

# MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



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## A Barrel Of Fun:

Portable Sauna Is  
Good Fundraiser, Too



# LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE SWITCHED TO GEOTHERMAL

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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.



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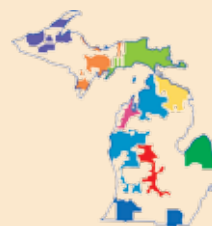
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Zeak DeWyse is a builder and electric co-op member who has started a new business making portable, barrel saunas. Called the U.P. Sauna Company, their cedar saunas are suitable for most any landscape, but are also proving to be a good fundraising draw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

Photo—Shawn Malone/lakesuperiorphoto.com



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# Your Electric Co-op Is Not Just an Electric Provider



**Brad Essenmacher**  
Member Services &  
Marketing Manager

**A**s a member of Thumb Electric Cooperative (TEC), you are a partial owner of your electric company. As such, over the years, many programs and services have been developed to add value to that membership and help you and your cooperative save money, which adds equity to your co-op and leaves more money in your pocket. Many of you are already participating in some of these programs, but you may not fully understand what they can do for you and your co-op neighbors. Here is a quick summary of the services offered (see a full list on p. 5) and why they exist.

**Demand response.** This is a phrase you may have heard, but don't fully understand. At certain times of the day, week, month or year utilities can see a spike in electric use or "demand". The most common spike at your co-op is when the average person gets home from work in the evening and starts cooking, cleaning, showering and doing laundry. Unusual weather events such as extreme cold or heat can also cause a spike in "demand". In response, utilities may need to curb some of this usage by shifting it into another part of the day, such as after the average person has gone to bed. One of the best tools to use in a demand response program is an electric water heater. When sized properly, it acts like a battery and stores the heated water. We can turn off the power to it without it affecting you, because you have 50, 80 or 120 gallons to use already heated and ready to go. Because of this, TEC developed a water heater program that may fit your budget. You can pick up a properly-sized water heater from us and have it installed at your home. We will then install a load control switch on it, and depending on the length of control we will bill your account for the water heater and credit you back money for letting us control it. We currently have over 4,500 of your co-op neighbors taking advantage of this money-saving program.

Another part of this program is our electric heating and air conditioning programs. We offer a separately metered, demand response controlled rate for members who want to take advantage of the many benefits of electric heat.

What is considered electric heat? Several things. Geothermal heating and cooling is probably the most popular. Why? Because efficiencies are approaching 600 percent, which can be less than one-quarter the cost of propane or fuel oil, and most geothermal units also help make hot water, which is another cost savings. Air Source heat pumps are another popular choice and can be up to 225 percent efficient. Paired with an electric, propane or fuel oil furnace savings can be substantial. One of the most-used electric heating systems—due to the low installation cost—is baseboard electric heat. It is 100 percent efficient and allows for individual room control, so rooms that are not being used can be turned lower.

Closely aligned with these programs is the In Home Energy Audit. All heating systems work better when insulation levels are sufficient. Your co-op offers these energy audits to show you ways of saving energy and money in your home. We also have energy efficiency loans available for up to \$15,000 for approved efficiency upgrades. In addition to electric heating options, TEC offers propane service, which includes a metered service that no one else in the area offers. Imagine not having to pay out large sums of money each time your tank is filled. Just read the meter at the end of the month, and we'll send you the bill for that month. In addition, we have automatic bill payment options, along with online and phone apps available to pay your bill and submit your readings.

In the future, we also anticipate more programs to help members manage their energy use and save money. Why? Because it truly is *your* electric co-op, and you have come to expect a greater level of service. For details on these and other available programs, see our website at [tecmi.coop](http://tecmi.coop) or call 800-327-0166. ■

# Thumb Electric Cooperative

## Services Offered

**A**s a member-owned utility, your electric co-op provides a number of extra values that enhance the service you receive and help save you energy and money—here's a convenient summary so that you can make sure you are taking advantage of all our programs that may benefit you and your family or business:

### Energy Efficient Electric Heating & Air Conditioning Program

- Separately metered rate is currently 6.863 cents per kWh for Dual Fuel and 7.675 cents per kWh for Interruptible Heating & Cooling Service.
- Second fuel source heating system required on Dual Fuel.
- Qualifying systems: geothermal, air source heat pumps, electric baseboard, boilers & duct heaters.
- Water heaters allowed on rate with geothermal systems if geothermal makes hot water.

