September 2016

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



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Executive Editor

Casey Clark

Editor

Christine Dorr

Copy Editor

Heidi Spencer

Publisher

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CONTACT US/LETTERS TO EDITOR:

Michigan Country Lines 201 Townsend St., Suite 900 Lansing, MI 48933 248-534-7358 cdorr@meca.coop countrylines.com



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

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ON THE COVER

During Northern Michigan University's 15-year anniversary event, Sam Jones, an NMU student-athlete (wearing red) won the 59kg match by technical fall 9-0 against All-Navy wrestler Angel Oliveras.

Photo—Courtesy of Northern Michigan University

IN YOUR WORDS

What is your favorite Michigan craft beer?

Please submit answers to countrylines.com by October 1.

Last month's responses to the question: Where can you get the best burger in Michigan?

"Clyde's in Manistique"

"Corky's in Allegan"

"West Pier Drive-In, Sault Ste. Marie"

"Stella's Lounge, Grand Rapids"

A student-athlete at NMU, Elizabeth Becker, is a force to be reckoned with in her weightlifting division and brings that same focus to the kitchen. With a major in environmental sustainability and dreams of owning an organic farm one day (along with an Olympic medal), Elizabeth cooks mainly organic meals. Her crockpot veggie mac & cheese is perfect for the health-conscious athlete, as well as the comfort food junkie. Visit micoopkitchen.com for this recipe and read more about NMU's Olympic athlete training on page 14.





Board Of Directors

District 1—Big Bay

Darryl Small 906-345-9369 • smallwld13@yahoo.com

District 2—Harvey/Deerton

Karen Alholm

906-249-1095 • karenalholm@gmail.com

District 3—Grand Marais

Vacant

906-428-4141 • admin@algerdelta.com

District 4—Cedar River/Palestine

Dave Prestin

906-424-0055 • cedarriverplaza@gmail.com

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David Anthony

906-466-2932 • anthony@hannahville.org

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906-753-4484 • sedergrove@gmail.com

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906-399-3666 • smalexander55@yahoo.com

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Ray Young

906-644-2488 • kyoung@uplogon.com

District 9—Hiawatha/Maple Ridge

Doug Bovin

906-573-2379 • dorobo22@icloud.com

CEO

Tom Harrell

tharrell@algerdelta.com

Headquarters:

426 N. 9th St, Gladstone, MI 49837 906-428-4141 • 800-562-0950

Fax: 906-428-3840 • admin@algerdelta.com www.algerdelta.com

Office Hours

M-F, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. (ET)

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Tom Harrell
Chief Executive

t's difficult to escape the pull of technology these days. We are dependent on devices for nearly everything we do. Connectivity is great, but sometimes we really need to get away from it all. This became evident when I recently attended a family reunion. Almost everyone had a smart phone and several of us were pulled away from the family fun by texts or emails of various sorts.

As a society, we are device dependent and it's so severe that some people are taking measures to wean themselves from their devices.

Device dependence is detrimental to our cognitive development and it can strain relationships, too. I think my wife said that, but I'm not sure because I was checking email at the time.

Here are a few tips for keeping device dependence at bay:

- The next time you finish a task, instead of checking your phone, take a walk in a quiet place, or simply sit back and let your mind wander (some call this day dreaming, and it is actually a great way to rest your brain throughout the day).
- Set up gadget-free zones in your home, starting with the dinner table. If you're really bold, make the car gadget-free, too. That alone might be a good conversation starter.
- Many of us use our devices to listen to music, read books or even take notes during meetings. Try turning your device on airplane mode when using it for those purposes. If you need Wi-Fi or a mobile connection to perform these tasks, disable all of your push notifications so that they don't distract you from the task at hand.
- You might be thinking there is no way you will be able to coax your kids to put down their devices. One solution is to make it a contest in your family to see who can go the longest without using their device. Offer a prize or a fun treat as a reward.
- When spending time with friends and family, put your device in another room so you are not tempted to check it when there is a lull in conversation.
- On family vacations, make it a rule that devices can only be used to check-in with those who need to know how things are going. Stare up at the stars, not at your screens.

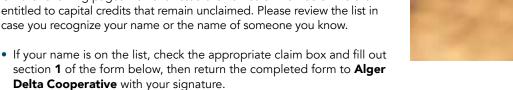
We all need time to unplug and give our brains a rest.
By unplugging, you may even save on your electric bill.
And don't worry—Facebook will still be there when you return. ■

UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

It's Your Money And We Want You To Have It!

One of the benefits of being a member of Alger Delta Cooperative is that any revenues beyond expenses (called margins) are allocated and eventually returned to **Alger Delta Cooperative** members in the form of capital credit retirements. The Alger Delta Cooperative Board of Directors is committed to retiring capital credits after considering your co-op's financial health.

