

MICHIGAN COUNTY LINES



BASKETBALL MADNESS

'Floored' By Michigan Companies

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Good Year For
Your Co-op!

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Teaches Kids
Electrical Safety

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POSTMASTER: SEND ALL UAA TO CFS.

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

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



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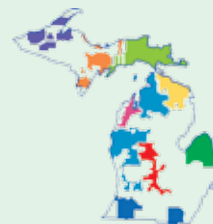
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Call For ArtPrize® Entrants

ON THE COVER*

Upper Peninsula native Tom Izzo coaches the MSU Spartans basketball team. The flooring they—and most teams nationwide—play on is made in the U.P.

Photo—Matthew Mitchell

*Some co-op editions have a different cover.



Michigan's Electric
Cooperatives
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Celebrate A Good Year for Alger Delta!

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Tom Harrell
General Manager

Here is some good news! Our chief financial officer (CFO), Amanda Seger, is entering the final bits of information in various reports for closing the books on 2014 and it looks like another good year for Alger Delta. Unaudited data shows increased revenue over the previous year and a good operating margin. During the same period, debt was reduced—which means equity, or your share of ownership—has increased, too. That's welcome news for members who want their co-op to thrive!

The books will be audited in March and the annual report—which will be included in a future edition of *Country Lines*—will provide you with the numbers. Whatever the final amount, margins will be retained and allocated to Alger Delta members in the form of patronage capital (also called capital credits), and that will be reported on your bill in the month following the allocation.

Most of the leading indicators moved in the right direction in 2014 and the annual report will show this in a variety of ways. Even so, there are some areas that continue to demand our attention. For example, the average outage duration increased in 2014, almost doubling from the previous year. This indicator rose from 52 minutes to just over 110 minutes. Some causes, like severe weather or power interruptions caused by the supplier, are beyond our control, but others—such as tree problems or aging infrastructure can be fixed—and we continue to work hard on these issues so we can improve service.

In 2014, your cooperative undertook several projects to improve reliability and service. Rebuilding lines in the Cedar River area and along G-12 in Menominee County are two good examples. We're going to continue these efforts in 2015, too. Rebuilding the main feeder along U.S.-41, north of Rapid River, is underway right now. This project will allow us to change the power supply to improve reliability for members in Trenary, Maple Ridge, and Rock areas; and help reduce wholesale power costs. Many other projects are planned and have already been approved by the board in the latest work plan.

Whatever the project, and wherever it is, members need to know that Alger Delta is poised to take advantage of growth and development whenever it comes our way. We're your partner for safe and reliable energy. ■

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form.

You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Curtains Up! Alger Delta Sponsors Play At Local Schools

Getting kids excited about electricity and how to use it safely and wisely requires creativity and humor. To help get the message across, Alger Delta Cooperative is sponsoring live performances by The National Theatre for Children at local schools.

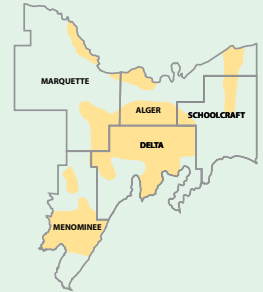
The Theatre uses professional actors who perform an action-packed adventure combined with high energy comedy to teach students educational messages. “The Energized Guyz: Daylight Savings Crime” features two actors who play a variety of characters in the 25-minute program. Students learn about energy efficiency while cheering on the play’s hero, a lightbulb store owner who needs to stop an evil villain that is wasting all the energy in town. The performances are presented to K through 6th grade students. Each show includes grade-appropriate workbooks for each student, teacher guidebooks, and classroom posters.



The play will be performed at the following schools:

- Rapid River Public Schools: April 10 at 8 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.
- Wilson Seventh Day Adventist Junior Academy: April 13 at 8:20 a.m.
- Powell Township School: April 27 at 9 a.m.
- AuTrain-Onota Public Schools: April 29 at 8:30 a.m.
- Burt Township Schools: April 29 at 1 p.m.
- Wells Township Schools: April 30 at 2:30 p.m.

