



Time is running out to take advantage of a 30% tax credit for geothermal

You may not realize it, but right beneath your feet is an almost unlimited reservoir of stored solar energy. A WaterFurnace geothermal system taps into this free and renewable resource to provide savings of up to 70% on heating, cooling, and hot water—with a comfort you have to experience to believe. Right now you can save thousands on installation thanks to a 30% federal tax credit. But hurry, the credit is only available through the end of 2016. Contact your local WaterFurnace dealer today to learn more!

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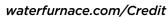
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Association officers are **Robert Kran**, Great Lakes Energy, chairman; **Mark Kappler**, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric, vice chairman; and **Eric Baker**, Wolverine Power Cooperative, secretary-treasurer. **Craig Borr** is president and CEO.

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The appearance of advertising does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services advertised.

Change of Address:

Please notify your electric cooperative. See page 4 for contact information.

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IN THIS ISSUE

OUR ENERGY
Down Home Comfort With Geothermal Heat Pumps
Ted Clutter

SAFETY
Staying Safe In A Car Accident With A Utility Pole

HOME COOKING
Perfect Pasta Recipes!
Christin McKamey & Our Readers

FEATURE
Art On Ice With Stephanie Miller
Emily Haines Lloyd

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.



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



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Toll-Free: **800-423-6634**

Gas Emergency Toll-Free: 800-655-8565

pieg.com

Most PIE&G natural gas rates and charges are not regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission.

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Why Your Co-op Clears Vegetation

our co-op leadership team recognizes that reliable electricity is not just a luxury, it's an expectation. That's why your electric co-op considers its prime objective to be providing you with a reliable and safe electric distribution system. However, many members may not be aware that trees can be a major obstacle to good electric service. To improve your service experience, PIE&G has an aggressive, proactive overhead line clearance program that's proven to significantly reduce outage hours related to tree interference with our distribution system.

What We Do and Why

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op's line clearance standard is to obtain and maintain a ground-to-sky clearance of 15–20 feet, free from all obstructions, on each side of the power line. Where our facilities cross private property, an easement gives us the right to use that property to maintain our right-of-way. An easement can be written and recorded, meaning it is signed and on file at the county Register of Deeds office where the service is located. An easement may also be unwritten or "prescriptive," where the land has been used for utility purposes in a continuous and open manner for the statutory period of 15 years under Michigan law.

PIE&G's line clearing program (also called "Vegetation Management"), consists of two approaches: mechanical clearing and herbicide application.

2016 Mechanical Clearing Plan

Mechanical clearing is scheduled to begin between February and December. PIE&G's licensed contractors will be cutting approximately 256 miles of overhead line at various locations throughout our nine county service territory. Members who may be in proximity to areas designated for mechanical clearing will be notified by mail prior to the onset of work in that area. PIE&G will determine if there are trees in your maintained lawn area that should be trimmed or cut. A representative from one of our contracted crews will attempt to contact you in person before the work is started.

2016 Herbicide Application

The schedule for herbicide application is set to occur between April and October. Your co-op has hired professional, licensed contractors to treat approximately 328 miles of line throughout its service territory with state-approved herbicide. We will notify members whose service is near the designated areas by mail prior to the onset of work. Herbicide is not applied to mowed lawn areas. Herbicide effectively controls tall-growing trees and bushes while promoting low-growing plants such as grasses, wildflowers and shrubs that are beneficial to wildlife.

It offers longer-term results in a more cost effective way, and is endorsed by a number of environmental, forestry and wildlife providers as offering benefits to many wildlife species.

Jobsite Cleanup

Our contract crews dispose of trimmed branches and limbs in the most economic and practical manner possible. It is customary during regular line clearing activity that crews will remove branches and limbs within maintained or landscaped areas, and leave the wood for use by the property owner. In unmaintained areas, crews will leave wood, branches and limbs for use by the property owner to decompose naturally. The co-op does not remove stumps after tree removal. During emergency power restoration activities, crews clear trees off and away from our lines in order to make repairs. Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op does not return to remove wood, branches and limbs that were removed during outage restoration efforts.

Our Commitment to Safety

Safety is a top priority for PIE&G. Although Mother Nature provides an amazing setting for our enjoyment of outdoor activities, it's best to keep your activities away from overhead power lines. If you see a downed power line due to a fallen tree or branch, stay away and immediately call PIE&G to report it. Never attempt to remove branches or trim trees that are near power lines to avoid potential electrical contact. Any tree in close proximity to a power line can present a safety hazard.

