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on
Ice



Plus!

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Annual Meeting Is June 18

Great Future: Want To Be
A Lineworker?

When Turning 100 Is
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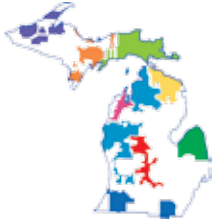
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Please notify your electric cooperative.
See page 4 for contact information.

Cover photo by Dre Photography

IN THIS ISSUE

- 6 **OUR ENERGY**
Down Home Comfort With Geothermal Heat Pumps
Ted Clutter
- 7 **SAFETY**
Staying Safe In A Car Accident With A Utility Pole
- 10 **HOME COOKING**
Perfect Pasta Recipes!
Christin McKamey & Our Readers
- 14 **FEATURE**
Art On Ice With Stephanie Miller
Emily Haines Lloyd
- 18 **READERS' PAGE**
Surf's Up—In Michigan!
Jack O'Malley
Guess Our New Mystery Photo

IN YOUR WORDS

Question Of The Month—We Asked, You Answered.

Last month, we asked electric co-op members a question: What is the best compliment you have ever received? Thank you for all the responses. Here are some of your answers:

Something that I would have abhorred as a teenager but treasure now —“You remind me of your mom.”

The best compliment I ever received was, “You’re as pretty as a keeper rainbow trout on the end of the line on opening day.” James and I have been best friends for 40 years and married for over 38 years.

You are a good listener.

Our new Question of the Month is:

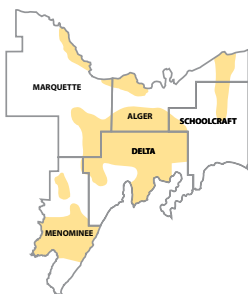
If you could be any age for a week, what age would that be?

Please submit answers to countrylines.com by April 1.



A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
WWW.VOTE.COOP

Don't forget to vote in the presidential primary on March 8. Visit vote.coop for more information.



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M–F, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. (ET)

Alger Delta Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

algerdelta.com

Making Life Better



Tom Harrell
Chief Executive
Officer

What would make life better for Alger Delta members? I'm not talking about winning the lottery—that only makes life better for one person or a small group. What about more jobs? Better health care? Improved schools? These things would benefit everyone in our service area.

Alger Delta Electric Cooperative exists to deliver power to people—which empowers you, our members—to improve your quality of life.

The cooperative business model is the perfect tool for tackling tasks that are too big for one person to handle alone. But, to effectively utilize the power of cooperation, we need to focus on one central purpose.

Think about the impact electricity has made in the rural Upper Peninsula since our founding, 78 years ago. Working people live longer because electricity reduces the burden of back-breaking chores. Logging and farm production improved. Things like running water, lights and refrigeration are now commonplace, and with these leaps forward our ancestors' lives were made easier and they were given new opportunities.

A few of you may remember Alger Delta's beginning from your younger days—you know full-well the power of neighbors helping neighbors and uniting behind a common purpose. But the vast majority of today's consumers weren't around when local folks rolled up their collective sleeves and pitched-in together to get the lights on.

Does that mean our purpose is fulfilled and we don't need a cooperative anymore? What's next for us? The answers are up to you, our members.

Alger Delta is more than just an electric utility. We're proof that when folks unite with a single focus, we can bring dreams to life. Our purpose—delivering power to people and empowering you, our members—still makes life better in the Upper Peninsula. So think about it—what's important to you? What would make life better?

Tell us what you're doing to improve the quality of life. You can email your thoughts and ideas to admin@algerdelta.com. ■

Save The Date!—June 18

Alger Delta's annual meeting is Saturday, June 18, at the Upper Peninsula State Fairgrounds in Escanaba. The annual event will feature a cookout, activities for kids and adults, and—of course—lots of prizes. The business meeting will include a report on the state of your cooperative, its accomplishments during 2015, and the seating of elected directors.

The meeting will be held in the Miracle of Life building. This newer building allows plenty of space and features a good sound system, bright lighting and clean washrooms.

Prize drawings every 20 minutes will entertain everyone.

More information will be published in upcoming editions of *Michigan Country Lines*.
So, for now, save the date—June 18, 2016!