Alger Delta Co-op sponsors the performances in coordination with the community’s not-for-profit power supplier, WPPI Energy. “National Theatre for Children puts on a show that’s as entertaining as it is educational,” said General Manager Tom Harrell. “It’s fun to see the kids laughing while they’re learning.” ■



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Alger Delta Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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Fuel Mix Report

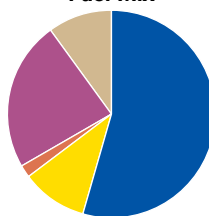
The fuel mix characteristics of Alger Delta Co-op Electric Association as required by Public Act 141 of 2000 for the 12-month period ended 12/31/14.

COMPARISON OF FUEL SOURCES USED

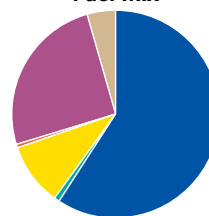
Regional average fuel mix used		
Your co-op’s fuel mix		
FUEL SOURCE		
Coal	54.5%	60.4%
Oil	0.0%	0.7%
Gas	10.3%	8.9%
Hydroelectric	1.9%	0.5%
Nuclear	23.4%	24.6%
Renewable Fuels	9.9%	4.9%
Biofuel	0.03%	0.7%
Biomass	0.2%	0.4%
Solar	0.03%	0.1%
Solid Waste Incineration	0.4%	0.0%
Wind	8.9%	3.2%
Wood	0.2%	0.5%

NOTE: Biomass above excludes wood; solid waste incineration includes landfill gas.

Your Co-op’s Fuel Mix



Regional Average Fuel Mix



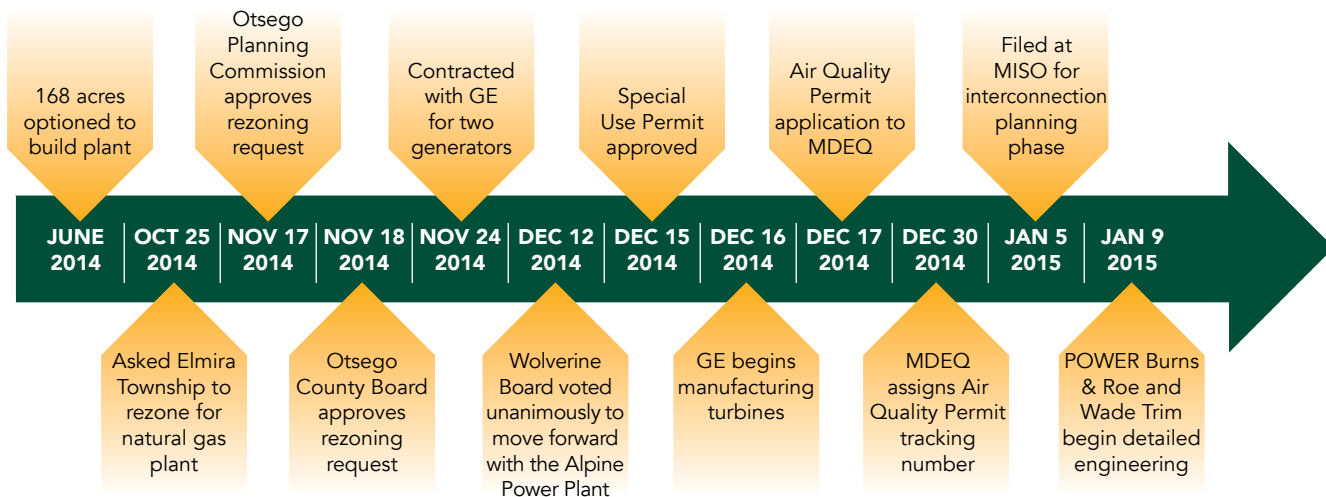
EMISSIONS AND WASTE COMPARISON

TYPE OF EMISSION/WASTE	lbs/MWh	
	Your Co-op	Regional Average*
Sulfur Dioxide	1.95	7.6
Carbon Dioxide	1,468	2,170
Oxides of Nitrogen	0.8	2.0
High-level Nuclear Waste	0.0019	0.0083

*Regional average information was obtained from MPSC website and is for the twelve-month period ending 12/31/13.

