

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op

January/February 2016

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



Plus!

Director Robert Wegmeyer—
In Memorium—Page 13

PIE&G News—Pages 16 & 17

Partners For POWER

Michigan Electric Co-ops Help Bring Power
To Buena Vista, Guatemala



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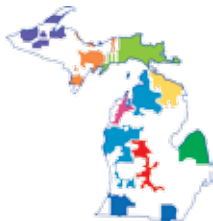
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Michigan's Electric Cooperatives
countrylines.com

January 2016
Vol. 36, No. 1

Executive Editor
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Publisher
**Michigan Electric
Cooperative Association**

Design and Layout
Ciesa Design

Michigan Country Lines, USPS-591-710, is published monthly, except August and December, with periodicals postage paid at Lansing, MI, and additional offices. It is the official publication of the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933.

Subscriptions are authorized for members of Alger Delta, Cherryland, Great Lakes, HomeWorks Tri-County, Midwest Energy, Ontonagon, Presque Isle, and Thumb electric cooperatives by their boards of directors.

POSTMASTER: SEND ALL UAA TO CFS.

Association officers are **Robert Kran**, Great Lakes Energy, chairman; **Mark Kappler**, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric, vice chairman; and **Eric Baker**, Wolverine Power Cooperative, secretary-treasurer. **Craig Borr** is president and CEO.

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See page 4 for contact information.

ON THE COVER*

Ofelia De Leon (far left), of Buena Vista, with his family and lineworkers when the lights came on in their home for the very first time. Ofelia had the honor of flipping the switch, and when the light came on the room radiated with happiness—lots of laughter, and tears. Linemen (L-R) Tom Ulatowski, Cherryland, Dan King, MECA, and Tony Reichle, Great Lakes Energy.

**Some co-op editions have a different cover.*

Cover photo by Garrett Hubbard



IN YOUR WORDS

Question of the Month—We Asked, You Answered.

Last month, we asked electric co-op members a question: If you could have a lifetime supply of anything, what would it be? Thank you for all the responses. Here are some answers from our members...

"Love, good health, happy family & friends, great weather and a very large pay check to share."

"Burgers and fries from Clyde's Restaurant in Manistique, MI."

"If I could have a lifetime supply of anything, it would be free electricity. I am 90 years old, a World War II Veteran, and have a bronze star (along with many other medals). I've been a member of Great Lakes Energy most of my life. My wife and I have been married 70 years this coming July. God Bless."

"Wisdom."

"Unwavering Faith."

Our new Question of the Month is:

If you could only have one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Please submit answers to countrylines.com by Feb. 1.

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PIE&G Power Supply Is Going Green



Brian J. Burns
President & CEO

So what fuel is used to produce your electricity? If you purchase power from PIE&G, the answer has been changing with each passing year. The chart below tells the story of the last five years: the use of coal is declining while the use of natural gas and renewables is rising. The story is just beginning however, and the shift to renewables will soon accelerate.

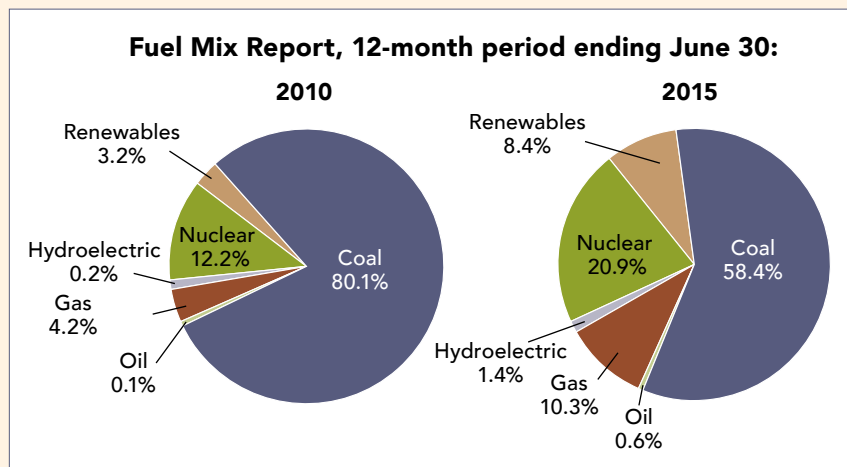
Our power supplier—Wolverine Power Cooperative (WPC)—recently entered into a 20-year agreement to purchase energy from the “Michigan Wind 3” project being built in Sanilac County and is expected to begin commercial operation by the end of 2016. This is in addition to the wind generated energy we currently purchase from the Harvest Wind Farm in Elkton and Pigeon, and will soon purchase from the Deerfield Wind Energy project in Huron County, set to begin production in late 2016.

With these projects completed, it is expected 30 percent of PIE&G’s energy purchases from Wolverine will come from renewable energy sources. See more information on page 5.