### In-Home Energy Audit

- Available to Thumb Electric Co-op members free of charge.
- Assess heating and cooling requirements of home for any fuel type.

### Electric Water Heater Control Credits

- \$8 credit per month for 6-hour control period—500 kWh per month required.
- \$6.25 credit per month for 4-hour control period—350 kWh per month required.

### TEC Water Heater Program

- Water heater credits purchase a TEC water heater on 0% interest.
- 10-year warranty on tank.
- Lifetime warranty on parts.
- Water heaters connected to geothermal: payment 48 months with 0% interest.
- Water heaters with no control: payment 48 months with 0% interest.

### Energy Efficiency Loans

- Qualifying members may borrow up to \$15,000, 7% annual interest with payment terms up to 7 years. Loans may be used for the installation of energy efficient heating & air conditioning systems, including geothermal and electric heat systems, insulation, and windows and doors.

### Contract Tree Trimming

- Program offers professional tree trimming for TEC members.

### Bill Payment Options

- Have payments automatically withdrawn from checking or savings account.
- Have payments charged to your credit card.
- Online and smart phone app options for payment and meter reading entry.

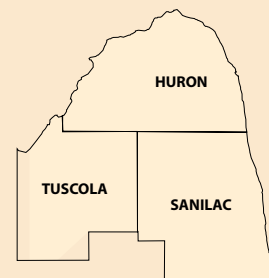
### Propane Service

- Metered propane-pay for the propane after you use it.
- Scheduled fill & budget plans.
- Pre-buy plan available through August each year.

### Surge Protection System

- Protect against voltage spikes.
- Both buy and lease options available.

**Call 989-658-8571 or 1-800-327-0166 today to learn specific details. ■**



### Thumb Electric Cooperative

**2231 Main Street  
Udly, MI 48475-0157  
1-800-327-0166 or  
989-658-8571**

**E-mail: [tec@tecmi.coop](mailto:tec@tecmi.coop)  
[www.tecmi.coop](http://www.tecmi.coop)**

#### PAYMENT STATIONS

##### Huron County

Bad Axe—Northstar Bank  
Pigeon—Northstar Bank

##### Tuscola County

Akron—Northstar Bank  
Caro—Northstar Bank  
Mayville—  
Mayville State Bank  
Millington—  
Mayville State Bank

Visit Thumb  
Electric's website:  
**[www.tecmi.coop](http://www.tecmi.coop)**

*Thumb Electric Cooperative  
is an equal opportunity  
provider and employer.*



## EATING ETHNIC

Experience distant lands with these flavorful dishes.

### Moroccan Tagine in Crockpot *(pictured)*

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

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

*Leann Butler, Wolverine*

### Cream Cheese Kieflies

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

#### Filling:

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

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

*Barbara Kedik, Dowagiac*

## Congratulations

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



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

### SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

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

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

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

Visit [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) for more reader recipes!