Alger Delta purchases 100% of its electricity from WPPI, which provided this fuel mix and environmental data.

Wolverine Power Moves Forward With Natural Gas Plant



Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative Inc., of Cadillac, is moving forward with a new 432 megawatt natural gas-fueled electric power plant, located in Elmira Township, near Gaylord. The Alpine Power Plant will use natural gas to generate electricity during times of peak demand and to compliment the ever-increasing amount of intermittent renewable energy in our state, like wind and solar. The Alpine Power Plant is scheduled to be completed by Spring 2016.

“The members of the planning commissions and boards of Elmira Township and Otsego County have voted unanimously to approve our applications, sending the message that this project is widely supported,” said Ken Bradstreet, project spokesman. Visit alpinecleanenergy.com to learn more and keep updated on this project. ■

New Touch-Control Faucets Save Water, Energy

The right kitchen faucet can have a strong impact on your water and energy savings.

Today, one-handle faucets are common, as their size and shape impact water use, but the newest, most efficient models can be controlled by the wave or touch of a hand. By not adjusting a handle, water is not wasted by readjusting the temperature. This provides a lot of savings—especially when washing dishes by hand.

A standard faucet uses more water and energy when washing dishes by hand than running a properly-loaded, efficient dishwasher. With a touch-control faucet, hand-washing dishes can be more efficient than a dishwasher. Also, fewer germs are spread because the faucet is touched less often with dirty hands, and the attractive finish lasts longer.

There are two “no-hands” models. One senses touch from your body (hand, forearm, elbow). For example, when rinsing dishes, you can hold several plates in each hand and tap anywhere on the faucet with your arm to control the water flow.

The other model has a sensor on top (a hand-wave controls it), and another on the faucet neck that triggers when your hands are in hand-washing position.

Tall faucet spouts with a pull-down sprayer are also efficient. Depending on under-cabinet clearance, pick the

tallest that fits, as the height is handy when rinsing a large pot. Choosing one with a pause button also lets you temporarily stop the flow without waving or touching the fixture.

Whichever faucet you have, never ignore a dripping one, since even a slow leak increases energy costs. After heating and cooling, heating water is the greatest energy user, but cold water also uses a lot of energy to purify, pump and treat.

Companies offering touch-control faucets include: American Standard, 800-442-1902, americanstandard-us.com; Delta Faucet, 800-345-3358, deltafaucet.com; Kohler, 800-456-4537, kohler.com; Moen, 800-289-6636, moen.com; and Pfister, 800-732-8238, pfisterfaucets.com. ■



—James Dullely



SOUP FOR THE SOUL

In a slow cooker or on the stove, these soups are the ultimate in comfort food.

Easy Taco Soup (pictured)

1½-2 lbs. ground beef
1 large onion, diced
2 15.5-oz. cans pink or red kidney beans
15.5-oz. can pinto or chili beans
15.5-oz. can shoe peg corn (or whole kernel corn)
14.5-oz. can diced tomatoes and green chilies

2 14.5-oz. cans, any brand, Mexican-style tomatoes
4.5-oz. can diced green chilies
4.6-oz. can black olives, drained and sliced
1¼-oz. pkg. taco seasoning mix
1-oz. pkg. ranch salad dressing mix

For Garnish:

tortilla chips
sour cream
grated cheese

chopped green onions
sliced black olives

Brown the ground beef with onions. Drain excess fat, then transfer to large crock pot or large pot on stove. Add beans, corn, tomatoes, olives, chilies, taco seasoning and ranch dressing mix. You may need to add ½ c. of water for desired consistency. In the crockpot, cook on low for 6 hours. On the stovetop, simmer on low about 1 hour. Break the tortilla chips and put in bottom of bowls and cover with soup. Top with your choice of garnishes.