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 pages we have listed the names of members who are entitled to capital credits that remain unclaimed. Please review the list in case you recognize your name or the name of someone you know.





- 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 Alger Delta Cooperative with your signature and a copy of the death certificate of the deceased.
- If you know someone on this list, please have **them** contact **Alger Delta Cooperative**.

Check One:	□ claim request by men	nber 🔲 claim request	on beh	alf of a	deceased membe
(1) MEMBER	OR HEIR CLAIMING THE	REFUND			
Member's Name or Heir's Name					
	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	LAST NAM	МE	
Service Address					
	STREET ADDRESS			CITY	
Current Mailing					
Address	STREET ADDRESS AND/OR APT NBR			STATE	ZIP CODE
Telephone	() Relati	ionship to deceased member	i.e., SPOUSE, SON, DAUGHTER, SIBLING		
2) DECEASED	MEMBER		1.0., 51 00	,5L, 5ON,	DAGGITTER, SIDEING
Deceased					
Member's Name	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	LAST NAM	МЕ	
Service Address					
	STREET ADDRESS			CITY	
Signature					
Required	SIGNATURE OF PERSON INITIATING THE CLAIM, AND TITLE, IF APPLICABLE FOR BUSINESS			DATE	

Additional information will be requested by **Alger Delta Cooperative** from the person initiating the claim. Claims for refunds will be paid only after proper documentation has been received and validated by Alger Delta Cooperative.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO ALGER DELTA COOPERATIVE, ATTN: CAPITAL CREDIT REFUND, 426 N. 9TH STREET, GLADSTONE, MI 49837.

The unclaimed credits list can be found on pages 8 & 9.



ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL

So is the future of rural America.

By Justin LaBerge

n two months, Americans will go to the polls and cast votes for a president, 34 senators, 435 members of Congress, 12 governors, 5,920 state legislators and countless other local races.

While the presidential race is at the top of most voters' minds, it is the state and local races that have a more direct and immediate impact on the "kitchen table" issues that matter most to families. For rural America, the stakes in this election are especially high.

Rural America continues to experience population decline driven by out-migration of residents to larger urban areas. The trends underlying much of this out-migration—issues such as globalization, technology advances and the shift from a manufacturing-based economy to a service and knowledge-based economy—are largely beyond the control of any community, state or even country.

Although the challenges facing rural America are global, the prevailing sentiment among rural stakeholders and researchers is that the solutions are largely homegrown. In other words, if rural America is to enjoy a prosperous future, it will be thanks to the ingenuity, self-reliance and determination of its people. The rural electrification movement is a prime example of this.

When for-profit utilities based in urban areas declined to build electric lines in sparsely populated rural areas, the residents of those communities banded together to form cooperatives and build their own systems with the help of government loans. Today, America's electric cooperatives are finding new ways to support and promote the interests of the communities they serve.

Co-ops Vote

One program that is particularly relevant today is the Co-ops Vote initiative. This non-partisan, nationwide program is designed to promote civic engagement and voter participation in communities served by electric cooperatives. Co-op members can go to vote coop to gather information on the

voter registration process in their state, dates of elections, information on the candidates running in those elections and explanations of key issues affecting rural America.

Visitors to the website can also take a pledge to be a co-op voter. By taking this pledge, they can send a message to candidates at all levels of government that electric cooperative members will be showing up at the polls in force and are paying close attention to the issues that impact the quality of life in their communities.

Growing our own leaders

Mil Duncan, a noted scholar on rural economic development issues, said in a recent essay, "far and away the biggest challenge rural development practitioners face is the need for greater human capital—for more leaders, more entrepreneurs..."

To answer the call for more rural leaders, America's electric cooperatives created the Washington Youth Tour program. Each year, approximately 1,700 high school students representing electric cooperatives from across the nation converge in Washington, D.C., for a weeklong, all-expenses-paid leadership development experience.

Previous Youth Tour participants have become university presidents, CEOs of Fortune 500 companies and members of Congress. Many more have returned home to serve in many underappreciated leadership roles—coaches, small business owners, church deacons, county commissioners—that form the backbone of our communities.

Making the most of natural strengths

One of the greatest advantages enjoyed by electric cooperatives is their ability to leverage the unique strengths of the communities they serve.

The members of each cooperative are empowered to explore different approaches to solving problems and figure out what solutions are best for their community. This applies to the energy sources

they use to generate electricity, the technologies they use to operate the system and the policies and procedures they adopt. What works for co-op members in Michigan might not be right for co-op members in Oregon.

While many rural communities face similar challenges driven by similar factors, the best way to address those issues can vary widely from community to community.