Photos—831 Creative



# Electric Capacity Shortfall Projected for 2016



**Craig Borr, CEO,**  
Michigan Electric  
Cooperative  
Association

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

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

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

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

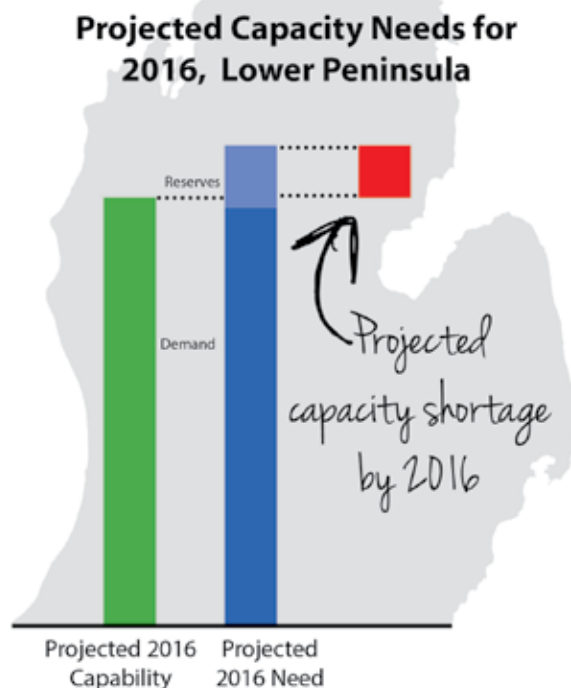
The startling fact, however, is that the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) estimates that Michigan’s Lower Peninsula is facing a 3,000-megawatt (MW) capacity shortfall as early as 2016. The “mitten” needs roughly 15 percent more generating capacity than is currently operating. Ironically,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

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

## Who is MISO and why are they projecting a shortfall?

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

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



new air quality standards required by the Environmental Protection Agency.

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

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

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

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

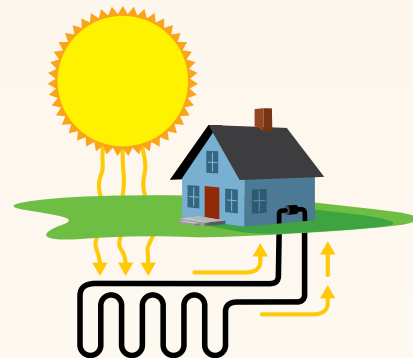
## Even more capacity needs to be built soon.

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

To learn more about the exciting new Alpine project, visit [alpinecleanenergy.com](http://alpinecleanenergy.com). ■

# Renewable Geothermal Heat

Geothermal is a simple technology that uses the earth's renewable energy to provide high-efficiency heating and cooling. In winter, the system draws heat from the ground and transfers it to your home. In summer, it extracts heat from your home and transfers it to the ground. **Contact the energy experts at Thumb Electric Cooperative at 800-327-0166** for honest answers on your energy choices, or call any of the trained and certified installers listed here.