The shift away from coal to gas and renewables is a result of a combination of factors, including recent legislation, regulations, energy markets, and technology improvements.

So, what about power supply costs? According to Wolverine, wholesale costs are expected to remain stable in the near term, which is five to 10 years.

Our goal is to deliver affordable and reliable energy in an environmentally responsible manner. We’re working on it. ■



PIE&G Expands Renewable Portfolio

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op will be a renewable energy leader in the state because of the work of its power supplier, Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Inc. (Wolverine) based in Cadillac.

Wolverine began leading Michigan's renewable future by adding the first commercial-scale wind farm to its supply mix in 2007 with the 50 megawatt (MW)* Harvest Wind Farm, located in Huron County, ahead of any renewable mandate. Harvest enabled PIE&G to meet the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).

Wolverine continued to monitor the market for additional renewable opportunities, and as wind turbine technology improved, prices dropped. Early in 2015, Wolverine announced a new supply agreement with RES Americas for its 150 MW Deerfield Wind project, also in Huron County. Finally, in October 2015, Wolverine announced the execution of a supply agreement with Exelon Generation for the approximately 150 MW Michigan Wind 3 project to be constructed in Sanilac County. The Deerfield Wind and Michigan Wind 3 projects are expected to be complete by the end of 2016, bringing Wolverine's total wind capacity to approximately 350 MW, far exceeding the RPS mandate.

"Wolverine is excited about the addition of clean and affordable energy to its portfolio," stated Eric Baker, President and CEO of Wolverine. "These projects position Wolverine favorably with significant renewable generation. When the projects are complete, PIE&G and our other member cooperatives will achieve a 30 percent renewable level."

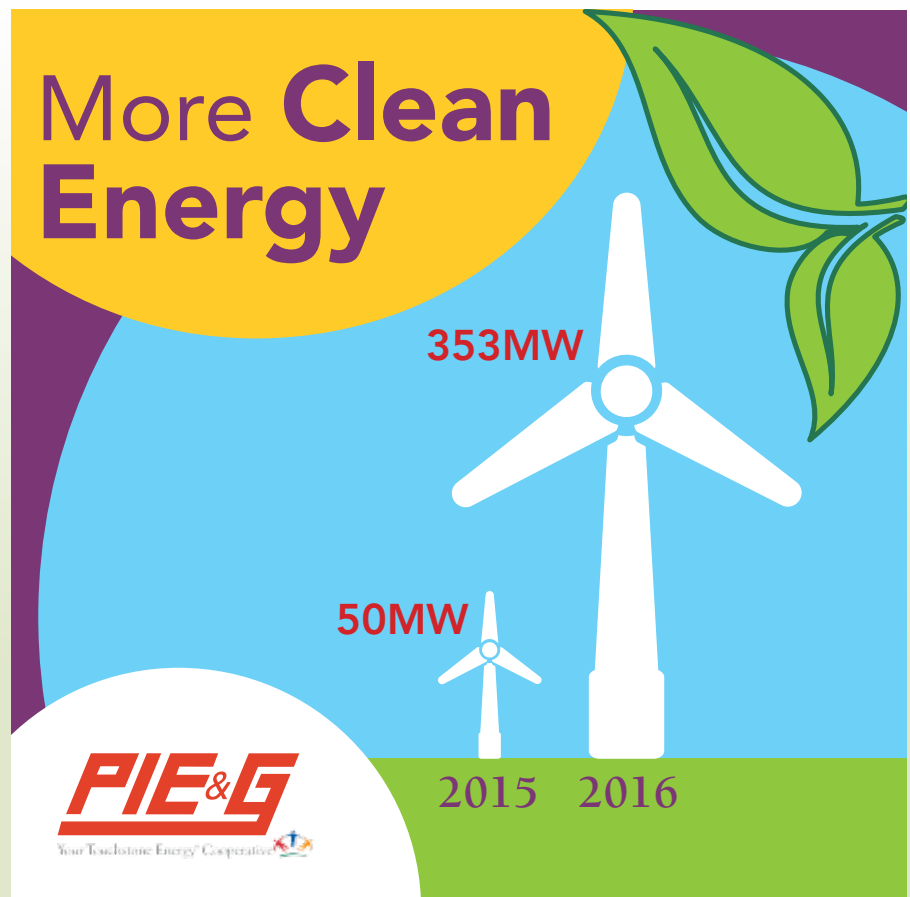
Wolverine's commitment to clean energy also means the

amount of electricity PIE&G members receive from coal-fired generation continues to decline. Based on fuel mix data, coal is expected to account for 45 percent of our electricity in 2018 compared to 81 percent in 2008.