Fostering connectivity

In the early 1900s, electricity access was a key factor in determining the quality of life and economic prosperity of a community. Those that had electricity enjoyed many modern conveniences. Those without it languished in darkness and struggled to compete.

When electric cooperatives brought electricity to rural America, the playing field was leveled and small towns experienced a renaissance. A similar trend is unfolding as broadband access makes its way to more rural communities.

One recent high-profile example involves Christopher Ingraham, a data journalist at the Washington Post. In 2015, he wrote a short article based on a dataset from the USDA that ranked American communities on qualities that are often indicators of desirable places to live. The community with the lowest score in the USDA ranking was Red Lake County, MN.

His story generated a lot of comments, including many from the people of Red Lake County who encouraged him to come out for a visit. He did, and was struck by the kindness of the residents and beauty of the landscape.

As a journalist who writes about data, Ingraham wasn't tied to any particular location. As long as he has a reliable high-speed internet connection, he can do his job and email his editor the finished stories. In March of this year, he announced in another story that Red Lake County had won him

over, and he'd be moving there with his wife and young children. He can make this move because of high-speed broadband.

The shift to a knowledge-based economy might hurt some traditional rural industries, but as more companies embrace teleworking, employees who were forced to move to large cities to work in certain industries can keep their jobs while working remotely from rural communities.

Expanding access to broadband in rural areas is one of the key issues addressed by the Co-ops Vote program, and Ingraham's story is just one example why.

Taking action for the future

The challenges facing rural America will not be solved by one person, one idea or one action. But on November 8, we will determine which leaders we trust to enact policies that will help small communities help themselves.

Study the issues that are critical to the future of your community. Look at the positions and backgrounds of every candidate running for every race, from the president to county road commissioner. Then join millions of fellow electric cooperative members at the polls.



Alger Delta Cooperative Members With Unclaimed Capital Credits

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HENDERSON CARL J
HENDERSON RHONDA HENDRICKSON L. HENNING JAMES HENNING JENNIFER HENNING ROBERT F HENRICKSEN PETE HENRY HELEN HENRY RAYMOND HENRY STANLEY HERBERT ARTHUR HERVEAT FRANK HESS SAMUEL HEYE WILLIAM N HICKS ROBERT HIGHDALE DARLA J HILL ARNOLD HILL PEARL HILLIER RICHARD M HIRSCH MICHAEL HIRST ROBERT HITCHENS DAN HOCKSTAD RAYMOND HOEGH ELNA HOERNER ROBERT HOFFENBERGER JOE

HOFFER RAYMOND A HOFFMAN DAVID HOFFMAN WARREN C HOGAN EVERETT HOHMANN BRUCE R HOHMANN HELEN HOHMANN KENNETH HOHMANN KENNETH HOIDA ROGER HOLMES KENNETH HOLMES LOIS J HOLZENKAMP MARILYN HOMERNIK WILLIAM HOOTS SHARON HOOVER ROY HORIE DAVID HORN MARK HOWARD CHARLES HOWARD THEODORE W HOWARD VIRGINIA HOWELL DAMON HOXIF ALL AN R HOY JANINA HRUSKA WILLIAM HUBBARD BARBARA HUBBARD ERNIE HUBBARD SUSAN HUBINGER CARL D HUDSON RICHARD HUE DONALD L HUE DONALD L
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HULBERT GORDON
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HUNTER ROY
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HUSBECK F. JAMES
HYDE BARBARA
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HYNES MICHAEL HYNES MICHAEL IHANDER HELEN IMHOLTE DANIEL INDIAN HANNAHVILLE INGHAM REID INGAM KEID INMAN W G IRANETA MARSHALL IRBY JERRY IVANOWSKI FRANCES JACKSON WILLARD JACOBS JAMES F JACOBSEN EMILY W JACOBSEN MILDRED JAEGER EILEEN JAEGER TOM JAEGER WILLIAM JAMES KENNETH JANDRO TERRY JASON RICHARD JASON RICHARD JEAN ROBERT H JENKINS ED JENNINGS TERRY JENSEN BERYLE JENSEN CHRIS JENSEN LLOYD JESPERSEN JAMES L JEUDEVINE JOHN JEUDEVINE JOHN
JOEL DOROTHY
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KULWICH STANLEY
KUNTZE ROBERT
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LABELLE WILLIAM
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LACHANCE LAWRENCE
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LANFORD SARAH M
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LARSON LEONARD
LARSON RONALD
LARSON LANCE
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REYNOLDS JIM REYNOLDS JIM RICH LARRY RICHARDS ANN RICHARDS FRANK RICHARDS MICHAEL RICHARDS RICHARD RICKABY ROBERT RISKU ALBERT P RITARI PETE RIVARD L T RIVORD JOSEPH ROBBINS WARREN ROBBINS WARREN G ROBERTS ANDREW ROBERTS ELEANORA ROBERTS JOE ROBINSON DUANE ROBINSON DUANE ROBINSON RUTH ROCKENBACH PHILIP ROCKENBACH PHILIP J RODMAN DONALD ROFDER FRED ROGERS GERALD T ROGERS JOHN W ROGERS ROBERT RONDEAU TERRY ROOD GEORGE ROOT CLAYTON ROSE ROSE M ROSENLUND JAMES ROTTERMOND DAVID ROULEAU HARVEY ROUTHEAUX LEONARD ROYAL GAR RULEAU JOHN RUMAC AGNES RUNKLE VERN RUNKLE VERNE RUOTSALA SULO RUSCH RICHARD RUSSELL CARL RUSSELL EVERETT RYAN WILLIAM RYDQUIST JACK RYERSE LEONARD SAA ENRIQUE SAA ENRIQUE SAATIO FRED SABATINI LOUIS SAGATAW ROBERT SAGER LUETTA SALEWSKY LOREN SALO MARLIN SALO WALFRED B SAMAR CHARLES P SANDAHL STEPHEN SANDERSON WILLIAM SANDIN JAMES SANPAKA MATT SANS DAVID B SANVILLE ROY SARASIN DAVID SASSIN JOHN SATTERSTROM AXEL SAUNDERS SUSANNE SAUVE LAWRENCE SAVITSKI FLOYD SAVOLA JAMES R SAVOLA LESLIE SAWASKI WILLIAM SAWYER BARBARA SAWYER KENNETH T SAYEN LUCILLE SCHAFER THOMAS M SCHAFFSTALL RAY SCHERTZ RAY SCHETTER ROBERT SCHIMMEL DUANE H SCHLINGER ED SCHMELTZER DEAN SCHMIDT CHARLES SCHMIDT GARY J SCHMIDT MARK F SCHMIDT R W SCHMIDT RW
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SPARKS JOHN
SPAULDING BRUCE
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WENTZEL BEATRICE
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DESSERTS