Alger Delta Reaches Safety Milestone

Your electric cooperative reached an important safety milestone in 2015. Alger Delta employees completed the work year with no lost-time accidents, and the cooperative was recognized for its achievement by the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association (MECA) and Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange (Federated).

“The 2014 No Lost Time award that Alger Delta received from Federated Insurance is a reflection of the continuing work practice improvements fostered by MECA and the operations staff,” said Jeremy Adcock, safety and loss prevention consultant with Federated. “What is different about this award is that it measures the organization as a whole... for total hours worked, including everyone from the office staff to the linemen working overtime hours during power outages. And overtime hours can present some of the most hazardous work conditions that lineworkers face,” Adcock added.

“This is a great achievement and the employees deserve recognition for working hard to ensure everyone goes home safe at the end of each day,” said Tom Harrell Alger Delta’s CEO.

The Michigan Electric Cooperative Association provides safety services to Alger Delta and most other electric cooperatives, plus many municipal utilities in Michigan. Alger Delta and the City of Escanaba’s electric department hold joint safety meetings facilitated by MECA. Working collaboratively with other utilities helps ensure all



Operations Manager, Troy Tiernan (L), accepted the “No Lost Time” certificate from Jeremy Adcock of the Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange.

utility workers get the same training and follow the same safety-related work practices.

“MECA and Federated are great partners in our safety efforts,” says Troy Tiernan, Alger Delta’s operations manager. “Both MECA and Federated helped us improve our safety performance and become safety accredited. They also provide financial and other support, like training materials, for Alger Delta’s safety program,” Tiernan added. Tiernan noted that several of the daily safety work inspections being conducted by the field crews are encouraging greater focus on each day’s tasks and creating a safer work environment. ■

Attention Members In Districts 1 (Big Bay), 6 (Nathan/White Rapids), and 9 (Hiawatha)

Listed below are some important dates related to district elections. If you have any questions, please email admin@algerdelta.com or call Alger Delta

at 906-428-4141. Please watch future issues of *Country Lines* magazine for more information, including official notices.

	District 1 (Big Bay)	District 6 (Nathan/White Rapids)	District 9 (Hiawatha)
Deadline for Nominating Petitions:	March 10	March 11	March 12
District Meeting:	May 9	May 10	May 11
Annual Meeting:		June 18	

Down Home Comfort

Using the earth for heating and cooling makes sense.

By Ted Clutter, The Geothermal Exchange Organization

There's a movement afoot, but don't worry—the ground isn't shaking. It is quietly heating and cooling tens of thousands of homes and commercial buildings across Michigan with ground-source—or geothermal—heat pumps.

Geothermal heat pumps are renowned by both the U.S. Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency as our most efficient and environmentally friendly heating and cooling technology for homes, businesses and institutional spaces of all sizes. Indeed, by tapping the free

renewable energy of the ground, geothermal heat pumps (GHPs) can save consumers up to 70 percent on their monthly energy bills.

Geothermal Benefits

Geothermal heating and cooling saves energy and reduces fossil fuel use, either on-site or at power plants. Geothermal heat pumps reap huge savings on ratepayer energy bills because they use less electricity than conventional equipment.

Geothermal heat pumps are a comfortable, "green energy" solution and an easy way to act locally, while thinking globally about the environment. Indeed, they shrink the average carbon footprint of a typical American home by nearly 50 percent. Best of all, geothermal heat pumps are "Made in the USA" by an innovative industry that is creating jobs all across America.

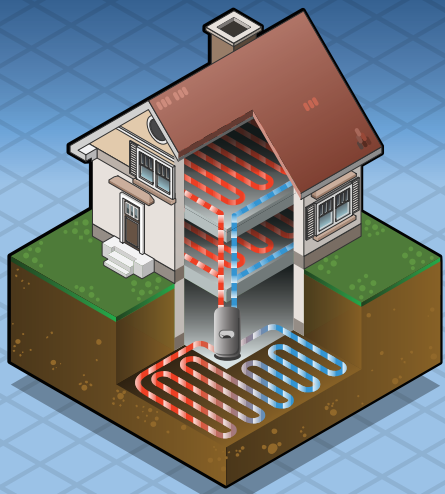
Geothermal Incentives

The federal government offers a 30 percent tax break for homeowners who install a GHP (10 percent for commercial jobs). Those credits expire at the end of 2016, but the Geothermal Exchange Organization (GEO) is working with Congress to extend them through 2022. For the time being, you can still take advantage of the credits if your project is in service before the end of the year.