Service Line Trimming

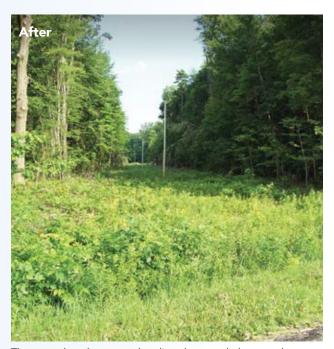
Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op will trim along the service line running from the transformer to your home when a tree is in contact with the power line. We do not remove trees located near service lines. If you plan to have a tree removed from your property, contact us several days in advance so we can schedule a crew to visit, de-energize and drop the line so you can have the tree safely removed. PIE&G will need at least two days prior notice.

Plan Ahead

Trees and power lines do not mix, so careful planning is important before you begin any landscape plan or outdoor project. Trees grow quickly, so the seedling you plant today may well reach heights exceeding 30–50 feet in a few years. Avoid planting trees beneath overhead utility lines or near your service line. Look around and note what's overhead, on the ground, and underground before beginning any outdoor work project.



Before and after shots of a line circuit. A newly cleared rightof-way can look extreme at first, but as the growth returns the landscape regains its natural beauty.



The ground-to-sky approach to line clearance helps to make sure that trees don't form a canopy over the lines.

For More Information

For more information about PIE&G's line clearance procedures, contact our Member Services Department at 1-800-423-6634.

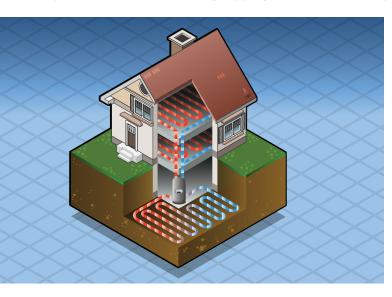
Down Home Comfort

Using the earth for heating and cooling makes sense.

By Ted Clutter, The Geothermal Exchange Organization

here'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 groundsource—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.

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.

During the winter months, the process is reversed. The earth heats the water circulating through the pipes, which flows through the geothermal system to provide indoor space heating. With additional equipment, geothermal heat pumps can also provide hot water for a variety of uses at little extra monthly cost.

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.



Staying Safe In A Car Accident With A Utility Pole

inter 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

ooking 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:

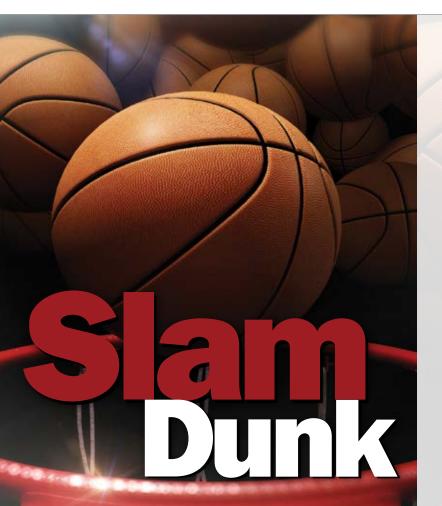
- Contribute significant energy savings.
- Deliver features and performance that customers demand.
- Back up energy savings claims with testing.

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:

F 2						
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 energ		\$50–100				
Room air conditioner	Uses 15% less energy	\$50				

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



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





Shutterbugs Share 'Winter Fun' Photos











Photo Fun

Presque Isle Gas & Electric Co-op 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/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 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. Ice Fishing On East Twin Lake, Lewiston. Photo by Ted Neuner
- 3. "Winter's Last Hurrah," getting to go for a run off-leash while enjoying the last snow storm of the year in 2013 on the old railroad tracks in Cheboygan. "The sweet taste of freedom!" Photo by Linda Tallman, Cheboygan
- **4.** Our dog, Chole, who loves the snow, had been running and throwing that orange peel in the air for an hour. Pure winter fun for her. *Photo by Diane LaHaie*
- 5. Adam Granger kite skiing on Long Lake.

PERFECT PASTA!

Try these inspiring pasta recipes full of flavorful ingredients!