The impact of Wolverine's leadership on renewables will benefit its members well into the future. "These new projects will serve PIE&G and our other member co-ops beyond 2030 with clean energy at certain and affordable prices, a true win-win," stated Baker.

Wolverine is a generation and transmission electric cooperative that supplies power to its seven members. They include five distribution electric cooperatives and two licensed alternative electric suppliers. ■

**MW or megawatt is one million watts.*



By the end of 2016, we expect 30 percent of the electricity Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op members receive will be from clean, renewable energy sources. Increased investments by our power supplier in affordable wind energy from Michigan's Thumb area will make us a renewable energy leader in the state.

Saving Energy In The Kitchen

By Brian Sloboda

Most of us spend a lot of time in the kitchen. Whether you are considering replacing an appliance or simply looking for ways to be more efficient, here are some tips to help you save energy—and money.

Most people don't think about their refrigerator that often—as long as it's working. Older refrigerators use more energy. Upgrading this appliance can bring a major return on your investment. Look for rebate programs, too!

Cooking also uses a lot of energy. To save energy while cooking, placing the lid on a pot of boiling water will trap heat and cause the water to boil faster. And there is no need to preheat the oven when cooking a large piece of meat, like a turkey or ham (you do need to preheat when baking, or cooking smaller dishes). If you are planning on using the oven for a long period of time, consider turning

down your home's thermostat. Cooking will add warmth to the home because the heat from the oven can raise the temperature in the kitchen and surrounding rooms.

Even after the meal is over, you can save energy. Make sure your dishwasher is full before it's started. Next, make sure you are using the right setting on your dishwasher. Newer models have sensors that detect how clean your dishes are. When these "auto" cycles are used, they will get dishes clean without wasting energy or water. The sanitize setting should rarely be used since it is energy intensive. It is also a good idea to make sure the filter at the bottom of the washtub is cleaned to help the washer work at its optimal level.

As you can see, there are many different ways to practice efficiency in the kitchen, and maybe even save enough money to have dinner out sometimes! ■

Be Prepared For Winter Storms

By Abby Berry

When winter temperatures drop and storms hit, it can be challenging to stay safe and warm. Your electric cooperative cares about your safety, and we want you to be prepared.



Heavy snow and ice can lead to downed power lines, leaving you without power. During a power outage, our crews will continue to work as quickly and safely as possible to restore power, but there are a few things you can do to prepare yourself.

- **Stay warm** – Use a safe alternate heating source, such as a fireplace or wood-burning stove, during a power outage. Exercise caution when using, and never leave the heating source unattended.

If you are using gasoline, propane or natural gas-burning devices to stay warm, never use them indoors. Remember that fuel and wood-burning sources of heat should always be properly ventilated. Always read the manufacturer's directions before using.

- **Stay fed** – Be sure to have several days' supply of food on hand. Crackers, cereal, canned goods, bread, and other foods that do not need to be cooked, are good options. Five gallons of water per person should also be available in the event of an extended power outage.
- **Stay safe** – When an outage occurs, it usually means power lines are down. Try not to travel during winter storms, but if you must, bring a survival kit along, and do not travel alone. If you encounter downed lines, always assume they are live and stay as far away from them as possible.

Winter weather can be unpredictable and dangerous, and planning ahead is important. For more winter safety tips, visit ready.gov/winter-weather. ■



Photo: Garrett Hubbard

Electric Cooperatives Donate Suitcases Packed With A Purpose

The recent Partners for Power team reached their goal to build an electric line extension in Guatemala that changed the lives of about 54 families in the small community of Buena Vista. But our team's work did not end there. The 10-person team distributed over 450 pounds of donated items sent over with the Partners For Power project.

The suitcases were filled by a team effort of employees from Cherryland Electric Cooperative, Great Lakes Energy, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric, Midwest Energy, Wolverine Power, and Cloverland Electric. The much needed items included school supplies, shoes, backpacks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, mouthwash, stuffed animals, sweatshirts/t-shirts of all sizes, small sewing kits, stocking caps, baseball hats, soccer balls, a basketball, a football, air pumps, soccer nets, and basketball nets. The electric cooperatives were eager to help out and make a difference for the villagers in Buena Vista.

To distribute the supplies fairly, the team of linemen divided the items into three stations, grouped by age, so that everyone received something. "The villagers have worked so hard on this entire project with us," said Wolverine Power safety coordinator, Matt Monroe. "It was fun to be able to give their



families one more surprise before we headed back home."

Partners For Power also sent a basketball backboard, rim and hardware, along with individual pieces of plexiglass, glass cutters, and caulk to replace broken school windows in the village.

Read the full story about how Michigan electric cooperatives teamed up to "turn on the lights" in Buena Vista, Guatemala, on page 14. ■

New Year's Resolution—Peace Of Mind In 2016

You know the story. The clock strikes midnight and millions of people make resolutions to change. But, if something is working great, why fix it? Our thoughts exactly. Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op is keeping its most popular 2015 Energy Optimization (EO) rebates for 2016, and adding a few new options. Ring in the New Year with savings and peace of mind by participating in some top rated rebates.