These decadent dessert recipes are irresistible and will satisfy any craving.

Nana's Sour Cream Rhubarb Pie

Tonya Langlois, Rogers City

- 1 unbaked pie crust
- 5 cups chopped rhubarb
- 1 egg
- ¾ cup white sugar
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/3 cup flour

Crumble Topping

- ½ cup flour
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup melted butter



Preheat oven to 450 F. Shape pie crust into pie plate. Mix egg, white sugar, sour cream, and 1/3 cup flour. Evenly coat chopped rhubarb with mixture and place in unbaked pie crust. Mix ½ cup flour, brown sugar, and butter until crumbly. Sprinkle on top of rhubarb. Bake at 450 F for 15 minutes, reduce heat to 350 F and bake for 40 minutes more. Watch edges and cover as needed to avoid over darkening. Serve warm immediately.

Photos—831 Creative

Sopapilla Cheesecake (Mexican Cheesecake)

Theresa Timko, Caro



- 2 packages cream cheese, softened
- ¾ cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 tubes crescent rolls
- mini chocolate chips
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ stick melted butter to drizzle

Preheat oven to 375 F. Mix cream cheese, ¾ cup sugar and vanilla together. Spray bottom of a 9x13-inch pan and lay out one tube of crescent rolls, carefully pressing seams together to form one crust on all sides of pan. Spread cream cheese mixture over crust. Sprinkle desired amount of mini chocolate chips over the cream cheese mixture. Lay remaining tube of rolls over this mixture and gently press seams together. Combine cinnamon and ½ cup sugar together and sprinkle over the top crust (this makes the goodness layer!). Drizzle the melted butter over the top and bake about 25 minutes. Cool completely and refrigerate before cutting bars.

Creeping Crust Cobbler

Ginny Horton, Brethren

- ½ cup butter
- 1 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ cup milk
- 2 cups fruit: blackberries, blueberries, raspberries, apricots, peaches, etc.
- 1 cup or less of sugar



Preheat oven to 350 F. Melt butter in a 10-inch baking dish. Mix flour, sugar, baking powder, then add milk and mix together. Spoon mixture over melted butter. Heat fresh or canned fruit with sugar, using less sugar if the fruit is canned. Pour the

fruit mixture over dough. Bake for about 30 minutes or until crust is golden brown; crust will rise to the top. Serve warm or cold, if any lasts that long!