Pasta Bacon Toss

Jov Frazee, Portland

- 1 lb. bacon, cut up
- 4 c. chicken broth
- 2-14.5-oz. cans Italian-style diced tomatoes
- 1 med onion chapped
- 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. 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 Top with cooked bacon.

UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

It's your money, and we want you to have it!

One of the benefits of being a member of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op is that as a cooperative, any revenues beyond expenses (called margins) are allocated and eventually returned to **PIE&G** members in the form of capital credit retirements. The Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op Board of Directors is committed to retiring capital credits after considering your co-op's financial health. Capital credit retirements during the last few years have been made to current and past members in the form of checks or bill credits.



We need your help! As part of the retirement process, a portion of capital credits are unclaimed because we are unable to locate certain members. On the following page we have listed the names of members who are entitled to capital credits that remain unclaimed. Please review the list.

Please Note—Under Michigan law, unclaimed capital credits escheat to Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op after 5 years. Please contact Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op if you have questions regarding your account.

- If your name is on the list, check the appropriate claim box and fill out section 1, then return the completed form to **PIE&G** with your signature.
- If you recognize the name of a deceased member and you are that member's legal heir, check the appropriate claim box and complete sections 1 & 2, then return the completed form to **PIE&G** with your signature.
- If you know someone on this list, please have **them** contact **PIE&G.**

Check One	e: 🗆	claim request by member	er 🔲 claim request	on beh	alf of a deceased member
(1) Member	or h	eir claiming the refun	d		
Member's N or Heir's N		FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	LAST NAN	AE
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Current Ma Ado	iling dress	STREET ADDRESS AND/OR APT NBR	CITY		STATE ZIP CODE
Telepl	hone	() Re	lationship to deceased member	i.e., SPOL	USE, SON, DAUGHTER, SIBLING
(2) DECEAS	SED I	MEMBER			
Dece Member's N		FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	LAST NAM	ИЕ
Service Add	dress	STREET ADDRESS			CITY
Signa		· 			
Required		SIGNATURE OF PERSON INITIATING THE CLAIM, AND TITLE, IF APPLICABLE FOR BUSINESS		DATE	
		Additional information will be r refunds will be paid only after pr Electric & Gas Co-op.			
PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO PIE&G, ATTN: CAPITAL CREDIT REFUND, PO Box 308,					Box 308, Onaway MI 49765.

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op Members with Unclaimed Capital Credits

AIKENS BRIAN & LYNN ANDRUI IS MARION ANDRZEJCZAK FRANK AZTTAU ROBERT D **B & C SMALL ENGINES** BANASHAK STEVE T BARGEON DAYNA I BARKENOUAST MIKE T BARR NORMA BARTLE ROY & LAURA L BARTON JON BAUR IFWELL BAZVIN WELL DRILLING BELLMORE DOUGLAS J & TRACY L BIDWELL RODNEY & SANDRA **BILLS STELLA BILLS BODY SHOP** (BILL STILES) **BLANCHARD ROLAND BOB NIHRANZ SHELL** BOHNSTEDT PERRY L BOND DANIEL E BOROWICZ KATHLEEN E BOYK BRIAN L BRASSEUR DIANE M **BRASSEUR HERBERT** BRENNAN DONALD J BRISTOL DEANNA L **BROWN MICHAEL R** BROWN WALLACE BUCHOLTZ TIFFANY L **BURDEN GARY** & DIANE BURNS GERALD M CADIEUX THERESA A CAMPBELL DANIEL I CANSLEY NANCY CARPENTIER KIM M CARROLL MARY L CARTER DOUGLAS E & SUSAN CASWELL TRISTA L CHAPPA MARK G CHARBONEAU RICHARD M & TRACEY CHENOWETH RUSSELL J CIRCLE S CAMPGROUND (BILLY SEXTON) CLINE EDWIN D CLINK DAVID & SANDRA CLINK DAVID A COATS RICHARD G COLE LYLE E CONANT GEORGE L COOK PHILLIP & VICKIE COPELAND LYLE CORBIN JEFFREY O COUTURE CUSTOM FLOOR COVERING NORTH