## All-Temperature Geothermal Systems

1103 E. Caro Rd., Caro, MI 48723  
989-673-5557

## Ameriheat, Justin Faber

2891 E. Forester Rd., Deckerville, MI 48427  
810-376-4534

## B & D Heating, Cooling & Plumbing

1148 North Van Dyke, Bad Axe, MI 48413  
800-515-1117

## Burkhard Plumbing & Heating

638 E. Huron Ave., Bad Axe, MI 48413  
989-269-7532

## Certified Temperature Innovations

3107 Custer Rd., Carsonville, MI 48419  
810-300-7748

## ES Sheetmetal, Gene Root

9450 Belsay, Millington, MI 48746  
989-871-2067

## Geo Renew Systems, Inc.

3045 Grange Hall Rd., #7, Holly, MI 48442  
248-531-0325

## Geomasters, Inc., Plumbing & Heating

57 Ward St., Crosswell, MI 48422  
810-679-2251

## Geothermal Systems of Lapeer, LLC

6689 Orchard Lk. Rd. #188  
West Bloomfield, MI 48322  
810-240-2116

## Holland Heating and Cooling

9160 Lapeer Rd., Davison, MI 48423  
810-653-4328

## Ingell Refrigeration

1115 4th St., Port Huron, MI 48060  
810-982-4226

## J & B Plumbing & Heating

7641 Pigeon Rd., Pigeon, MI 48755  
989-453-3931

## Jack McCain Plumbing & Heating

9651 Weale Rd., Bay Port, MI 48720  
989-453-2277

## Kowaleski Heating & Cooling, LLC

3977 Ruppel Rd., Port Hope, MI 48468  
989-428-3371

## Kulek Heating & Air Conditioning

14421 Jeddo Rd., Yale, MI 48097  
810-387-4452

## Kundinger & Kroll

31 E. Main St., Sebewaing, MI 48759  
989-883-2770

## Lakeshore Improvements

### Plumbing & Heating

7825 Big Gulley Rd., Palms, MI 48465  
989-864-3833

## Michigan Energy Services

8445 Main St., Whitmore Lake, MI 48189  
888-339-7700

## NRG Control

3690 Washburn Rd., Vassar, MI 48768  
989-670-2543

## Newton-Johnson Plumbing & Heating

114 Enterprise Dr., Vassar, MI 48768  
989-823-2341

## Orton Refrigeration

31 W. Sanilac Rd., Sandusky, MI 48471  
810-648-2252

## Preferred Heating

7736 Arendt, Melvin, MI 48454  
810-378-5454

## Priority Service by Porter & Heckman

3056 Davison Rd., Lapeer, MI 48446  
810-644-8576

## Shetler Plumbing & Heating

7184 Nitz St., Pigeon, MI 48755  
800-547-3651

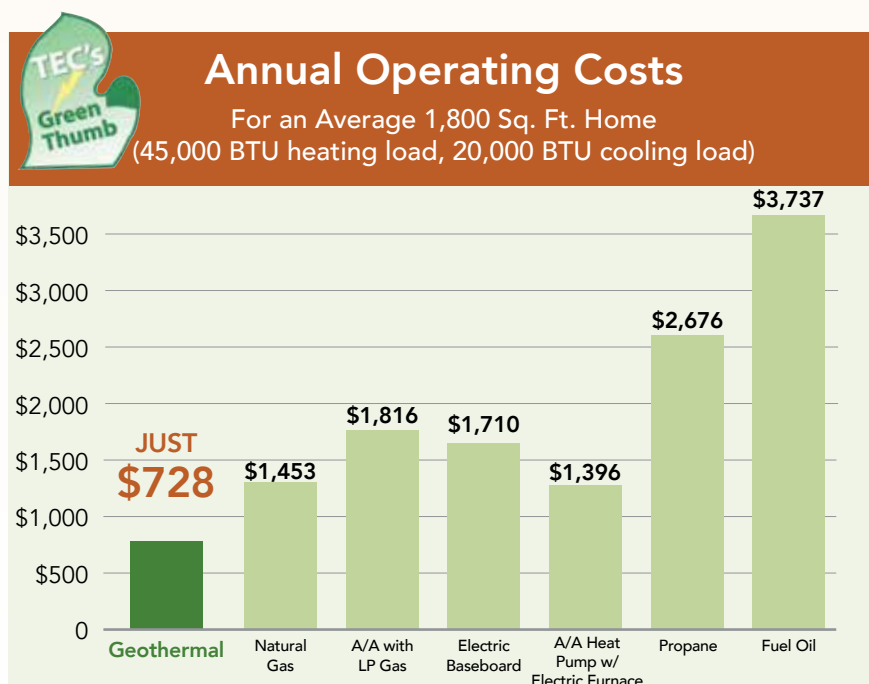
## Superior, Inc.

3442 Cemetery Rd., Cass City, MI 48726  
989-872-3305

## Thumb Cooling & Heating

5599 Pochert Rd., Port Hope, MI 48468  
989-428-4948

**And:** 837 South State, Caro, MI 48723  
989-672-4948



Factors Used: Electric Baseboard, Air-Source Heat Pump and Geothermal—based on TEC's 6.863¢/kWh dual-fuel rate. LP gas—based on \$2/gal. and 90% efficient furnace. Fuel Oil—based on \$3.50/gal. and 80% efficient furnace. Natural Gas—based on \$1.08/therm., 90% efficient furnace including \$9/mo. service charge. (Electric baseboard costs do not include air conditioning.)