Melody Brown, Big Bay

Butternut Cheesy Bacon Chowder—Gluten Free

4 c. chicken broth
1 butternut squash, roughly 3–4 c.
1 c. diced onion
1 c. diced celery
1 ½ t. salt

¼ t. black pepper
2 c. bacon or diced ham, cooked
2 c. shredded sharp cheddar
1 ½ c. heavy whipping cream
fresh chives, optional

Combine first six ingredients and cook until vegetables are tender. While vegetables are cooking, fry your meat of choice and drain. Using a blender, purée the vegetables and return them to the pot (an immersion blender works best). Add meat, cheese and heavy cream to the cooked vegetables. Heat through for about 5 minutes, but do not boil. Garnish with fresh chives, if desired.

Anna Kinsey, LeRoy

Mushroom Barley Soup

1½ lbs. cubed beef
1 T. vegetable oil
2 c. finely chopped onion
1 c. diced carrots
½ c. diced celery
4-oz. can mushrooms, undrained
1 garlic clove, minced

14.5-oz. can beef broth
14.5-oz. can chicken broth
2 c. water
½ c. pearl barley
1 t. salt
½ t. pepper
3 T. chopped parsley, for garnish



In a soup pot, brown meat in oil. Remove meat with a slotted spoon and set aside. Sauté onion, carrot and celery in drippings until tender, about 5 minutes. Add meat back into pan along with all other ingredients; bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer 1½ to 2 hours or until barley and meat are tender. Stir in parsley.

Geraldine Rutkowski, Ubly

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite **"Camping"** recipes by **April 1** and your favorite **"Burgers/All American"** by **May 1**.

Enter your recipe online at countrylines.com or send to (handprinted or typed on one side, please): *Country Lines Recipes*, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864. Please note the co-op from which you receive your electric service.

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

Visit countrylines.com for more reader recipes!

Photos—831 Creative



Tom Cheal pictured in his house. The mosaic tile is his wife's artwork, and he created the back-lit Birdseye maple veneer soffit lighting overhead.



Cheal's Woodworking Produces Magnificent Moldings

Ten miles down the tree-covered Misery Bay Road, in Toivola, is the home and woodworking shop of Tom Cheal. Cheal has been crafting custom wood moldings for nearly 25 years, and just past the garage door is his 6,000-square-foot workshop and the center of operations for Cheal Woodworking.

Cheal exhibited an early interest in woodworking and engineering as early as the 9th grade by making his own 8-foot long hydroplane. The boat could top out at 35 mph, and Cheal said it wasn't unusual for his parents to receive phone calls from lakeside neighbors complaining, "That boy has got to slow down!" When he was a senior in high school he made a second boat, this time with an inboard Cadillac 390 V8 engine. This boat still resides in a shed in his back yard.

A downstate native, Cheal first came to the U.P. in 1967 to attend MTU. After obtaining his electrical engineering degree in 1971 he went back downstate to work but said, "Desk work just wasn't for me." After moving back to the U.P., he bought an 80-acre homestead and started dabbling in his true passion, woodworking.

One of his first projects was a wood gun cabinet for his dentist, and things began to grow from there to larger jobs such as custom architectural millwork. "While doing architectural mill work, I realized



nal Historical Park

...of a metal
...of paleo-Indians
...



How Were We Found?

The Keweenaw Peninsula was first discovered by a group of men from the Keweenaw Peninsula who were exploring the area in 1699. They were looking for a place to settle and found the Keweenaw Peninsula. The Keweenaw Peninsula was named after the Keweenaw people, who lived there for many years.



Some of Cheal's work at the Keweenaw National Historic Park Visitor's Center.