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GREENLY LAUREN L **GROSINSKY RHODA** GUZMAN JOSEPH L & NANCY R HAINES CARL F & RENITA HALL WILLARD C. HAIVERSON ROBERT B & MARY HARRINGTON FUGENE HART RITA I HILLNER LARRY G HOOT FDWARD W & JOHANNA HOPP RODNEY G & KIMBERLY HOPPE DAVID & PHYLLIS E HOPPE PHYLLIS E HOUGHTON ALLEN HOUSE RAYMOND H HOWLAND FRED HOYT GARY E & JUDITH E **HUBERT SALES & SER** (DANIEL SOIK) HURI BURT MICHELLE HURON OIL COMPANY (ERWIN LEWANDOWSKI) JACOBS CHARLES JAMISON DON N & SANDRA J JEFFERS TIA L JOHNSON LUCILLE JOHNSTON DEBRAK & RICK K JOHNSTON JAMES E JONES LAURIE L & JASON S KAMEN RICK D & TAMMY KAZLAUSKAS DENISE KIDDER DAVID C KIEKBUSCH WILLIAM E KLEIN FRED & GALE F KLINF FRFD & MARIA KNOCH BRIAN & MICHELLE KOLCAN CHARMAINE KOSMACK CLARE I & JEAN M KRISS ANDREW P LAFAVE RONALD & BECKY LAFRANCE GENEVIEVE LANCEWICZ HATTIE LANGWORTHY JEFF L LARRY'S AUTO BODY (LARRY KEETCH) LATENDRESSE EDWARD JR LAVIOLA JOSEPH LEE BARBARA A LEE LANNY & DENISE LEWANDOWSKI

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& DOROTHY

LIVINGSTON CHAS P

PELTIER FREIDA

LORENSKI LUCILLE LUNDQUIST GERALD W MADDOX MICHAFI MAGDA GENEVIEVE MANLEY GREGORY J & BETSY MARTIN LAURA A MAXSON WILLIAM D & LEONA M MAYHEW BECKY M MAYNARD VERNON I & FLORENCE MAYOL JORGE H & ALTHEA A MCCLARY LINDA MCCLARY WILFRED J MCGEE MARTIN D & MARIANNE C MCLAUGHLIN MELVIN MCNETT SHIRLEY J MEDLEY SCOTT B MERCER DAVID A & TONYA L MERCHANT DALE METTY J C & RLEON MIKOLAJCZYK LAWRENCE E & RITA G MONTNEY ROBERT L & JOYCE MORAN YVONNE MORAN FOREST PRODUCTS (HARRY MORAN) MORGAN BARBARA A MURCH MICHAEL MURPHY EDWARD N NAKONECZNY CHRISTINE NASH KAREN K NELSON MIKAELA M NELSON REID & GAY NEWSTED SHANNON L NIERGARTH LEROY OBRIEN PATRICK OCHS ROSE ODLE EDWIN III OHSOWSKI FRANK OLIVER JAMES OLSON VICKLI ONAWAY SPEEDWAY INC (HARRY MORAN) OPPER JOHN JR ORM JERRY D ORMSBEE KATHY A & ROGER ORMSBEE ROGER L OSBORNE GREG OSMON RICHARD L OSTWALD MELODY A PAAD JAMES A SR PAQUET DANIEL A PAQUIN FRANCIS P PARKER CONNIE M PAVEY JOYAL D

PETERS CHAD M & CARRIE A PETERS LARRY E PETERS PAUL R & DENISE PETERS WENDY D & ARTHUR PIEHL DOROTHY PINES MICHAEL PLATZKE CLARENCE COMMUNITY CLINIC (DR JESUS NARI) POTTER CHEYENNE R POTVIN DOROTHY PRAIN ROSIE & ERIC PRATT I FO A PRIME JESSICA M PROKOP GEORGE A PROKOP KRISTIN & GEORGE A RADKA ELMER **ESTATE OF** RAKOWSKI ROY R REDICK MARY E REDMAN ROBERT B REYNOLDS VADA M ROBINSON ROBERT & HEIDI ROLLER CLARE RUTENBAR JEANNE A SAFFORD JERI SCHMIDT JAMES V & JANET SCHRADER LEE & GAIL SCHUSTER RAYMOND SR SCHWARTZ ROBERT H SEAMARK LYNN M SHAFFER DEBRA SHEPARD SANDRA M SHEPPARD ANNE M SHERMAN JAMES F SHUMATE WALLACE SIMMONS KATHERINE M SINACOLA DENNIS J SIRKO JOHN SKOCZYLAS JUDITH SLATER NORMAN L SR SMITH AMBER R SMITH CHARLES SMITH CLARENCE H SMITH DONALD W SMITH GAIL SMITH HELLENA & RAYMOND SMITH I W SMITH ROGER A & GLORIA J SPRATT TAVERN (NOOMI THOMPSON) STEWART MICHAELE D STRICKI AND MATTHEW & SUSAN M STROHSCHEIN JANET