Make a resolution to manage your energy use in 2016 by taking advantage of these popular customer incentives, as well as a new option for smart occupancy-sensing thermostats.

Next Steps

For a complete list of EO rebates offered by Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op visit michigan-energy.org to see which solutions are right for you, or call us at 877-296-4319 if you have questions about applications or product eligibility. ■

Rebate Name	Incentive Amount
ENERGY STAR® television	31–40" = \$25 41–50" = \$25 51–60" = \$50
ENERGY STAR® dehumidifier	\$25
Efficient HVAC—furnaces with electric commutated motors (ECMs)	\$200
ENERGY STAR® refrigerator/freezer side-by-side	\$25
Programmable or Wi-Fi-enabled thermostat	\$20
Smart occupancy-sensing thermostat	\$50
Online home audit—Home Energy Optimizer	FREE energy-saving kit (\$30 value) and a list of energy efficient home improvement options

Peace of mind, comfort and savings

We provide the savings—you enjoy peace of mind while saving energy with our Energy Optimization program.

There are many ways to save, from appliances to lighting and maintaining the comfort of your home with our efficient HVAC programs. Visit **Michigan-energy.org** for a complete list of opportunities and rebates.

ENERGY TIP: Receive your rebate faster by using the online application.

ONLINE: michigan-energy.org

PHONE: 877.296.4319

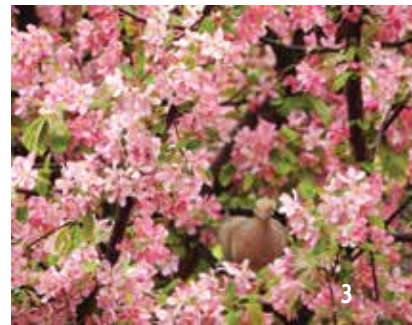


Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit michigan-energy.org.



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Talented Members Share Their Favorite Photos