Hidden gem traveler tip:

Misery Bay Road, where Cheal's Woodworking is located, is a mix of beautiful rolling farm and forest land and after a 12-mile trip, a traveler is rewarded at the end with a spectacular view of Lake Superior roaring in all its thundering beauty.



In his workshop, Cheal uses a Weinig moulding machine for many of his custom orders. His website is chealwoodworking.com

how much I enjoyed making moldings. I like the challenge of creating custom and historical moldings." In 1997, he leased his first moulding machine and never looked back. "The internet has allowed me to get work from people all over the United States. They send me a sample or photo or a sketch and I can create and ship whatever they want."

All of his moldings are crafted from native Upper Peninsula wood, such as maple, ash, basswood, cedar, pine and oak. He cuts much of the wood from his own 80 acres, but also buys wood from local sawmills. Cheal also built his own kiln and does custom milling and wood-drying work for other individuals.

Cheal says the scope and type of his jobs are always varied and have ranged from historical reproduction woodwork at the old Union Hall in Calumet (now the Visitor's Center for the Keweenaw National Historical Park) to a church in Pennsylvania and a mansion in San Francisco. Cheal and his wife Esther have two sons, and their home is a testament to both her skills as a former art teacher, and to his woodworking skills, with beautiful cabinetry and wood work throughout.

Tom Cheal can be contacted by email at tcheal@chealwoodworking.com or call 906.288.3487. ■



Cheal is pictured with the boat he built when he was a senior in high school. The last time the boat was in the water was in 1997, when he and his son took a joy ride.



BASKETBALL MADNESS

'Floored' By Michigan Companies

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Tom Izzo surveys the basketball court in Michigan State University's Breslin Center and still relishes what that court represents. Fifteen years earlier, Izzo led the Spartans to the NCAA championship on that very floor in Indianapolis.

After beating Florida, MSU purchased the portable court for its own use from Horner Flooring Co. Inc., which has manufactured sports flooring in Dollar Bay, MI, since 1891, the year Dr. James Naismith invented basketball.

"You wouldn't put the U.P. and basketball together for being famous," Izzo says. "But when you think about it, it makes some sense."

The Upper Peninsula has been the center of the athletic flooring universe for over 100 years. And, Izzo's one NCAA title, six Final Four appearances, 11 Big Ten regular season and tournament crowns, 17 consecutive NCAA Tournament bids and eight National Coach of the Year awards make the Iron Mountain native one of Michigan's most prominent sports figures. So, it all makes perfect sense.

Michigan State's journey to the 2009 Final Four at Ford Field in Detroit and most recent national semifinal appearance the following year back in Indianapolis, ended on courts made by Connor Sport Court International Inc., located in the heart of Iron County. Connor Sport has been in business since 1872 and in 2005 was named the official supplier of courts for the men's and women's Final Fours.

Both U.P. companies have amassed an astounding list of venues they have equipped—from high schools and colleges and professional facilities to the Olympics.

During the Spartans' last practice before defeating the Gators on the Horner floor that momentous

Monday night in April 2000, Izzo commiserated with his equally renowned boyhood rival, former Iron Mountain High School and Northern Michigan University teammate and best friend, Steve Mariucci, who at the time was the head coach of the San Francisco 49ers.

"We were laughing about it, saying me, you and this floor were made up in the U.P.," Izzo says. "I always knew about the floor companies up there and there's no question that when I'm watching a Final Four or an NBA event, I take a lot of pride in it, being a Hooper."

Proximity to a select variety of hard maple trees, which thrive in the U.P. climate, is the reason Michigan has become the world leader in athletic flooring.

The U.P. companies have amassed an astounding list of venues they have equipped—from high schools to colleges to professional facilities to the Olympics.

"Hard maple trees obviously grow south of there, as well, but when you go that far north the growing season is real short," says Jason Gasperich, Connor Sports' sustainability director. "So, what happens is you end up with a very tight-grained, dense hardwood."