SWINDLE SEAN J

TEETS SALLY THIEM ROBERT THOE GREG THOMAS CECIL & THOMPSON LISA THOMPSON VIRGINIA M THOMPSON WILLIAM F JR & THERESA M TIMBER ELK LODGE LLC (FRANK BOWLES) TIMBERTOWN LAUNDROMAT I (MICHAEL D SMITH) TITUS CHARLES E TODD ROBERT J & JEAN I TREECE COLLEEN Z TRUSCOTT MYRTLE R TUBBS GARLAND F & FRANCES TUBBS JOSEPH A TWEEDLY ROSE M ULRICH SHARON L **VALLANCE JULIE** VANDOREN MELINDA VARGAS DEMIRAE J VICTORIA RANCH (VICTORIA CRUSOE) WALOSIN ROBERT E WAMPLER JENNEFER WARNER AGNES M WEAVER RAI PH.J & LESLIE G WEAVER RICHARD WEBBER CREEK HUNT CLUB WELCH MICHAEL R WELLBAUM SUE K WENDT MARK A WHEELER ANN WHITE JOSEPH WHITE JULIA WHITE KENNETH WILHELM JOSEPH A WILLIAMS CHANDRA WOFFORD (ANDERSON) LOIS **WOLGAST JOHN** WOLOSZYK BENJAMIN JR WOLOSZYK ROGER WOLOZYK ANTHONY WOLTER CLAUDIA U WOOD DEBORAH J & MARK WOZNIAK LORETTA L ZALEWSKI PAUL A ZIMMERMAN DARRIN & LISA **701 MAN PEGGY I** 7RAKOVI LUCILLE

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.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(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.

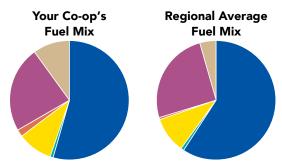
Fuel Mix Report

The fuel mix characteristics of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op 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	53.0%	55.0%		
Oil	0.5%	0.6%		
Gas	16.1%	12.8%		
Hydroelectric	1.3%	0.7%		
NI dise	24 /0/	OF 70/		
Nuclear	21.6%	25.7%		
Renewable Fuels	7.5%	25.7% 5.2%		
Renewable Fuels	7.5%	5.2%		
Renewable Fuels Biofuel	7.5% 0.9%	5.2% 0.7%		
Renewable Fuels Biofuel Biomass	7.5% 0.9% 0.4%	5.2% 0.7% 0.5%		
Renewable Fuels Biofuel Biomass Solar	7.5% 0.9% 0.4% 0.1%	5.2% 0.7% 0.5% 0.1%		

NOTE: Biomass above excludes wood; solid waste incineration includes landfill gas; and wind includes a long-term renewable purchase power contract in Wolverine's mix, but does not include renewable energy credits (RECs) that bring the total for renewable fuels above 10%.



EMISSIONS AND WASTE COMPARISON

TYPE OF	lbs/MWh			
EMISSION/WASTE	Your Co-op	Regional Average*		
Sulfur Dioxide	5.9	7.6		
Carbon Dioxide	1,637	2,170		
Oxides of Nitrogen	1.9	2.0		
High-level Nuclear Waste	0.0070	0.0083		

*Regional average information was obtained from MPSC website and is for the twelve-month period ending 12/31/15.

PIE&G purchases 100% of its electricity from Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Inc. which provided this fuel mix and environmental data.

STATE OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION NOTICE OF HEARING FOR THE MICHIGAN REGULATED GAS DIVISION CUSTOMERS OF PRESQUE ISLE ELECTRIC & GAS CO-OP CASE NO. U-17945

- Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op requests Michigan Public Service Commission approval to implement a gas cost recovery (GCR) plan and a uniform GCR factor of \$0.4941 per hundred cubic feet (CCF) for the period of April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017, plus additional amounts contingent on future events for its Regulated Gas Division customers.
- The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.
- You may call or write Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op, 19831 M-68, P.O. Box 308, Onaway, Michigan 49765, (800) 423-6634 for a free copy of its application. Any person may review the application at the offices of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op.