Frozen Mocha Pie

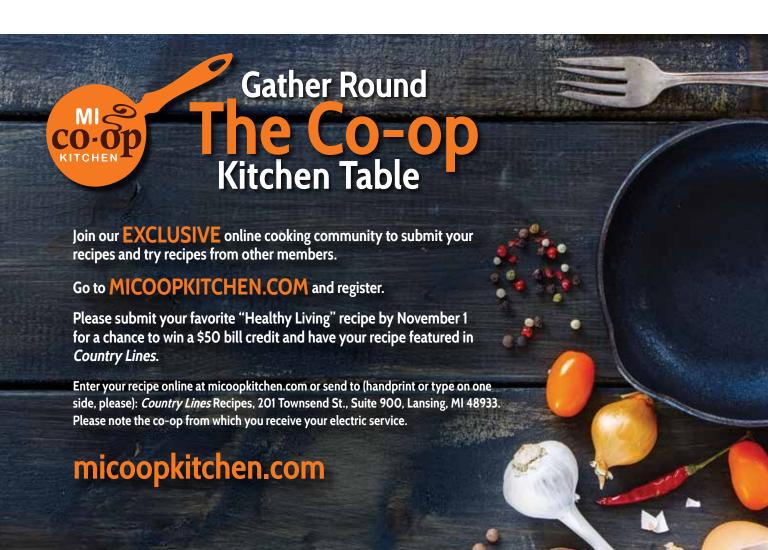
Linda Ackerman, Thompsonville

- 1 teaspoon instant espresso powder
- 2 teaspoon boiling water
- 1 package (1 ounce or 4 serving size) vanilla flavor instant pudding
- 1¾ cup very cold milk
- 1 (8 ounce) container whipped topping, thawed
- 1 prepared chocolate crumb pie shell



Dissolve espresso powder in hot water. Chill, then add to milk. In a large bowl, prepare pudding as directed on package (using espresso/ milk mixture). Fold whipped topping into pudding mixture; pour into pie shell. Freeze for two hours or

until pie is firm. Top each serving with additional whipped topping and a drizzle of chocolate syrup. Garnish with chocolate shavings, if desired.



Save More Energy With A Wi-Fi Or Smart Thermostat

While standard programmable thermostats allow for varying temperature schedules set for weekdays and weekends, your heat or A/C will still kick in even if you're running late or forgot to adjust the schedule for an out-of-town trip! Running the heat or A/C when no one is home is a costly mistake of far too many homeowners.

Thanks to new advancements in technology, Wi-Fi enabled and smart thermostats allow homeowners to control their home's temperature 24/7 remotely—whether at work, out shopping or traveling across the country. Just login online or use the thermostat's app on your phone to adjust your settings.

Smart thermostats are currently the most advanced residential devices available. Not only are they Wi-Fi enabled, allowing you to adjust the temperature from your mobile device or tablet (as long as you're connected to the Internet)—they can program themselves as they "learn" your behavior patterns and desired temperatures for certain days and times during the week.

It is important to do your research before investing in a new gadget. Remember, not all "Wi-Fi enabled



thermostats" are *smart* thermostats. Only true *smart* thermostats can sense when you are actually home and program themselves. ■

REBATE NOW AVAILABLE! The Energy Optimization program provides a \$100 cash incentive toward the purchase of a qualifying Wi-Fi enabled or smart thermostat. Don't hesitate—start saving energy and money today!

Visit Michigan-energy.org or call 877-296-4319 for additional energy-saving information and incentives.





Director Gardner-Platt Steps Down From Alger Delta Board

Alger Delta Director Nancy Gardner-Platt resigned from the Alger Delta Board of Directors effective August 2. She announced her decision to step down at the July 20 board meeting. Gardner-Platt stated that she and her husband, Bill Platt, both of Grand Marais, are moving out of the area.

Gardner-Platt served as a director for seven years representing Alger Delta's District 3, which includes Grand Marais and Burt Township. She was elected to the Alger Delta board in July, 2009. Gardner-Platt also served on the board of directors of the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association (MECA).

"Nancy has been a great board member," said Tom Harrell Alger Delta's CEO. "She's done a great job representing the members in District 3. She would call me at any hour of the day or night if a member had a problem, just to make sure I knew about it. She has always been loyal to the cooperative and supportive of its goals, objectives, projects, and everything we ever tried to accomplish. Nancy will definitely be missed by me, the Alger Delta board and the MECA board, too," Harrell added.

During her tenure, Gardner-Platt achieved Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) status through training offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). She was appointed to the MECA board of directors in July 2013.

Gardner-Platt championed several important initiatives while on the board, including the extension of Alger Delta's power supply contract with WPPI. "I'm proud of that [effort] because I know it will help the members have reliable and affordable energy for a long time. WPPI is a good company that has been doing good things for Alger Delta," she said. "It was fun to work on such things, and I'm going to miss it a great deal."