The old-growth forests have been replanted numerous times by an industry that has been at the forefront of renewable resource development. Some 40 different sawmills supply the lumber and a minimum of 30 trees—roughly



Photos—Matthew Mitchell

25 years old and up—will be used to make the court on which the Final Four will be played at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, April 4–6.

Michigan State's court has been taken apart and put back together countless times between non-sporting events, such as commencement exercises and concerts.

According to MSU Deputy Athletics Director Greg Ianni, who oversees the Spartans' athletic facilities, Horner has taken the floor back to the U.P. to be refurbished on numerous occasions, though it is nearing the end of its life expectancy.

After the surface is replaced in the next year or so, parts of it will be put on permanent display, others stored in the school's archives, and "pieces will be made available to our fan base," Ianni says. "The quality of the court has been terrific, and the irony of the fact that this floor was built in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan where our head basketball coach came from, is quite unique." ■



Steve Grinczel is the online columnist for MSU's athletics website, *MSUSpartans.com*, and the co-host of the "Griff & Grinz" sports radio talk show on WQTX-FM (92.1).

He covered the Spartans for 24 years for Booth Newspapers of Michigan and lives in Haslett, MI.

Energy Decisions Worth Saying Yes To

Commercial and industrial buildings are responsible for about 50 percent of the energy used in the U.S., at a cost of over \$400 billion. However, there are many ways businesses can save energy and be rewarded with incentives for doing so.

If your business is ready to improve its bottom line and use energy-saving strategies, your electric co-op's Energy Optimization (EO) program will most likely have a solution. With hundreds of rebates available, the time to act is now. Here are some recent projects other Michigan businesses worked on with the EO program to save big.

Custom C&I Rebates

Do you have an idea for an energy efficiency project not covered by an existing Energy Optimization (EO) rebate? Custom rebates are available for the installation of unique energy-efficient equipment tailored to meet the needs of your business or farm. Custom rebates are based on expected annual energy savings (kWh per year). Approved custom projects may be eligible for rebates covering up to 75 percent of the project cost! Contact the EO program at **877.296.4319** to get started. ■

Business City	Rebate Amount	Project highlights
Odawa Casino Resort – Petoskey	\$61,687	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting & cooling system upgrades. • Saved 3.1 million kWh per year
North American Moulding – Edwardsburg	\$34,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T8 high bay lights & industrial equipment • Saved 583,000 kWh per year
Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center	\$25,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 600+ light fixtures to LEDs • Saved 479,000 kWh per year
Banks Hardwoods - White Pigeon	\$17,160	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replaced HID light fixtures; efficient boiler fan motors • Saved 256,000 kWh per year
Coulter Farms – New Era	\$12,900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T8 high bay lights; energy efficient equipment • Saved 200,000 kWh per year



RIGHT HERE. RIGHT NOW.

Make this the year you say **YES** to energy savings. If your business is ready to improve its bottom line and implement energy-saving strategies, we have a **solution** for you. With a number of Energy Optimization rebates available, the time to act is **NOW**.

ENERGY TIP: Commercial and industrial buildings use roughly 50% of the energy in the U.S. economy at a cost of over \$400 billion. That leaves a lot of opportunity for improvement!



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.

POP QUIZ:

Do you know what to do if a power line falls on your vehicle?

Do not drive away or get out. Stay inside until utility workers say it's okay. Warn others to stay away. If you must leave the vehicle – only in case of fire – jump free without touching the ground and auto at the same time, keeping both feet together, and hop to safety. A live wire touching the ground causes electricity to fan out, and walking or running allows one foot to move from one voltage zone to another. This makes your body the electricity's path, and electrocution results.

Other safety tips:

Never drive over a downed line. It could cause poles or other equipment to come crashing down.

Never touch a downed line or a person or object that is touching it! You could be injured or killed, too.

Call 911 immediately to report a downed line, then call your electric co-op or the local utility.