The first public hearing in these matters will be held:

DATE/TIME: Thursday, March 24, 2016, at 9:00 a.m.

This hearing will be a prehearing conference to set future hearing dates and decide other procedural matters.

BEFORE: Administrative Law Judge Mark E. Cummins

LOCATION: Michigan Public Service Commission

7109 West Saginaw Highway

Lansing, Michigan

PARTICIPATION: Any interested person may attend and participate. The hearing site is accessible, including handicapped

parking. Persons needing any accommodation to participate should contact the Commission's Executive

Secretary at (517) 284-8090 in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a public hearing to consider Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op's (Presque Isle) December 30, 2015 application for approval of a gas cost recovery (GCR) plan and gas cost recovery factor of \$0.4941 per CCF for the period of April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017, plus additional amounts contingent on future events for its Regulated Gas Division customers. Presque Isle's requested contingent GCR factor ceiling prices would be calculated using a Quarterly Adjustment Process, which could potentially increase the GCR factor, as described in its application, to reflect a portion of market increases in the price of gas on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX).

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: michigan.gov/mpscedockets. Requirements and instructions for filing can be found in the User Manual on the E-Dockets help page. Documents may also be submitted, in Word or PDF format, as an attachment to an email sent to: mpscedockets@michigan.gov. If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 284-8090 or by email at: mpscedockets@michigan.gov.

Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the case shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by March 17, 2016. (Interested persons may elect to file using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Presque Isle's attorney, Shaun M. Johnson, Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, Michigan 48933.

Any person wishing to appear at the hearing to make a statement of position without becoming a party to the case may participate by filing an appearance. To file an appearance, the individual must attend the hearing and advise the presiding administrative law judge of his or her wish to make a statement of position. All information submitted to the Commission in this matter becomes public information, thus available on the Michigan Public Service Commission's website, and subject to disclosure. Please do not include information you wish to remain private.

Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to the Michigan Administrative Hearing System's Administrative Hearing Rules R 792.10422 and R 792.10432. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 284-8130.

A copy of Presque Isle's request may be reviewed on the Commission's website at: michigan.gov/mpscedockets and at the office of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Commission at the above address or by telephone at (517) 284-8090.

Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1909 PA 300, as amended, MCL 462.2 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.54 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; 1982 PA 304, as amended, MCL 460.6h et seq.; and the Michigan Administrative Hearing System's Administrative Hearing Rules, 2015 AC, R 792.10401 et seq.

January 28, 2016

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
- 1/8 t. black pepper
- 1 lb. peeled & deveined medium uncooked shrimp
- 1/8 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
- 1/4 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
- 1/4 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).

Notice to Members of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op

A special board meeting is set for March 22, 9 a.m., at the cooperative's Onaway office

The board of directors will consider changes to the cooperative's rates and tariffs at its meeting on March 22, 2016, to be held at 19831 M-68 Highway, Onaway, MI. The meeting will start at 9 a.m. and is open to all members of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op.

The session will begin with an opportunity for members to provide direct input to the board of directors. Members are asked to come to the lobby by 8:45 a.m. and request to speak to the board; staff will direct interested members to the meeting room. Time constraints on each member's comments will be at the discretion of the board chairman, but members are asked to keep comments to less than 5 minutes.

The following items will be discussed:

- 1. Reconciliation of the 2015 Power Supply Cost Recovery Factor collections;
- 2. Review and approval of the 2015 Electric Times Interest Earned Ratio (TIER) analysis; and
- 3. Consideration of revisions to the cooperative's billing rules.

Notices of changes or additions, if any, to the cooperative's rates or service rules, shall be sent to all members, as required by P.A. 167, by first class mail or by publication in *Michigan Country Lines* at least 30 days prior to their effective date.

Participation: Any interested member may attend and participate. Persons needing any accommodation to participate should contact Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op at 800-423-6634 a week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. Comments may also be made before the meeting date by calling CEO Brian Burns at 800-423-6634, or by email at bburns@pieg.com.



The Lewiston Chamber of Commerce received a \$900 grant from the PIE&G Communities First Fund for the Movies in the Park program. The program will provide area families with a night of fun at no cost. Pictured (from left): Christine Saint George – Albert Twp. planning & zoning administrator; Elaine Dixon – president, Lewiston Chamber of Commerce; and Betty Comoford, PIE&G Communities First Fund director.