And be sure to check with your electric co-op about any rebates they might offer for a geothermal system. Your trusted local geothermal heat pump contractor will be able to help you with that information.

For more information and member contractors in your area, visit the Geothermal Exchange website, geoexchange.org. ■

Please note this article focuses on one type of system, there are other types of energy-saving heat pumps, such as pond loop or air-to-air types. Discuss options with a trusted heat pump contractor.



How Geothermal Heat Pumps Work

Geothermal heat pumps use a series of plastic pipes—called ground loops—buried beneath the surface where temperatures are a constant 50° throughout the year (depending on where you live). The fusion-sealed pipes are connected to geothermal heating and cooling equipment inside the home or building.

Water circulating through the system carries heat to and from the ground, depending on the season. During the summer months, unwanted heat indoors is transferred outside to the ground for cooling by the earth. The cool water flows through the GHP system to provide air conditioning.



Staying Safe In A Car Accident With A Utility Pole

Winter wonderlands are beautiful, but they can be a driving nightmare. Snow, slush, ice and wind make driving more stressful and hazardous. If you are in an accident involving a utility pole, your vehicle may be charged with electricity. If this is the case and you step out of the car, you will become the electricity's path to the ground and could be electrocuted.

While downed lines sometimes reveal they are "live" by arcing and sparking with electricity, this is not always the case. Power lines do not always show signs that they are live, but they are just as lethal.

Stay in the car if you are in an accident with a power pole. Warn those who try to help that they must stay far away from the vehicle. Call 911 for help, and wait until a utility professional tells you it is safe to leave the car.

The exception to this rule is if your car is on fire. In that case, jump clear of the vehicle without touching it and the ground at the same time. Then "bunny hop" away with your feet together to safety. This way there will not be a voltage difference between your two feet, which would give electricity the chance to flow through your body. ■



ENERGY STAR: Your Best Defense Against Energy Waste

Looking for new ways to save energy, but not sure where to start? Team up with the Energy Optimization program and take your outdated, energy-wasting lightbulbs, appliances, and electronics out of the game. The Energy Optimization program helps you upgrade your home by providing rebates toward the purchase of highly-efficient ENERGY STAR® products.

What is ENERGY STAR?

Established as a joint effort between the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, ENERGY STAR is a trusted brand for quality products that use significantly less energy than required by minimum federal standards. The ENERGY STAR label can be found on hundreds of items, including lightbulbs, electronics, major appliances, and even certified homes and buildings.

ENERGY STAR products provide the same features you're used to, but can use up to 75 percent less energy than

standard models. In order for a product to bear the ENERGY STAR label, it must:

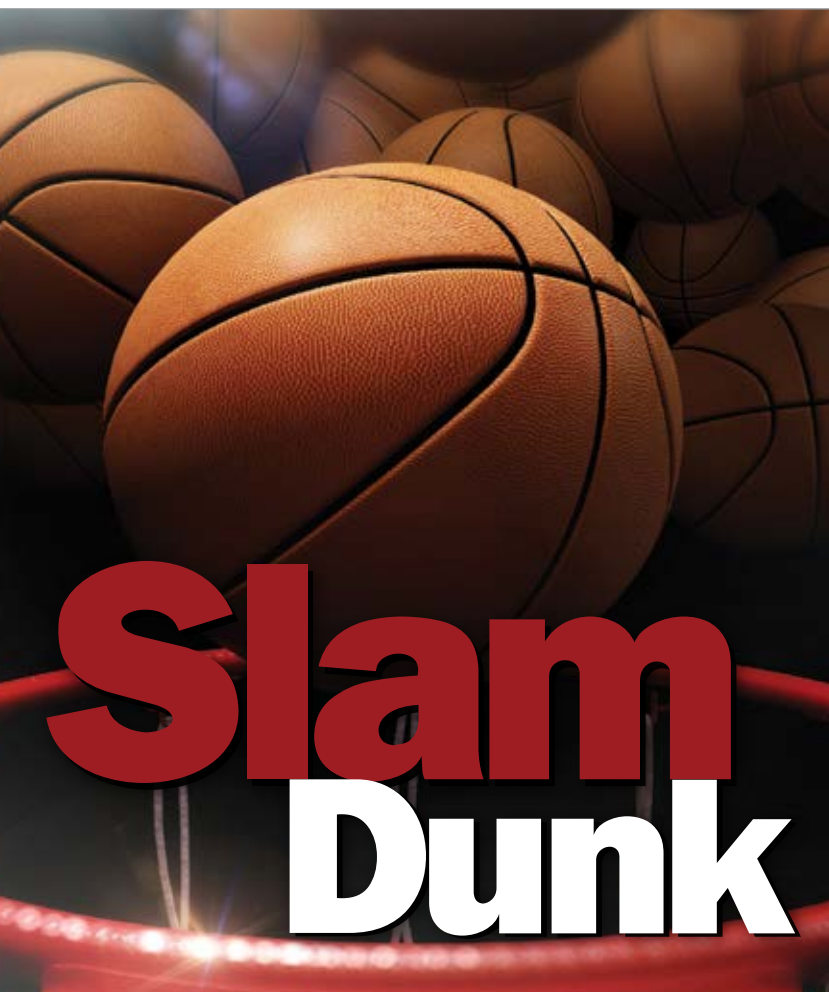
- Contribute significant energy savings.
- Deliver features and performance that customers demand.
- Back up energy savings claims with testing.

View all rebates at michigan-energy.org or call 877-296-4319 for details. ■

Below are just a few ENERGY STAR products eligible for Energy Optimization program rebates:

Product	Efficiency comparison (vs. a new standard model)*	Energy Optimization program rebate**
Clothes washer	Uses 35% less water and energy	\$100
Computer	Uses 60% less energy	\$50
Dehumidifier	Uses 15% less energy	\$75
Dishwasher	Uses 5% less energy and 15% less water	\$75
Chest Freezer	Uses at least 10% less energy	\$50
Refrigerator	Uses 9% less energy	\$50
Television	Uses at least 25% less energy	\$50-100
Room air conditioner	Uses 15% less energy	\$50

*All data according to energystar.gov. **Rebate amounts are subject to change.



Slam Dunk

The ball's in your court.

Your game plan for 2016: Start saving energy. Get off the bench and score big when you purchase ENERGY STAR® lighting and appliances! The Energy Optimization program provides rebates on bulbs, smart power strips, ceiling fans, dishwashers, TVs, and more.

ENERGY TIP: For the fastest way to receive your rebate, use our new 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.

Shutterbugs Share 'Winter Fun' Photos



1



2



3



4



5



6

Photo Fun

Alger Delta invites members to share their amazing photos. Selected photos will be published in *Michigan Country Lines*. Upcoming topics and deadlines are: **"Saluting Our Armed Forces,"** due **March 25** for the May issue; **"Fishing,"** due **April 25** for the June issue and **"All About Michigan,"** due **May 25** for the July/August 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!

Remember <http://bit.ly/1JX5Afh> to submit photos!

1. The Lucy Hill Natural Luge Track outside Negaunee, MI. It is the country's only natural luge track and has hosted local, national, and North American Continental competitions. An international World Cup luge competition was held at this track in 1995 and one will be held here in 2017. The public can slide on this track on weekends with all necessary equipment and instruction provided by the U.P. Luge Club. *Photo by John Porter, a national luge coach and international luge competition judge for 25 years*
2. Brothers, Jack and Maximus, playing in their winter fort. *Photo by Jeanne Wolf*
3. Ice Fishing On East Twin Lake, Lewiston, Michigan. *Photo by Ted Neuner*
4. This is our dog, Chloe, who loves the snow. She had been running and throwing that orange peel in the air for an hour. Pure winter fun for her. *Photo by Diane LaHaie*
5. Angie and daughter, Abby, out for a morning snowshoe walk. *Photo by Wayne Brown*
6. Adam Granger kiteboarding on Long Lake.

PERFECT PASTA!