# Who's Your Legislator?

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

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

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

## Michigan House of Representatives

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



**Rep. Paul Muxlow**  
(R-Brown City)  
83rd District  
(517) 373-0835



**Rep. Ed Canfield**  
(R-Sebewaing)  
84th District  
(517) 373-0476

## Michigan Senate

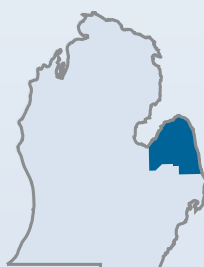
In the Senate, Republicans also continue to hold the majority, by 27–11. Unlike the House, the Senate ran for the first time under the new district lines. Visit [senate.mi.gov](http://senate.mi.gov) for more information. ■



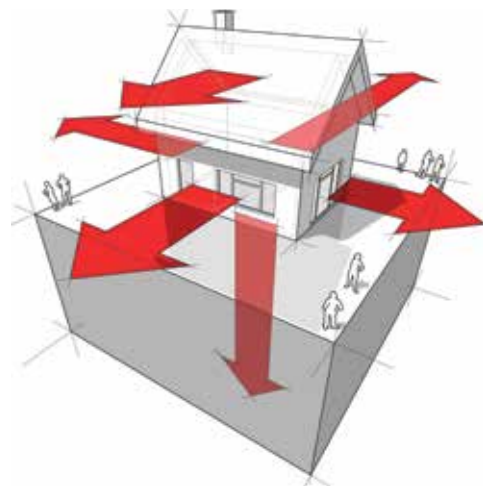
**Sen. Phil Pavlov**  
(R-St. Clair Township)  
25th District  
(517) 373-7708



**Sen. Mike Green**  
(R-Mayville)  
31st District  
(517) 373-1777



**Thumb Electric Cooperative  
Service Area**



Does your home have

# Heat Loss?

## Insulate and \$ave!

Call the energy experts at Thumb Electric Cooperative today for your free in-home analysis. We offer energy efficiency loans up to \$15,000 at 7 percent interest, payable up to 7 years, to qualified members.

**989-658-8571**

or

**800-327-0166**







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

Photo—Shawn Malone/Lake Superior Graphics



# A Barrel Of Fun:

Portable Sauna Is  
Good Fundraiser, Too



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Photos—Sigurd Utych





## Special Election Notice for TEC Members

In March 2015, a nominating committee of nine Thumb Electric Cooperative members will meet to select a slate of candidates for one director position in each of the three counties served by the cooperative.

Positions in District 2 currently held by Don Wolschleger of Huron, Lynn Morell of Sanilac, and Karl DeSimpelare of Tuscola will be voted on at the 2015 annual meeting.

Any co-op member interested in running for a district director position should write a letter to the Thumb Electric nominating committee chairperson prior

to Feb. 9, 2015, indicating his or her interest in being nominated.

The committee will review the prospective nominee's qualifications to determine whether they meet bylaw requirements and whether he or she should be put on the ballot.

If you would like more information, please contact the co-op's general manager, Dallas Braun, at 800-327-0166 or 989-658-8571.

## Annual Meeting Notice

Saturday, June 13, 2015

Cass City Recreational Park

Business meeting begins at 10 a.m.



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## Powering Up

When an outage occurs, line crews work to pinpoint problems

### 1 High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of consumers) rarely fail. But when damage occurs, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

### 2 Distribution Substation

Each substation serves hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or if problems exist down the line.

### 3 Main Distribution Lines

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

### 4 Tap Lines

If local outages persist, supply lines, called tap lines, are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools, and homes.

### 5 Individual Homes

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate these local issues.

graphic by Funnel Inc.

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

## Tree Trimming Means Fewer Outages

Tree trimming will take place in the following areas by Kappen Tree Service and Proline Clearance.

### Tuscola County

**Dayton Township:** Lakeview Drive, Woodland Trail, Harmon Street, Cat Lake Hills Road, and Cat Lake Road( north of Blackmore Rd).

**Millington, Arbela, and Vassar townships:** All single-phase lines.

### Sanilac County

**Lower Sanilac Township**

### Huron County

**Various maintenance trimming**

*\*Note: Other areas could see trimming, as time allows.*





# Snowmobile Museum, Trails Are Winter Fun

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

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

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

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

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



1962 Polar

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

A walk through the Snowmobile Museum is a walk through that time (open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at \$5 for adults and kids 16 and under free). Over 130 different machines spanning the decades are displayed, and the folks who restore them love to share stories of the days when sleds didn't have seat warmers!



Jack O'Malley

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



## «« Do You Know Where This Is?

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

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

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

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



Nov/Dec Photo

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



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