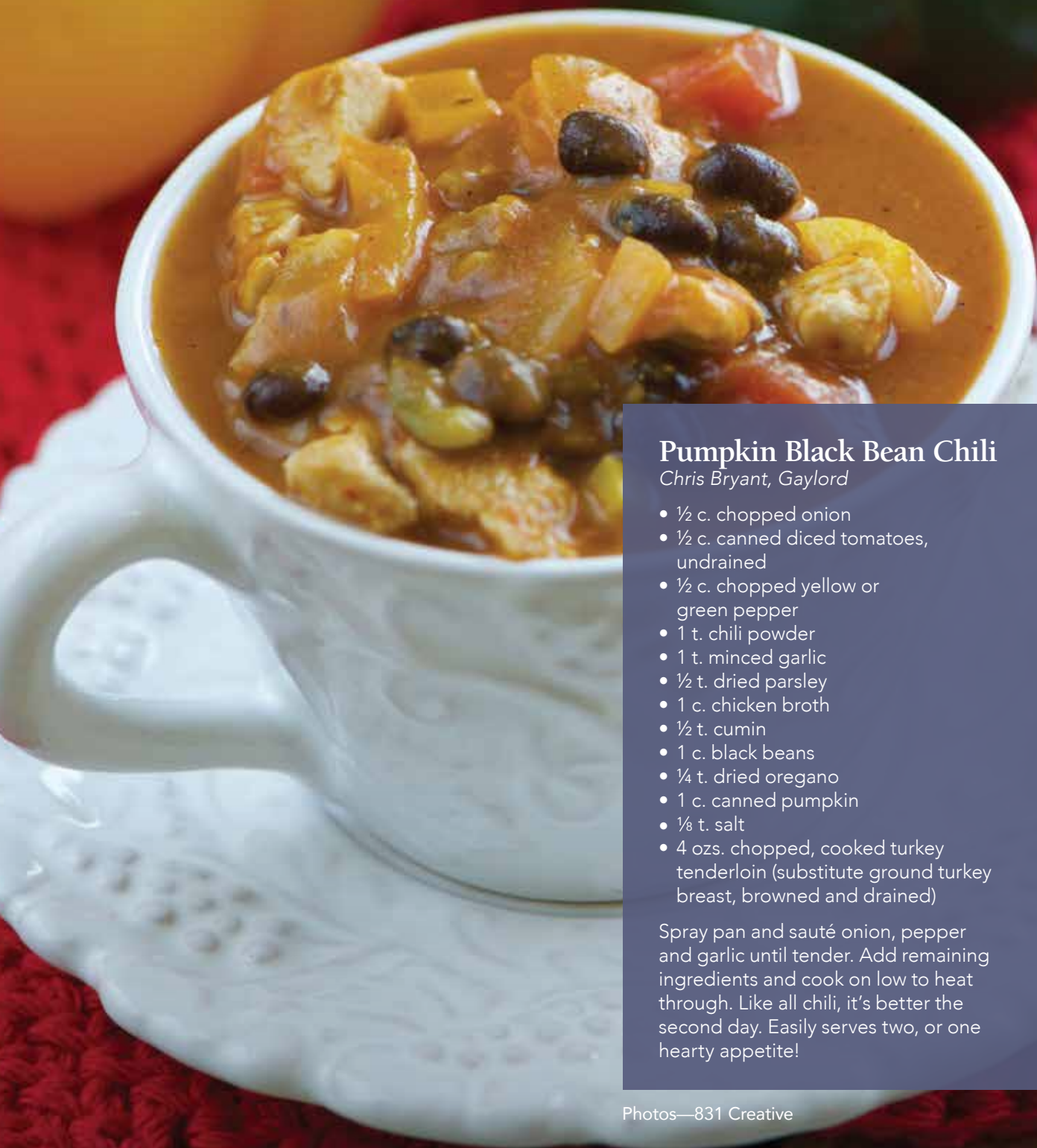
There's A Story In Every Photo

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op invites members to share their amazing photos. Selected photos will be published in *Michigan Country Lines*. Upcoming topics and deadlines are: **"Winter Fun,"** due **Jan. 15** for the March issue; and **"Saluting Our Armed Forces,"** due **March 15** for the May issue. Details and instructions for photo submission—including rules, topic list, publication date, and submission deadlines—can be found at <http://bit.ly/1JX5Afh>. We look forward to seeing your best photos!

1. Home grown strawberries right in our Michigan backyard.
Barb Jeske, of Lewiston.
2. Camping in Michigan with the grandkids.
Terry Materna, of Onaway.
3. A Mourning Dove finds a beautiful place to perch.
Suzanne Aidif, of Millersburg.
4. Midnight, our dog, loves the beach. His favorite activity is for us to throw rocks into the water and tell him to "go get the fish." This was taken at Lake Huron Hammond Bay area.
Debbie Bilinski, of Millersburg.
5. Bella, the dog, at Rockport State Park.
Sandy Blumentha, of Presque Isle.
6. 12 inches of snow from 2012 in Lewiston.
Ted Neuner, of Lewiston.

CHILI

Warm up this season with these comforting chili recipes.



Pumpkin Black Bean Chili

Chris Bryant, Gaylord

- ½ c. chopped onion
- ½ c. canned diced tomatoes, undrained
- ½ c. chopped yellow or green pepper
- 1 t. chili powder
- 1 t. minced garlic
- ½ t. dried parsley
- 1 c. chicken broth
- ½ t. cumin
- 1 c. black beans
- ¼ t. dried oregano
- 1 c. canned pumpkin
- ⅛ t. salt
- 4 ozs. chopped, cooked turkey tenderloin (substitute ground turkey breast, browned and drained)

Spray pan and sauté onion, pepper and garlic until tender. Add remaining ingredients and cook on low to heat through. Like all chili, it's better the second day. Easily serves two, or one hearty appetite!

Congratulations



to Ann Brown of Niles. Her name was drawn from all readers whose recipes we printed in 2015 and *Country Lines* will pay her January electric bill (up to \$200) as a prize.

Ann and her family have been Midwest Energy Cooperative members since her father built their home back in 1940. Her winning "Campfire Chicken" recipe was an original created by her mother. "My dad liked to grill and camp. When we couldn't go camping he would cook out in the backyard and this was a favorite recipe." Ann is a home healthcare nurse and enjoys cooking, sewing and knitting.



White Chicken Chili (pictured)

Donna Theriault, Petoskey

- 3 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 T. olive oil + extra for drizzling on chicken
- 2 lg. onions, sliced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 c. chicken broth
- 1 c. dry white wine
- 2 cans Navy or cannellini beans, drained and rinsed
- ½ c. lime juice
- 1 small can green chilies
- 1 T. ground coriander
- 1 t. ground oregano
- ½ t. ground cumin
- ¼ t. cinnamon
- 1 c. Monterey Jack

Drizzle olive oil, and sprinkle salt and pepper on chicken. Roast seasoned chicken on cookie sheet at 350° for 40 minutes, or until cooked through. Cool chicken and shred with fingers. Put 1 T. oil in large pot. Add onions and garlic and stir until onions are golden, about 20 minutes. Add broth and remaining ingredients, except cheese. Simmer for 15 minutes. Add cheese to melt just before serving.