The board is reviewing its options about filling the vacancy. According to the cooperative's bylaws, the board may hold a special election in the district or the board may select a replacement. In recent years, each time there has been a vacancy, the board has selected a replacement from a slate of qualified applicants. Information about filling the vacancy will be communicated to members in District 3 via the co-op's website, in the local paper, and through other methods which may include direct mail and *Country Lines* magazine.

Michigan's Great Outdoors



This is our annual tie-dye fest we do every year with our "camping family." Photo by Debbie Andrews



The sport of sailing is enjoyed just off the shore in Lake Michigan. Photo by Dan Kuiper



My son, Corey, at Laughing Whitefish Point. Photo by Katie Webber



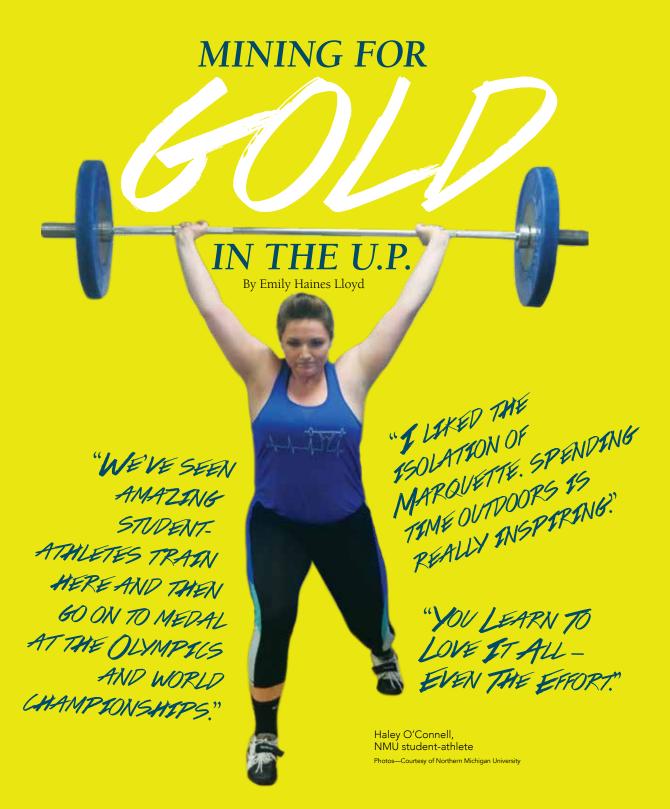
Submit Your Photos

Alger Delta invites members to share their amazing photos. Selected photos will be published in *Michigan Country Lines*. Upcoming topics and deadlines are: **Country Roads** due **Sept. 25**—October issue, **Wild Weather** due **Nov. 15**—January issue and **Holiday Fun** due **Dec. 15**—February issue.

To submit photos, and for details and instructions, go to

http://bit.ly/countrylines

We look forward to seeing your best photos!



n the shores of Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula, you can catch a glimpse of the world's largest wooden dome, fittingly called Superior Dome. It's certainly a site to see, but even more remarkable is what is happening inside. Along with hosting Northern Michigan University's football, soccer, and track and field teams, Superior Dome is home to the NMU Olympic Training Site—one of only 18 Olympic Training Sites in the country. These training sites are world-class facilities used by elite

athletes. All of the sites have hosted Olympic or Paralympic trials, and most of them have hosted world cup or world championship events.

At NMU-OTS, you'll find some of the nation's most distinguished Greco-Roman wrestlers and



The Superior Dome on the campus of Northern Michigan University.

weightlifters preparing to make their mark in the sporting world.

"The program has been around since 1985," said Michael Kaurala, Director of Facilities at NMU-OTS. "We've seen amazing studentathletes train here and then go on to medal at the Olympics and world championships."

At the time of the interview, the 2016 Rio Olympics were just around the corner, with eight current or former NMU-OTS athletes competing in various events—Greco-Roman wrestling, freestyle wrestling, boxing, weightlifting and paracanoe.

"It's always an exciting time when the Olympics come around," said Kaurala. "When current or former athletes work so hard and then perform well—it's a great feeling."

As only one of two wrestling OTSs in the country, the draw for student athletes is tremendous.

Nate Lewis, from Arlington, WA, entered the program hoping to pursue his weightlifting and academic dreams.

"I was looking for a positive training environment without sacrificing my education," said Lewis. "I liked the isolation of Marquette. It keeps me more focused on my training, as well as my studies. Plus, spending time outdoors is really inspiring."

The athletes know a lot about the outdoors, as coaches like to take the athletes out of the state-of-the-art facility sometimes to run along the shore of Lake Superior or up and down the sand dunes for variety in their workouts.