Try these inspiring pasta recipes full of flavorful ingredients!



Pasta Bacon Toss

Joy Frazee, Portland

- 1 lb. bacon, cut up
- 4 c. chicken broth
- 2-14.5-oz. cans Italian-style diced tomatoes
- 1 med. onion, chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, minced (or more, if desired)
- ½ t. crushed red pepper flakes, optional
- 16 oz. box uncooked linguine pasta
- 4 ozs. cream cheese
- 5 ozs. parmesan cheese, shredded

Cut bacon into 1-inch pieces and fry; remove from skillet. Put approximately 1 T. of bacon grease in a pot. Add minced garlic and pepper flakes; cook for 10–20 seconds. Add onion; cook 2–3 minutes or until onion is tender. Add broth, diced tomatoes and about a handful of fried bacon pieces, reserving the rest for later. Add uncooked pasta, simmer for 9–10 minutes stirring occasionally, covered, or until pasta is cooked. Mix in the cream cheese until blended well with the pasta and the sauce is thickened. Serve and top with some bacon and shredded Parmesan. This is great for two nights; for the second night, top the remaining pasta with mozzarella and/or Parmesan cheese and bake at 350° until heated through and cheese is melted. Top with cooked bacon.

Greek-Style Scampi (pictured)

Patrick Simmer, Dewitt

- 6 oz. uncooked angel hair pasta
- 1 t. olive oil
- ½ c. chopped green bell pepper
- 2 t. bottled minced garlic
- 14.5 oz. can diced tomatoes with basil, garlic, oregano; undrained
- ⅛ t. black pepper
- 1 lb. peeled & deveined medium uncooked shrimp
- ⅛ t. ground red pepper
- 6 T. crumbled feta cheese

Cook pasta according to package directions, omitting salt. Drain pasta and keep warm. Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add green bell pepper to pan; sauté 1 minute. Add garlic and tomatoes; cook 1 minute. Add black pepper and shrimp; cover and cook 3 minutes or until shrimp is done (don't overcook). Stir in red pepper; remove from heat. Place 1 c. pasta on each of four plates. Top each serving with 1 c. shrimp mixture and 1 ½ T. feta cheese.

Pasta Salad

Becky Beard, Portland

- 1 lb. tri-color spiral pasta
- ¼ c. red or green pepper, chopped
- ¼ c. green olives
- ½ c. cucumber, chopped
- ¾ c. cherry or grape tomatoes, cut in half
- ½ c. feta cheese
- ¼ c. red onions, chopped
- ¼ c. pepperoni slices, cut in quarters
- 1 c. Zesty Italian dressing (or more if needed, to taste)

Cook the pasta according to package directions. Drain and rinse with cool water. Mix with remaining ingredients in a large bowl. Refrigerate until chilled.

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all our readers who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "Quick and Easy" recipes by **April 1** and "BBQ" recipes by **May 1**.

Enter your recipe online at countrylines.com or send to (handprint or type 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.

A RECIPE WINNER EVERY MONTH!

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



Pistachio Pesto Pasta

Christin McKamey

- 8 oz. pasta (gluten free, if desired)
- 2 c. fresh baby spinach, packed
- ½ c. shelled pistachios, roasted and unsalted
- 2 c. fresh basil leaves, packed
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- ¼ c. extra virgin olive oil
- 1 T. white wine vinegar
- 1 T. fresh lemon juice
- ½ t. ground sea salt, or to taste
- ¼ t. freshly ground black pepper

Cook pasta according to package directions. Drain and set aside. In a food processor or high powered blender, add the remaining ingredients. Blend until chopped and thoroughly combined. Mix the pesto with the hot pasta and stir to combine. Serves 4. Will last in the fridge about four days.

Creamy Ranch Pasta Salad

Karen Beard, Portland

- ½ box shaped pasta
- 1 head broccoli, chopped
- 1 c. frozen peas, thawed
- ½ pkg. mini pepperoni slices
- 4 oz. Monterey Jack cheese, chopped into small pieces or shredded
- 12 small carrots, chopped
- Ranch dressing (we use the packet and make our own...tastes much better)

Cook pasta according to package directions. Drain and run cold water over pasta to cool it. Combine rest of ingredients, except the ranch dressing, into a bowl. Pour cooled pasta into the bowl, then stir in dressing (as much as you like).



