughs Jeff

Previously, the family had a successful construction business, building as many as 300 homes in some years before the economic downturn. "We had vacationed in the Boyne City area for years, and as the ski business started picking up and the building business slowing down, we decided to make the move from South Lyon, where we had lived for years," John adds. ●●●●●●●●●●



John (L) and Jeff Thompson, of Shaggy's Copper Country Skis, prepare materials that will be pressed into skis, including an ash wood core, Durasurf 4001 base, triaxial fiber glass, damping rubber strips, steel edges, ABS sidewalls, Durasurf tip/tail spacer, and a graphic topsheet.



If you want to demo a pair of Shaggy's skis, the Thompsons and their reps will be visiting Michigan ski areas this winter (check the schedule at [sccskis.com](http://sccskis.com) or call 231-459-4323), or stop by their Boyne City shop.



After stone grinding, Shari Thompson applies hot wax to a new pair of skis. The Thompsons are members of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative.

Photos - Roger Boettcher/Leavenworth Photographics



Carving a turn on a Shaggy's dropdeck longboard.

Fast forward to 2013, and you find what started as a hobby is now a full-time business called Shaggy's Copper Country Skis.

"This year we will probably make around 200 pairs of skis," John notes proudly. "We've produced over 1,000 skis since that first mistake."

The Shaggy's company is staffed by Jeff, John and wife Shari, who does the bookkeeping, ordering materials and sales. Brother Jonathon has moved to Colorado in another line of business. John and Shari have been married for nearly 35 years.

"One of the reasons we chose to move up here, in addition to having wonderful testing facilities in nearby Boyne Mountain and Nubs Nob, is that the heart of our ski – ash and beech wood – is milled just down the road at Metalski Lumber," John explains.

Each ski takes eight to 10 hours to construct and fine-tune before it's ready to sell. The company offers 10 different pairs of skis, ranging from \$595 to around \$795.

Jeff, 23, recently graduated from Michigan Tech with a mechanical engineering degree and is applying that knowledge of how a ski performs physically and geometrically to making a top ski for Midwestern and Michigan users. "Our all-mountain ski has a tighter turning radius that works well on our conditions, but it's a great ski for the mountains, too," he says. "The Tubby, one of our best-selling skis, floats well in powder and softer spring snow conditions but provides a good ride on hardpack, as well."

The Shaggy's Copper Country Skis name was Jeff's idea. Their great uncle, Shaggy Lehto, was a blacksmith who lived in the Keweenaw Peninsula and had a hobby building hand-carved skis. "He made a pair for dad's mom that's a family heirloom, and I thought, 'what a great name for the company,'" Jeff recalls. "It's uniquely Michigan."



Besides skis, Shaggy's has started making longboards (skateboards). Here, Jeff Thompson mills out the shape of a longboard deck.



# Energy-saving Resolutions for 2014

**A** new year is an opportunity to assess different aspects of your life and determine how you can make positive changes. Unfortunately, resolutions can be tough to keep. So, why not try a new one this year that's easy and painless? Saving energy is simple and rewarding—and, any amount you save counts. Here are four simple tips from Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op's Energy Optimization program to help you save energy—now and throughout the year.

## 1. Set, program, relax: Use a programmable thermostat.

A programmable thermostat automatically controls your home's indoor temperature based on your schedule. In the winter, it is not necessary to keep an optimal heating temperature on weekdays when you're away or at work. Just input the time you typically leave and return, set the temperatures accordingly, and your home will be nice and cozy by the time you arrive, saving you energy and money.

### Results:

Save up to 10 percent on your heating and cooling costs per year.

**EO rebate:** \$20 (any model).

## 2. Open up and let the light in.

Window treatments are an unexpected energy saver. In colder months, keep your blinds open during the day. This allows sunlight to enter your home and warm things up. After the sun sets, close your drapes to keep out the cold and hold onto some of the warmth generated during the day.

### Results:

Energy savings will gradually add up over time. Most importantly, your home will feel more comfortable.

## 3. Same features, less energy: Switch to energy-efficient products.

Shop the ENERGY STAR® label for guaranteed product performance and quality. ENERGY STAR products—from refrigerators to TVs and lightbulbs—are backed with third-party testing, have the same features as standard models, and use significantly less energy.

### Results:

Expected energy savings range from 15 to 75 percent per year.

## Energy Optimization rebates:

\$10-\$50—choose from over 20 high-performing energy-saving products. See [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) for details.

## 4. Dive in: Easy water-saving options.

Whenever you use water, you also use energy to pump and heat the water. Making energy-saving adjustments can be simple: 1) Turn your water heater down to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. 2) Install water-saving retrofit devices, such as faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads. For recommended models that don't sacrifice water pressure, visit [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org).