Angie's Chili

Mary Scodeller, Lansing

- 1 ½ lbs. 80/20 ground beef
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 28-oz. cans whole tomatoes
- 2 15.5-oz. cans kidney beans
- 15.5-oz. can mild chili beans in chili sauce
- Spartan chili mix envelope
- 1 pkg. French's original chili seasoning mix
- ¼ t. salt
- ¼ t. pepper
- ¼ t. seasoning salt
- ¼ t. garlic powder
- ¼ t. chili powder
- ¼ t. ground cumin

Brown meat with the chopped onion. Drain fat, crush tomatoes and add to meat. Add all beans, seasoning mix, and other seasonings. Simmer on medium to high heat for 20 minutes, stirring constantly. Reduce heat and simmer another 30 to 45 minutes. Very good and great for a crowd.

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all our readers who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "Side Dish" recipes by **Feb. 1** and "Snacks and Appetizers" recipes by **March 1**.

A RECIPE WINNER EACH MONTH IN 2016!

Contributors whose recipes we print each month will be entered in a drawing and *Country Lines* will pay the winner's electric bill with a \$50 bill credit! A winner will be selected every month!

Enter your recipe online at countrylines.com or send to (handprinted or typed on one side, please): *Country Lines* Recipes, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. Please note the co-op from which you receive your electric service.

Antkoviak Farm Receives Centennial Farm Designation

The Historical Society of Michigan recently certified the Antkoviak family farm in Munro Township as a Centennial Farm. To receive this designation, a property must be a working farm of 10 or more acres that has been continuously owned by the same family for at least 100 years. Farm owners receive a certificate and a display marker for their farm. The official green-and-yellow markers, sponsored by Michigan electrical utilities like Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op, commemorate the dramatic changes electricity brought to farm operation and family life.

"Grandpa Jacob and Hattie Antkoviak came over to America from Germany and established this farm in 1894. They settled in and raised nine children—four girls and five boys—one of whom was my dad, Peter. Later, my grandparents purchased another 80 acres near the first 40," said Robert Antkoviak, who currently runs the farm.

When Robert's grandparents passed away in 1927, his dad Peter was the only child interested in farming. Peter married Stella Skiera, of Cheboygan, and they purchased another adjoining 120 acres,



Three generations of the Antkoviak family (from left) Robert, grandson, Chase, and son, Larry.

raising dairy cattle, corn, oats and hay crops. Like his father, only Robert was interested in farming.

Today, Robert raises 50-60 head of beef cattle and grows hay, oats and corn. Robert has two sons and a daughter. His son, Larry, lives across the road from the Centennial Farm and when he's not working at his day job, Larry pitches in to help his dad with the chores. Over the years, the farm has been split into smaller parcels owned by the descendants of Jacob and Hattie Antkoviak. ■

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PIE&G Director Robert W. Wegmeyer Passes



Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op director, Robert W. Wegmeyer, passed away suddenly on Dec. 8, 2015, at age 84. Bob was a farmer his entire life. He was a longtime member of the Michigan Horse Pulling Association and the Alpena Country Club. Bob faithfully served on the PIE&G Board of Directors since May 1975, and served as treasurer until 2009.

"Bob reflected the values of northeast Michigan. He was famous for his one or two sentence campaign speeches, which generally resulted in a landslide victory every time he was up for re-election—something today's politicians would be wise to consider," said CEO Brian Burns. "Although I haven't researched the records, I believe Bob's 40-year tenure on the board is the longest of any PIE&G director ever—past or present," added Burns. ■

PIE&G Board To Fill Alpena District Vacancy

As a result of the sudden passing of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op director, Robert Wegmeyer, the vacancy for the Alpena District must be filled by a majority vote of the remaining directors on the cooperative's board and the director thus elected shall serve until the next annual membership meeting on Oct. 28, 2016. Potential candidates must be a permanent resident of Alpena or Alcona County and meet the qualifications for the office of director as set forth in Article III, Section 2, of the PIE&G bylaws, available on our website at pieg.com. Members interested in becoming a candidate are invited to visit the cooperative's office and learn about the duties performed by the directors. Board of directors meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month commencing at 9:30 a.m.

To be considered as a candidate for appointment to the board of directors, please submit a **letter of interest with your qualifications before close of business on Friday, Jan. 22 to: PIE&G, Attn: Board Vacancy, PO Box 308, Onaway, MI 49765**. All letters will be given to the board for review as it begins the appointment process at its next regular meeting in January. ■