When Turning 100 Is Just A Memory

By Yvonne Whitman

They say that it's rude to ask a lady her age, but for 105-year-old Amber Clark the question elicits a smile and a flood of happy memories. And hugs. Amber is known for the still-strong hug each of her many visitors is certain to receive. In fact, her enduring embrace of people, and the world, are reflective of her simple philosophy for thriving well beyond the century mark: "I love life!"

Born in 1911, Amber has resided in Crystal Falls, MI, for most of her life. "I was very happy with my mother and father," she recalls, "but I had to tow the mark, too!" As a young woman, Amber's great sense of fun and adventure

led her to the Kimball Clubhouse, a local dance hall, where she met a young man who was playing in the band. In 1933, Amber became Mrs. Richard Clark Jr., and



they enjoyed over 60 years of marriage and raised three children together. Among the challenges of living for more than a century is outliving many of the important people in one's life. Amber has outlived her husband and two of her children.

As to advice she would give to young couples seeking a happy marriage, she says the key is, "Being good companions to one another. We did everything together. I especially loved hunting with him. And, I could shoot just as good as a man!" She owned a gun handed down from her German mother, who was also a terrific shot. "My mother had a Mossberg bolt action .22 caliber rifle. She was a hunter, and when we needed something for dinner she often went in the woods and shot the partridge, the rabbit, whatever. They were tough in those days."

Her lifelong appreciation of fun is evidenced when Amber recalls how she and Richard frequented Gay Gables, a dance hall on nearby Chicaugon Lake in the 1930s. One night, after dancing up what she described as "our usual storm," the Clarks decided to visit a nearby roller rink. Always up for a challenge, Amber strapped on the roller skates—right over her high heels—and stumbled out onto the rink floor. "I really had to hold onto the railings that night," she recalls. A passion for dancing continued throughout her life as evidenced at her 90th birthday party when she and her son-in-law Allen "cleared the dance floor and showed everyone exactly how to 'cut a rug'."

Amber Clark celebrating her 105th birthday joined by members of her family, son-in-law Allen Mendini (L), daughter Penny Mendini and grandson Pat Clark (R).



Astoundingly, at 105 years of age Amber takes zero medication. "I've always had good health," she chirps proudly. But then there is the water paradox, and her tip for longevity: "Don't drink water," she says emphatically. "I may have a few glasses a year, but that's all. Water is for fish." She did, however, enjoy other libations. In the summer, she loved to share a bottle of beer in the yard with her neighbor. "I drank one bottle of Miller High Life each evening in the summer and in the winter I enjoyed a glass of Fortissimo wine." Apparently the adage of 'everything in moderation' holds true.

"My Mom's attitude has always been that life goes on," adds her daughter, Penny. "That was her philosophy. My father died, my siblings died, but she never dwelled on anything and would say, 'We have to continue'. My Mother moves forward. She doesn't look back." This is echoed by her niece, Nancy Clark. "I've known Amber for over 35 years and she has always been an inspiration to me because of her positive attitude. Whenever I start feeling sorry for myself, I just think of Amber. She never dwells on the negative. I think that's the secret to her longevity."

And finally, Amber's advice for today's young people is: "Mind your own business." That's a tall order in the world of social media, but this woman has lived a happy 105 years, so perhaps we can all take a page from her book. ■



Art on Ice

By Emily Haines Lloyd

When she was younger, Stephanie Miller wanted a career in education—art, to be exact. She never became an art teacher, but she most definitely became an artist and a teacher.

For over 25 years, Miller has built her life around one of her true passions—ice skating. Spending many years at ice rinks around Metro Detroit, Miller became a successful competitive skater and an impassioned stylist. Bored with the uninspired costumes available to her, she started beading her own skating outfits. Before she knew it, other skaters were begging her to help them spruce up their costumes.

"I'm the unlikely story. I got my 'degree' in skating," said Miller. "I was a skater who had an artistic eye and before I knew it, I had a career."

Accident or not, the trajectory of Miller and her partner, Luanne Williams' business is nothing short of impressive.