Dalton Roberts, a Greco-Roman wrestler, has had a lot of success in his sport both nationally and internationally. Roberts hopes to become an Olympian and World Team Member and isn't afraid to put in the hard work to make it happen.

"It's a lot of work, for sure," said Roberts. "But it also feels great to do what I love every day. People think it's hard and it is, but you learn to love it all—even the effort."

So, if you're going on a picturesque drive in the U.P. and happen to catch a glimpse of the enormous white dome peeking out through the treetops, take a moment for a closer look. Under that dome you'll find gorgeous Douglas Fir wood beams and a state-of-the-art training facility, with hardworking young men and women who have dreams big enough to fill the entire stadium.



Northern Michigan University-Olympic Training Site's Greco-Roman Wrestling Team.

NMU-075'S GOLDEN GTRL

The world was watching when Helen Maroulis became the first woman to win a gold medal in wrestling for the United States at the 2016 Olympic Games. Cheering crowds in Rio were likely only eclipsed by the roaring fans in Marquette, MI—where Maroulis spent her senior year of high school and trained at NMU-OTS.

A Maryland native, Maroulis decided to finish high school in Marquette in order to pursue her wrestling dreams at NMU-OTS. Those dreams came to an apex in Rio as she battled to trim down to compete in the 53kg weight class against Japan's Saori Yoshida, three-time reigning Olympic gold medalist and 13-time world champion.

Against the odds, but with all the determination and focus she acquired through her years of training, Maroulis pinned the legend to win gold. NMU-OTS celebrated the success of their former wrestler by using her example to inspire training their current athletes whose Olympic dreams shine as brightly as their goldwinning alumna.

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.

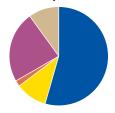
COMPARISON OF FUEL SOURCES USED

Regional average fuel mix used Your co-op's fuel mix

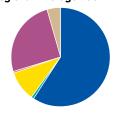
FUEL SOURCE		
Coal	54.5%	60.4%
Oil	0.0%	0.7%
Gas	10.3%	8.9%
Hydroelectric	1.9%	0.5%
Nuclear	23.4%	24.6%
Renewable Fuels	9.9%	4.9%
Renewable Fuels Biofuel	9.9% 0.03%	4.9% 0.7%
		,
Biofuel	0.03%	0.7%
Biofuel Biomass	0.03%	0.7%
Biofuel Biomass Solar	0.03% 0.2% 0.03%	0.7% 0.4% 0.1%

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

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

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

Access To Rules & Rates

Please be advised that the following information is available to Alger Delta Cooperative members:

- 1. Complete rate schedules;
- 2. Clear and concise explanation of all rates that the member may be eligible to receive;
- 3. Assistance from the cooperative in determining the most appropriate rate for a member when the member is eligible to receive service under more than one rate;
- 4. Clear and concise explanation of the members' actual energy use for each billing period during the last 12 months.

The information can be obtained by contacting Alger Delta Cooperative at 800-562-0950.

Public Act 295: The Clean Renewable and Efficient **Energy Act**

2015 Annual Energy Optimization Report, Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association, MPSC Case Number U-17778

Alger Delta contracted with the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association (MECA) to administer the Energy Optimization efforts in order to comply with PA-295. MECA filed a four-year Energy Optimization plan with the MPSC on August 1, 2011, as required by PA 295. This EO plan was approved by the MPSC on November 10, 2011, and we began implementing the plan January 1, 2012. WECC was selected to implement all Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Programs, and the Energy Optimization website michigan-energy.org. WECC has subcontracted with JACO, Michigan Energy Options, Franklin Energy, Morgan Marketing Partners, and Honeywell to assist with the implementation of the EO Programs. MECA contracted with KEMA as the independent third-party evaluation contractor for the certification of kWh savings.

In 2015, Alger Delta collected \$152,907 through the Energy Optimization Surcharge and spent \$183,629 resulting in an under-collection of \$30,722. For every dollar spent on energy efficiency programs, customers will save \$3 in avoided energy costs. Alger Delta achieved 698 MWh of energy savings in 2015. The full report can be obtained at michigan-energy.org or http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile.

Notice to Members of Alger Delta Cooperative

Case No. U-16589 2015 Renewable Energy Plan Annual Report Summary

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) requires all Michigan electric utilities to get approximately two percent of their power supply from renewable sources by 2012 and increasing to 10 percent by 2015.

Under this requirement, Alger Delta Cooperative submits an annual report to the MPSC regarding its Renewable Energy Plan. In 2015, Alger Delta acquired a total of 3,528 renewable energy credits and 178 incentive credits from Thunder Bay – Four Mile. All credit transfers were directed through Alger Delta's wholesale power supplier, WPPI Energy. WPPI Energy will continue to generate renewable energy and bank unused renewable energy credits for future use and compliance with statutory renewable portfolio standard requirements on behalf of all of its members.