### Results:

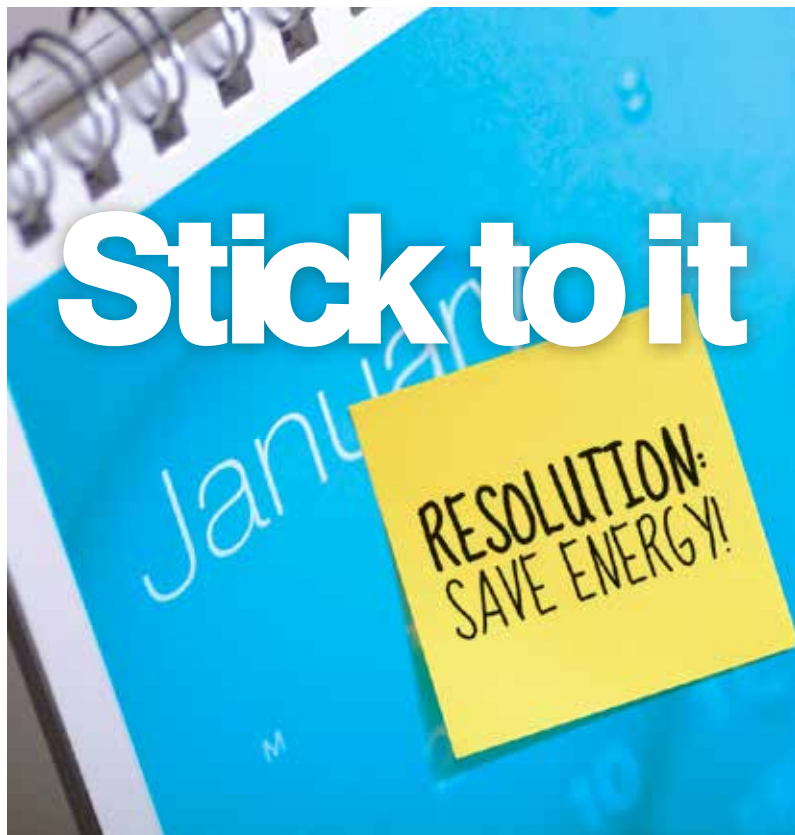
Save energy, and thousands of gallons of water.

## Energy Optimization rebates:

\$10 per low-flow faucet aerator.

## Got the energy-saving bug?

View more energy-saving opportunities and current rebate offers at [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) or call 877.296.4319 for details.



## Resolve to save energy in 2014

Want a New Year's resolution that's fast and easy? Save more energy at home and at work. Why?

**It's painless, doesn't involve exercise, and still makes you feel good!** With the help of the Energy Optimization program, it's easy to kick-start savings with rebates for energy-efficient lighting, appliances, furnaces, thermostats, and more.

### ENERGY TIP: Take advantage of the sun's heat.

**Even in the winter, opening your drapes during the day can allow enough radiant heat into your home to allow you to lower your thermostat settings.**

ONLINE: [michigan-energy.org](http://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](http://michigan-energy.org).



# Home Safety Calendar



Use this handy calendar to help keep your home safe all year long. Visit <http://virtualhome.esfi.org> to learn more about home electrical safety.

## JANUARY

- ☐ Test GFCIs & AFCIs
- ☐ Test smoke & CO alarms
- ☐ Inspect electrical/appliance cords for damage
- ☐ Check and replace furnace filters

## FEBRUARY

- ☐ Test GFCIs & AFCIs
- ☐ Test smoke & CO alarms
- ☐ Inspect electrical/appliance cords for damage
- ☐ Vacuum refrigerator coils

## MARCH

- ☐ Test GFCIs & AFCIs
- ☐ Test smoke & CO alarms
- ☐ Inspect electrical/appliance cords for damage
- ☐ Replace smoke/CO alarm batteries if not done in the past 12 months

## APRIL

- ☐ Test GFCIs & AFCIs
- ☐ Test smoke & CO alarms
- ☐ Inspect electrical/appliance cords for damage
- ☐ Check and replace furnace filters

## MAY

- ☐ Test GFCIs & AFCIs
- ☐ Test smoke & CO alarms
- ☐ Inspect electrical/appliance cords for damage
- ☐ Vacuum refrigerator coils
- ☐ Clean air conditioners or schedule annual inspection

## JUNE

- ☐ Test GFCIs & AFCIs
- ☐ Test smoke & CO alarms
- ☐ Inspect electrical/appliance cords for damage
- ☐ Dust light fixtures and lamps
- ☐ Schedule annual inspection of gas-powered dryer

## JULY

- ☐ Test GFCIs & AFCIs
- ☐ Test smoke & CO alarms
- ☐ Inspect electrical/appliance cords for damage
- ☐ Check and replace air conditioning filters

## AUGUST

- ☐ Test GFCIs & AFCIs
- ☐ Test smoke & CO alarms
- ☐ Inspect electrical/appliance cords for damage
- ☐ Vacuum refrigerator coils

## SEPTEMBER

- ☐ Test GFCIs & AFCIs
- ☐ Test smoke & CO alarms
- ☐ Inspect electrical/appliance cords for damage
- ☐ Schedule annual furnace cleaning and inspection