National Lineman Appreciation Day April 11, 2016 Let's honor the heroes th<mark>a</mark>t keep the lights on.



Your Board In Action

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

- Adopted a resolution acknowledging director Robert Wegmeyer's 40 years of service to Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op and its membership.
- Acknowledged and commended Sharon
 Krzywiecki for her 17 years and eight months of
 dedicated and loyal service to the cooperative and
 its membership. Sharon served as the executive
 administrative assistant and retired on Jan. 15.
- Thanked employees for their efforts during the Christmas Eve windstorm, and heard leadership team reports on its impact to electric reliability and the co-op's expenses. The event cost the co-op approximately \$600,000 and the employees much time without their families during the holidays.
- Set direction on filling director Wegmeyer's vacancy on the board.
- Reviewed report by CFO Sobeck regarding management of the co-op's long-term debt portfolio pursuant to "Board Policy #201— Debt Portfolio Management." Authorized management to borrow up to \$2.5 million in long-term debt in the year 2016.

- Authorized quarterly write-offs for uncollectible debt in the amount of \$19,996.98.
- Accepted team reports of CFO Sobeck, manager of operations and engineering Szymoniak, manager of information systems Kieliszewski and CEO Burns.
- Adopted revisions to the board's policy manual as recommended by the policy committee, effective immediately.
- Set its next board meeting for member regulation matters for March 22 at 9 a.m. at the cooperative's office in Onaway.

PIE&G Closed on Good Friday

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op will be closed on March 25, in observance of Good Friday. Access your account 24/7 at pieg.com, or download the free SmartHub app for your tablet or smart phone. You may also pay or report readings by calling 1-866-999-4571.





hen 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.

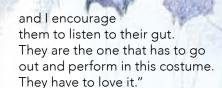
"I'm the unlikely story. I got my 'degree' in skating," said Miller. "I was a skater who had an artistic eye and before I knew it, I had a career."

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



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."

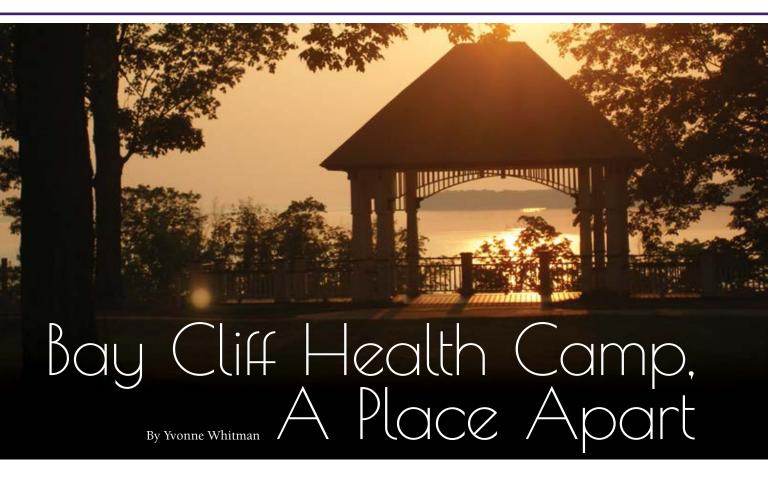
When she's not creating fresh designs and meticulously adhering stones, Miller is a coach at the Traverse City Skating Club. She's become the teacher she always wanted to be—grooming a new generation of skaters and possibly even clients.

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



estled in the north woods high above the shores of Lake Superior, approximately 28 miles outside of Marquette, is Bay Cliff Health Camp. The camp was founded in 1934, during the Great Depression, by co-founders Elba Moore and Goldie Corneliuson, a field physician for The Children's Fund of Michigan (forerunner to the Public Health Department).

Earlier, the health professionals had traveled throughout the Upper Peninsula caring for children who were malnourished and underweight due to the impoverished conditions of the times. They often talked about how ideal it would be to bring these children to an outdoor location where they would be given three meals a day, enjoy the fresh air, and be involved in camping experiences. What a difference it could make in the lives of children! As their dream began to take shape, they knew it would require a special place.