Once a week, Miller leaves her small town of Kingsley, just 15 miles outside Traverse City, and travels to the Detroit Skating Club, where she and Williams (from Grass Lake) take over the rink's Club Room. There, skaters wait in line to meet with the designers about upcoming competition costumes and what will make them stand out on the ice.

The two have created costumes for an impressive list of world-renowned skaters, including Olympic gold medalists Meryl Davis and Charlie White. Davis wore one of Miller's designs when the duo won their gold medal in Sochi. She has designed Davis' costumes for nearly 20 years—a testament to the trust and respect the skating community has for Miller and Williams.

"I am always on the skater's side," said Miller. "I listen to their music, to what they like or don't like



and I encourage them to listen to their gut. They are the one that has to go out and perform in this costume. They have to love it."

While many have recommended that Miller collaborate with an apparel shop to mass-produce her designs, the costume veteran can't fathom it.

"My heart is in custom, original designs," she explains. "I love having a new piece of artwork to focus on. Otherwise, I would be bored out of my mind."

When she's not creating fresh designs and meticulously adhering stones, Miller is a coach at the Traverse City Skating Club. She's become the teacher she always wanted to be—grooming a new generation of skaters and possibly even clients.

When she drives home at the end of a day of coaching, she's inspired by any number of things, a billboard or the pure aqua blue of Traverse Bay. Before she knows it, there's a new idea for a costume for the artist/teacher who always seems to be working.

"I see something like the water in the bay and all I can think is how great that color will look on the ice." ■

Above: Wearing costumes designed by Miller, are Frances Rossiter (left), 12, a national skater from MI, and Anna Rossiter, 11, a top regional skater who started at age 3.

Photos—Dre Photography



Country Lines, Your Communications Partner



For over 35 years, our co-op members have received *Michigan Country Lines* because it is the most effective and economical way to share information with our members. This is our most empowering communication tool to keep members up-to-date about everything going on within their electric co-op.

Each issue contains information about our services, director elections, member meetings, and the staff and management decisions you need to know about as an owner of the co-op.

The magazine also includes legal notices that would otherwise have to be placed in local media at a substantial cost. And, sending *Michigan Country Lines* to you helps the co-op fulfill one of its important principles—to educate and communicate openly with its members.

The board of directors authorizes the co-op to subscribe to *Michigan Country Lines* on your behalf at an average cost of \$3.91 per year, paid as part of your electric bill. The current magazine cost is 48 cents per copy—less than the cost of a first class stamp. *Michigan Country Lines* is published for us, at cost, by the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association in Lansing. As always, we welcome and value your comments.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

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(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Fuel Mix Report

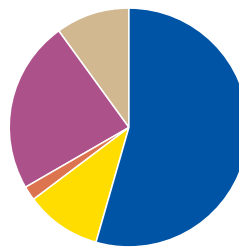
The fuel mix characteristics of Alger Delta Co-op Electric Association as required by Public Act 141 of 2000 for the 12-month period ended 12/31/15.

COMPARISON OF FUEL SOURCES USED

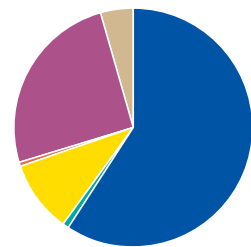
Regional average fuel mix used		
Your co-op's fuel mix		
FUEL SOURCE		
Coal	54.5%	60.4%
Oil	0.0%	0.7%
Gas	10.3%	8.9%
Hydroelectric	1.9%	0.5%
Nuclear	23.4%	24.6%
Renewable Fuels	9.9%	4.9%
Biofuel	0.03%	0.7%
Biomass	0.2%	0.4%
Solar	0.03%	0.1%
Solid Waste Incineration	0.4%	0.0%
Wind	8.9%	3.2%
Wood	0.2%	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 12/31/15.

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

A Great Future Is On The Line

By Yvonne Whitman

Do you think a job should be an adventure? Do you prefer working outdoors to sitting at a desk? Enjoy working with your hands and mind to solve problems? Then get ready for “one of the most rewarding and challenging professions in the world”—a career as an electrical line technician.

In 2003, Northern Michigan University (NMU) and the Lake Superior Community Partnership Foundation joined to bring students an opportunity to enter the electrical trades world with a diploma in hand. In one year.