Your Board In Action

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

- Acknowledged and commended Jim Taylor for his 30 years of loyal and dedicated service to the Cooperative and its membership. Jim retired on Oct. 30, 2015.
- Approved the 2016 Work Plan (utility plant capital budget) of which \$3,340,000 was for an electric utility plant and \$522,000 was for a natural gas plant for a projected total of \$3,862,000.
- Reviewed and accepted the 2016 Operating Plan as a reasonable forecast for the 2016 fiscal year and as a useful business planning tool for the organization.
- Reviewed annual disclosure statements per board policy on conflicts of interest.
- Discussed proposed bylaws changes by affiliate Wolverine Power Cooperative.
- Set the 2016 annual membership meeting for 10 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 28, 2016, at the Onaway High School subject to final approval by Onaway schools.
- Listened to director of safety, Greg Karsten's overview of the recent assessment of the co-op by the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program's (RESAP) outside observation team. ■

It Really Does Take A Village

Partners For Power

By Emily Haines Lloyd

Photo: Garrett Hubbard



In rural Guatemala, not far from the border with Mexico, is a tiny village called Buena Vista and it is just that—a “good view.” Set amongst the mountains, with peaks poking through the clouds—it’s a magical sight. At least during the day.

At night, the small town disappears into the fog banks and darkness due to a simple reality—Buena Vista did not have electricity.

Which is why in early 2015, Michigan electric co-ops partnered with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International, an organization that helps developing countries gain access to safe, reliable and affordable electricity, to bring power to approximately 54 families in Buena Vista. Lineworkers from five electric co-ops in Michigan packed over 1,500 pounds of luggage, equipment and tools and traveled to Buena Vista to do just that.

“On the day we arrived, we realized that all of the villagers—men, women and children—had gathered there to greet us. It was humbling to see so many smiling faces, all filled with such joy and gratitude, because they knew we had come to help bring them electricity,” said Brad Parkhouse, HomeWorks



Photo: Garrett Hubbard

Tri-County lineworker. "They expressed how grateful they were to us for coming, and we told them how happy we were to be there. It was emotional, really."

The Michigan lineworkers discovered that local residents had already hand-dug and set all of the electric poles. With the mountainous terrain, the lineworkers remarked how difficult that task was, particularly without the power tools that would have been used stateside for such an undertaking.

Over 12 days, the Michigan lineworkers and their unofficial team of about 40 local residents prepared poles (by climbing them the old fashioned way, no bucket trucks here) and hanging wire.

"I thought I was a hard worker until I met these people," said Trevor Stratton, Wolverine Power lineworker. "They're pulling wire into the valleys where the elevation drop is incredible...I don't know how we could ever do this job without them."

While electric power is taken for granted by those in the United States, it is seen as nothing short of a lifeline to this community—which is likely why the local people were so committed to making it happen

in their small town. It promises improvement in health care, safety, education and economic growth. Power is the spark that changes communities, provides opportunities, and ignites imaginations. While the social and economic impact is nothing short of staggering—the experience for the team of 10 linemen did not lie in the metrics, but the experience itself.

"One of the locals, Ofelia De Leon, invited several of us to be with his family when the lights came on in their house for the very first time," said Dan King, Michigan Electric Cooperative Association safety instructor. "You could feel the anticipation in the air as we all gathered together inside their small mountain home. Ofelia had the honor of flipping the switch, and when the light came on everyone began clapping. The room radiated with happiness—there was plenty of smiling, laughter, and even some tears. It was a very emotional experience, and by far my proudest moment in 26 years of linework." ■

For more information about Partners for Power and to see more amazing photos please visit partnersforpower.org.

SmartHub App Coming Soon To PIE&G Members

SmartHub is a powerful account management service tool that offers much more than a quick way to pay your bill. It's a convenient, two-way communication platform that allows you to access your electric or natural gas account, track energy use information or notify us when your power goes out, all by using either a computer or mobile device.

Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC). The app is supported using iOS 3.1 and above (iPhone and/or iPad), and the Android 2.1 and above (smartphones or tablets) platforms. More details coming soon! ■

Use SmartHub to:

- Report an outage
- View or pay your bill
- View payment and billing history
- Check your monthly energy usage and view related graphs
- Update payment source information (credit card, bank account)
- Report a meter reading



The SmartHub app is free to download and install, and is available for both Apple/iOS and Android mobile devices. Search for it in the Apple Store or on Google Play. SmartHub is not case sensitive, but must be entered as one word. If duplicates appear, the correct app is the one provided by our service partner and product developer, the National

Attention High School Seniors

The PIE&G Communities First Fund has been awarding scholarships to graduating high school seniors since 1999. The scholarship has been expanded to include all accredited colleges or universities located in Michigan, and the award is now \$1,000 and is payable upon successful completion of the first term. The A. Barkley Travis Memorial scholarship (\$500) is also available.

Eligibility requirements and applications are available online at pieg.com or by calling our office at 800-423-6634. Completed applications with supporting documentation are due by March 1, 2016. Scholarships will be awarded by June 1.