## OCTOBER

- ☐ Test GFCIs & AFCIs
- ☐ Test smoke & CO alarms
- ☐ Inspect electrical/appliance cords for damage
- ☐ Check and replace furnace filters

## NOVEMBER

- ☐ Test GFCIs & AFCIs
- ☐ Test smoke & CO alarms
- ☐ Inspect electrical/appliance cords for damage
- ☐ Vacuum refrigerator coils

## DECEMBER

- ☐ Test GFCIs & AFCIs
- ☐ Test smoke & CO alarms
- ☐ Inspect electrical/appliance cords for damage
- ☐ Dust light fixtures and lamps

# Embrace Change

Last summer, a dog walked into the Bay Pines Veterinary Clinic, near Harbor Springs. He must have been amazed when the staff knew him by name. "Are you Bandit?" they asked. "THE Bandit?" His Australian Shepherd tailless butt wagged with delight as he hobbled to meet their outstretched hands.

How did they know Bandit? It turns out that everyone in the clinic reads *Michigan Country Lines* and remembered him from a column I wrote over two years ago. That's the kind of community this magazine was meant to build when it began 33 years ago.

Then, every town of decent size had a printer who crafted posters, flyers, school programs, and the weekly newspaper (a local Facebook, Twitter and Craigslist rolled



Sadly, Bandit has been diagnosed with bone cancer, so this will be his last winter.

business because they couldn't adapt to the changes computers have brought to printing and publishing.

But, *Country Lines* is adapting and changing in ways that will pave the way for greater integration between print, online and social

into one). I wrote for those printers, before I became *Country Lines*' first editor.

Many of those printers, including the one in which *Country Lines* was born, no longer exist. They went out of

media communications. These changes embrace all the ways we communicate today, and will help *Country Lines* build a stronger co-op community.

I'm proud to have been part of this magazine, and I loved working on it. It was never a job. We won a few awards along the way, and it became one of the best-read of similar publications across the country. Thank you for reading it and letting me know what you thought.

Even though this is my last *Country Lines* column, I intend to keep writing, but where I will publish is uncertain. Send me an email at [mike.f.buda@gmail.com](mailto:mike.f.buda@gmail.com) or "friend" me on Facebook if you want to know where to find my ramblings



Mike Buda is the creator and editor emeritus of *Michigan Country Lines*.



## Michigan Heritage Quilt Finds a Permanent Home

Created from 36 winning squares in a *Country Lines* quilt contest held in 2002, the Michigan Heritage Quilt depicts personal memories, traditions and images from across our beautiful state, and the Eastern Upper Peninsula History Consortium has become its permanent home.

The Consortium represents 22 E.U.P. museums, and while the Pickford Area Historical Museum will be the quilt's official caretaker, it will rotate for display among all member museums.

Many thanks to readers who sent in their ideas on where the quilt should live. For more information on the quilt or the E.U.P. Consortium, contact the Pickford Area Historical Society, 175 E. Main St., P.O. Box 572, Pickford, MI 49774, or call 906-647-1372.

Pictured above with the quilt are (L-R) Mary June, Consortium treasurer; Dianne Schmitgal, Pickford Area Historical Society president; and Susan James, vice president of the Chippewa County Historical Society.



## ◀ DO YOU KNOW WHERE THIS IS?

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

**We do not accept Mystery Photo guesses by phone!** Email [mysteryphoto@countrylines.com](mailto:mysteryphoto@countrylines.com); enter your guess at [countrylines.com](http://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 March 2014 issue.

The Nov./Dec. 2013 contest winner is Bill Pioszak of St. Johns, who correctly identified the photo as the Cairn Monument on Cairn Hwy. north of Kewadin, marking the 45th parallel.



## LETTERS

### Raw Egg Recipes

I have been meaning to write and tell you that pasteurized raw eggs can be found in grocery dairy and egg sections. These are safer for recipes calling for raw eggs. Maybe you can pass that along to the lady who wrote about them in the July/Aug. 2013 issue.

I also want to comment on the diabetic recipes (Oct.). Thinking regarding diabetics and sugar has greatly changed. They are no longer limited to sugar-free substitutes for their sweetening choices. The focus is now on balancing diet with assorted proteins, fats and carbs, eating smaller portions throughout the day, and counting carbs.

As a nurse, I try to pass along information people can use. The danger of sugar substitutes is they can make diabetics think such foods are good for them or don't need to be limited or counted. Managing diabetes is a lifelong, critical process that's so much more than removing sugar from the diet.

— Laura Tomell, Tecumseh  
Midwest Energy

### Mystery Photo

The Nov-Dec mystery photo (at left) was built as a WPA project. It has a representative stone from each of Michigan's counties.

My sister-in-law's father (a stone mason in Traverse City) helped build it, so I make sure whenever any of his great-grandchildren are here that they stop to see it.

— Peg Gage, Free Soil  
Great Lakes Energy



If the only thing bigger than your propane bill is your propane tank...



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