The electrical line technician (ELT) program at NMU begins in the fall semester, at the end of August. However, the application process begins in the winter semester of the previous school year. Enrollment is limited to 40, and potential students must apply for acceptance to NMU and the ELT program. Those applying must be 18 years of age, have a valid driver’s license, and be a high school or GED graduate. Once qualified, students will take an online math placement test and be scheduled for a personal interview, which occurs in late April. Students are notified of their selection into the program in May.

The ELT program is offered through the partnership of NMU, the Midwest Skills Development Center—an entity of the Lake Superior Community Partnership Foundation, and many industry partners who make the program possible with their financial support, equipment donation, and volunteering of time. Students attend courses at the MSDC training site—a facility with a classroom building and 20 acres of land used for hands-on training on the former K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base in Gwinn. The instructors are experienced line persons who have worked extensively in the field. They are dedicated to teaching and sharing the knowledge needed to be successful in this field.

Once a diploma is earned, students are able to construct electrical transmission and power distribution systems; identify substation

components and operate electrical power distribution systems; and climb towers and poles, working comfortably at heights, among other skills.



“The utilities that the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association (MECA) safety team visit are reporting that it has become increasingly difficult to find journeyman lineworkers. Some have decided to hire their own apprentices that are coming out of apprentice schools,” notes Joe McElroy, director of safety & loss control for MECA.

“The Michigan Energy Development Workforce Consortium has stated that Michigan will need over 500 new linemen in Michigan by 2020,” McElroy adds.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the job outlook for electrical line technicians is expected to rise as growth in construction and telecommunication industries continues to grow throughout the country. Of the students who have graduated from this program, 75 percent have attained work in the industry.

For more information on this program, contact the Lake Superior Community Partnership at 906-226-6591, the Technology and Occupational Sciences Department at NMU 906-227-219, or visit the undergraduate bulletin at nmu.edu/bulletin.

Your future is on the line. Will you be a part of this exciting, growing field? ■



Surf's Up!

While most of us prepare for a snow storm by stopping by the gas station or grocery store, one Northern Michigan native is waxing her surf board. Her surf board? Yes, and a few adventurous souls like Ella Skrocki, 21, catch waves on the Great Lakes year-round.

A student at Northern Michigan University majoring in environmental studies, Ella grew up in the small coastal town of Empire where her parents own Sleeping Bear Surf and Kayak Shop. Brought up with the heart of a surfer, Ella attended surf camps in California where fellow students found the idea of surfing the Great Lakes far-fetched.

But there's nothing improbable about it, and many seasoned Great Lakes surfers prefer the winter waves because of their size and frequency. Ella caught a few 30 footers during a recent storm, describing the experience as "very rewarding." Put in perspective, the waves on Lake Superior that



sank the Edmund Fitzgerald in 1975 reached heights of up to 35 feet.

Waves big enough to sink a freighter present additional challenges including frostbite, dirtier water, and shorter wave periods (7 seconds between crests versus an average of 20 seconds on the ocean). So, why does Ella do it? "When I find the motivation to get out there during a blizzard and catch that one wave, it's so empowering!"

Sure, winter surfing can be brutal but Ella has the proper gear to stay warm and though she admits her "face will get a little numb" on occasion, a touch of grease on her cheeks takes the sting out of winter's icy chill.

If surfing the Great Lakes sounds like an activity worth exploring, Michigan's surfing community is a great place to start. A tight-knit group, they are happy to offer encouragement, tips and lessons. And while we're grumbling during the next



Jack O'Malley

winter storm warning, a small contingent of extreme sports enthusiasts will be gearing up for a wave even the most seasoned ocean surfer would be stoked to catch.

Visit Sleeping Bear Surf and Kayak Shop at sbsurfsandkayak.com. ■



«« Where In Michigan Is This?

Every co-op member who identifies the correct location of the photo at left by **March 18** 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.



January Photo

Our Mystery Photo Contest winner from the January 2016 issue is John Stocki, a Cherryland Electric co-op member who correctly identified the photo as the Marilla Museum and Pioneer Place.



AMERICAN METAL ROOFS Customer Stories...



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