In 1934, through generous donations, they purchased an abandoned Big Bay dairy farm, a cow barn was converted into a dormitory, and the first program began with 107 children. In a summer filled with good food and camping fun, each camper gained an average of 5 pounds. They went home healthier, and the program was deemed a success.

The camp's success continued until 1940, when the polio epidemic caused U.P. hospitals to overflow with hundreds of children left paralyzed

Top: The stunning view of Lake Superior from the gazebo on the Bay Cliff campus.



Crystal Bourassa, of Dickinson County, has spent 11 summers at Bay Cliff. "Bay Cliff has taught me how to say the 'r' sound. I learned to swim, and this year I learned how to skip a rock. I learned bike riding here. A friend tried to teach me, and a man tried, too. Bay Cliff finally did," said Crystal.



by the disease and in need of rehabilitation therapy. While health and wellness in the form of good nutrition would always remain a strong concept of Bay Cliff, it would now also include an emphasis on therapy and rehabilitation for children with physical disabilities, and it has been a summer therapy camp ever since. Today, the therapy program serves children with low vision and blindness, speech and language impairments, hearing loss and deafness, and physical disabilities. The camp also provides occupational, music and physical therapy, and instructional classes for children with hearing or visual impairments.

Each year, approximately 175 children attend a seven-week summer session at Bay Cliff, which includes both typical camp fun and therapy sessions. A typical day for a camper begins with reveille, a flag ceremony, and then breakfast (all meals are eaten family style with staff). Therapy and activity sessions continue throughout the day between breaks for lunch and dinner and rest periods. Camp days conclude with an all-camp activity such as a sing-along, dance party or talent show. A dedicated staff of professionals is a huge reason for Bay Cliff's success. "Bay Cliff is truly a place apart," explains physical therapist Julia King. "A place where trying new things such as bike riding, kayaking, walking

with crutches, and driving a power wheelchair with head control is expected. A place where the phrase 'triumph is simply trying with some umph' behind it' is true. Little things in life are not so little. It often requires a place like Bay Cliff to teach us this fact."

And, what kind of impact does Bay Cliff have on a child who attends?

"Every year I'm learning new things," says Rayna Sherbinow, who lives in Schoolcraft County and has attended the camp for nine summers. "I've improved and learned things that weren't even goals. Because we work so hard here, it transfers to school and home. At school, people only see the outside. Here, there is acceptance. It's the best part."

Funding for Bay Cliff has always been through contributions from the general public, including service clubs, fraternal organizations, businesses, foundations, industry, and public spirited individuals. If you are interested in learning more about Bay Cliff Health Camp, email baycliff@baycliff.org or call 906-345-9314.

Bay Cliff receives electric service from a Michigan electric cooperative, which is proud to serve and support this camp. ■

Surf's Up!

hile 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 sbsurfandkayak.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.

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.



That's why Frank Farmer started American Metal Roofs back in 2000. After more than 10 years in the home improvement business, he knew the winning formula. If he could combine a superior product with a well-thought-out installation process and outstanding customer service, he knew that homeowners would flock to do business with him.

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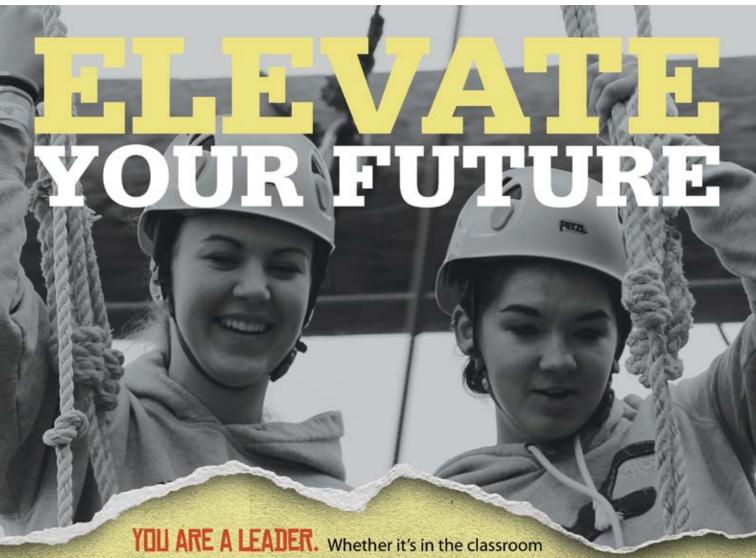
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