PIE&G And CoBank Partner For \$10,000 Grant To Local Charity

The Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op Board of Directors recently approved participation in CoBank's "Sharing Success" program, a \$3 million charitable fund designed to benefit cooperatives and the charitable groups they support throughout rural America. CoBank is a nonprofit, cooperative bank that PIE&G uses and is a member of. Under the program, CoBank matches contributions by its cooperative members to the charitable organizations of their choice on a dollar-for-dollar basis up to \$5,000. CoBank requires that the charitable organization is established as a nonprofit under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Service code.

Because it provides services directly to many PIE&G members and meets CoBank's program requirements, the Presque Isle Food/Baby Pantry was selected in PIE&G's application to CoBank for matching funds from the 2015 Sharing Success program. CoBank approved the matching \$5,000 contribution.

"Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op values our partnership with the communities we serve. Our corporate mission includes improving the quality of life for our members through the use of a cooperative business model. This contribution to the Presque Isle Food/Baby Pantry is a perfect example of how PIE&G fulfills its mission," said Brian Burns, PIE&G president/CEO. "In this case,



Presque Isle Food/Baby Pantry Director Beth Getzinger (far left, front) gathers with volunteers to distribute food and baby items.

we've been able to leverage our relationship with CoBank—a business partner from another part of the country—to increase the power of our local giving to provide services our members desperately need. I'm grateful for that."

"The funding will be used to purchase a variety of food staples and other items to stock both the food and baby pantry for those in need in Presque Isle County," notes Beth Getzinger, Food/Baby Pantry director. The Pantry is staffed by local volunteers who donate their time for this worthy community service program. The combined grant will allow those needing assistance to have greater access to healthy food items and to help families meet the basic necessities of infant care. ■

Director Election Results

At your electric co-op's 78th annual meeting, the following candidates were elected to three-year terms (2015–2018) on the board of directors: **Sandy Borowicz** (incumbent, Cheboygan District), **Daryl Peterson** (incumbent, Montmorency District), **Sally Knopf** (incumbent, At-Large District). The number of votes each candidate received is listed below.

Cheboygan District:	Sandy Borowicz	1,166
	John Morrison	434
Montmorency District:	Daryl Peterson	1,105
	Barry Danks	488
At-Large District:	Sally Knopf	1,015
	Elias Taratuta	600



Sandy Borowicz



Daryl Peterson



Sally Knopf

Immediately following the meeting, the board of directors held their election of officers and the results are as follows: **Chairman—John Brown; Vice-Chairman—Allan Berg; Secretary—David Smith, and Treasurer—Daryl Peterson.**

The winner of the \$100 prize raffle for voting by mail was James Dryden, of Indian River. ■

The Quilt Lady

By Jack O'Malley

Eleanor Howard's story began when she was eight years old and asked her mother how to quilt. As a team, they pieced together Eleanor's first quilt and 87 years later, she still has it. "I've used that quilt on all my children's beds. I pert near wore it out!"

Speaking of children, Eleanor has five. And 15 grandchildren, along with 20 great-grandchildren. Each one has a quilt lovingly stitched by grandma. In addition, Eleanor donates many of her quilts to charity. How many has she made? "Oh, too many to



count!" Of the dozens of quilts assembled in her 95 years, one in particular stands out.

She made the quilt for her son, Albert, carefully patching each piece over two years. The result? A quilt depicting the state of Michigan, including all 83 counties, each painstakingly cut to its exact shape and featuring the product or service it's



Jack O'Malley

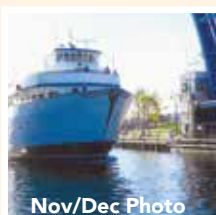
known for. Using appliques, stenciling, embroidery and hand painting, Eleanor had no pattern. She bought the biggest map she could find and went to work on figuring scale. The detail of Eleanor's Michigan quilt catches everyone's eye and has won multiple medals and ribbons. ■



«« Where In Michigan Is This?

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

We do not accept Mystery Photo guesses by phone. Enter your guess at countrylines.com or send by mail to: *Country Lines Mystery Photo*, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. Include the name on your account, address, phone number, and name of your co-op.



Nov/Dec Photo

Our Mystery Photo Contest Winner from the November/December 2015 issue is Brian Thompson, an Alger Delta co-op member who correctly identified the photo as "U.S.-31 Outlet Bridge in Charlevoix with the Emerald Isle boat."

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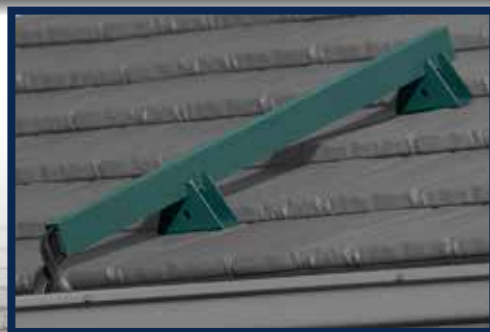


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