Filing Deadlines for 2015 Elections Near

A lger Delta Cooperative will be holding elections in three of its nine districts in 2015. Districts 2 (Harvey/Deerton); 3 (Grand Marais); and 4 (Cedar River/Palestine) will each elect a representative to the board of directors. District meetings are scheduled to be held in May.

Directors are elected for a term of three years and receive compensation for their work, including reasonable and customary expense reimbursement. For more information about serving on the board, you can find Article III of the cooperative's bylaws on algerdelta.com under the tab "About Us", and then choose "Bylaws/Tariffs/Rates." You can also find more details there or print out the nominating petition under the "About Us" tab, and then click on "Board of Directors". If you cannot access our website and would like to receive a copy of the bylaws or a nominating petition by mail, call us at 906-428-4141.

The chart below shows important dates relative to director elections:

	District 2 – Harvey/Deerton	District 3 – Grand Marais	District 4 – Cedar River
Deadline for submitting Nomination Petition	March 13	March 12	March 14
District Meeting	May 12	May 11	May 13

More election information, including district candidate profiles, will be printed in the next edition of *Country Lines*.

Calling All ArtPrize Artists in Michigan!

We would like to spotlight Michigan artists who participated in 2014, or are entering the 2015 ArtPrize® competition, in the July/August issue of *Country Lines*.

For 19 days, 3 square miles of downtown Grand Rapids becomes an open canvas of art. Artists from around the world enter the contest, and viewing their work is free and open to the public.

If you are an electric co-op member who participated in the 2014 ArtPrize event, or you are entering in 2015, please send your contact information by e-mail to Christine Dorr at cdorr@meca.coop or by mail to *Country Lines*, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864. The deadline is April 20.

ArtPrize 2015 will take place Sept. 23–Oct. 11

For more information about the event, please visit Artprize.org ■



Thumbs Up For The Thumb!

Quick! Name your favorite part of our state. Many will say the U.P., Leelanau County, or Grand Traverse Bay. My hunch is some will say, “the Thumb.” We wouldn’t be the Mitten State without a thumb, so let’s pay it some homage...

Phil Parrot, a Thumb native and owner of Parrot’s Tours (parrottstours.com or 810-376-9245), in Deckerville, sends vacationers to destinations worldwide, but he’s often asked about the Thumb area by other travel professionals. Parrot’s ready response is, “There’s the Upper Peninsula, Leelanau Peninsula, and Old Mission Peninsula, but the Thumb is Michigan’s undiscovered peninsula.”

Comprised of Huron, Tuscola, Sanilac, Lapeer and St. Clair counties, it boasts 150 miles of shoreline, 2,100 miles of rivers and streams, 51,000 acres of public recreation land, 49,000 acres of state game/wildlife areas, and many annual festivals and events.

Tour the Lake Huron and Saginaw Bay shoreline along M-25 with 160 miles of quaint towns and four lighthouses. The village of Sebewaing claims bragging rights as the “Sugar Beet Capital of the World” by hosting an annual Sugar Festival with a parade, carnival and entertainment tent. Caseville, near the Thumb’s tip on sandy Saginaw Bay, hosts the well-known Cheeseburger Festival every August. Algonac sits on the largest fresh-water delta in the world, with canals and an impressive 1,800 feet of boardwalk that credit its nickname as “The Venice of Michigan.”

And, visitors will want to explore the Sanilac Petroglyphs Historic State Park. The great Thumb fire of 1881, Parrot says, burned over 1 million acres and revealed prehistoric rock carvings made 300 to 1,000 years ago.

Seek a pleasant place by visiting it and giving a thumbs up for “the Thumb”! ■



Jack O'Malley



Photo courtesy of ArtPrize 2015. Photo credit: Brian Kelly.



Jan Photo

The January Mystery Photo Contest winner is Laura Neuman, of Mackinaw City, a Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op member who correctly identified the “snow people” figures in front of the tourist information building in Paradise, MI.

March Installation Explosion!

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Youth Leadership Summit
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June 13-18 | Washington, D.C.