A full copy of the cooperative's Renewable Energy Plan annual report that was filed with the MPSC is available on the cooperative's website at algerdelta.com or by request at any of the cooperative's offices.



araga County is home to many natural, historical and cultural attractions, but until recently, many have remained some of the best secrets and known only to locals. This past June, these hidden treasures became more accessible to all when bicycle and motorcycle riders met at the L'Anse waterfront for the first ride on The Lake & Country Tour route. This 52-mile scenic route allows riders to experience and explore many of the County's unique attractions including eight miles of pristine Lake Superior shoreline just a few feet from the shoulder of the road. The route also passes by the Ojibwa ceremonial grounds at Pequaming, rolls through the historic and more than 100-year-old Finnish settlement of Aura, and winds by three sets of waterfalls. In total, 18 natural and historical destinations can be found along the tour's route.

The trail is the result of a collective group effort of a handful of local citizens, representatives from the Baraga County Chamber of Commerce (BCCC), Road Commission, and Village of L'Anse, who first gathered two years ago to articulate a vision and come up with a plan. According to BCCC President, Debbie Stouffer, "This project's

success is attributable solely to the collaborative efforts of local citizens holding a passion for making Baraga County a better place to live."

Visitors planning on traveling this scenic trail are encouraged to pick up a brochure at the Baraga County Convention and Visitors Bureau located at 755 E. Broad Street, L'Anse, or from the weatherproof box located on a large wooden trail sign at L'Anse Waterfront Park. ■



Local biking enthusiasts on the Lake & Country Tour are, from left to right, Linnea Prost, James (Soupbone) Johnson and Grant Fenner. Photo compliments of Karen Kautto

"COMING TOGETHER IS A BEGINNING;

KEEPING TOGETHER IS PROGRESS; WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS." — HENRY FORD

The Wheels On The Bus

By Jack O'Malley

dmit it. You just sang "go round and round" in your head. September brings cooler temperatures, football season, and the start of a new school year accompanied by a fleet of familiar vehicles on northern Michigan roads. Recognized by their distinctive color and flashing lights, school buses transported an estimated 26.9 million students in the United States last year.

Buses can only operate with a dedicated crew of drivers, and one of the best can be found in Chippewa Hills. Kent Blackmer says the first day of school can be a bittersweet time. "Summer is over, but I see all the kids again!" Yes, Kent loves being part of the kids' day. He feeds off their energy each morning, and Ken admits some days can be pandemonium, especially with the elementary kids. High school students, however, are surprisingly mellow, most listening to their music or reading during the trip to and from school.

A six-year veteran of the Chippewa Hills School District, Ken enjoys many laughs with the kids each day. Most know him by name. Some simply refer to him as Mr. Bus Driver. Either way, he says, the kids are "respectful and well behaved." And the parents? "Supportive and, like most of us, happy to have an expert behind the wheel!"

While Kent enjoys driving, he says the job does have its share of stress. "You always have to be on guard. My job is to be aware. Sometimes awareness can be difficult, especially when noise levels rise or winter roads are slippery, but I can't get distracted." Safety is paramount. Kent insists that students follow rules on his bus. And while he can't control other motorists on the road, he hopes drivers watch out for his big



yellow bus. "Unfortunately, people do run my stop sign." When they do, he gets a plate number and reports the driver.

School buses across the state roll out every morning and afternoon with drivers like Kent, happy to be behind the wheel. Kent said he does have an all-time favorite part of the job. "It may seem silly,"



Jack O'Malley

he remarked. "But I always enjoy the reaction of the family pets when they see their children coming up the driveway happy to see them come home."

Parts of the Chippewa Hills School District are serviced by HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

I Remember...

We invite members to share their fondest memories. Country Lines will pay \$50 for stories we publish.

Guidelines

- 1. Approximately 200 words
- 2. Digital photos must be at least 600 KB
- 3. Only one entry per household, per month
- 4. Country Lines retains reprint rights
- **5.** Please include your name, address, email, phone number and the name of your electric co-op
- 6. Submit your memories online: countrylines.com



Where In Michigan Is This?

Identify the correct location of the photo on the left by Sept. 30 and be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 electric bill credit. 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 July/August 2016 issue is David LaLiberte, a Midwest Cooperative member who correctly identified the photo as downtown Kalamazoo, the corner of South Street and the Kalamazoo Mall.





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I'M A CO-OP VOTER

Visit the Co-ops Vote website at VOTE.COOP, and take the pledge to BECOME A CO-OP VOTER. Plus, learn more about state and federal candidates before you cast your vote.

Mark your calendar—vote in the general election on November 8.



