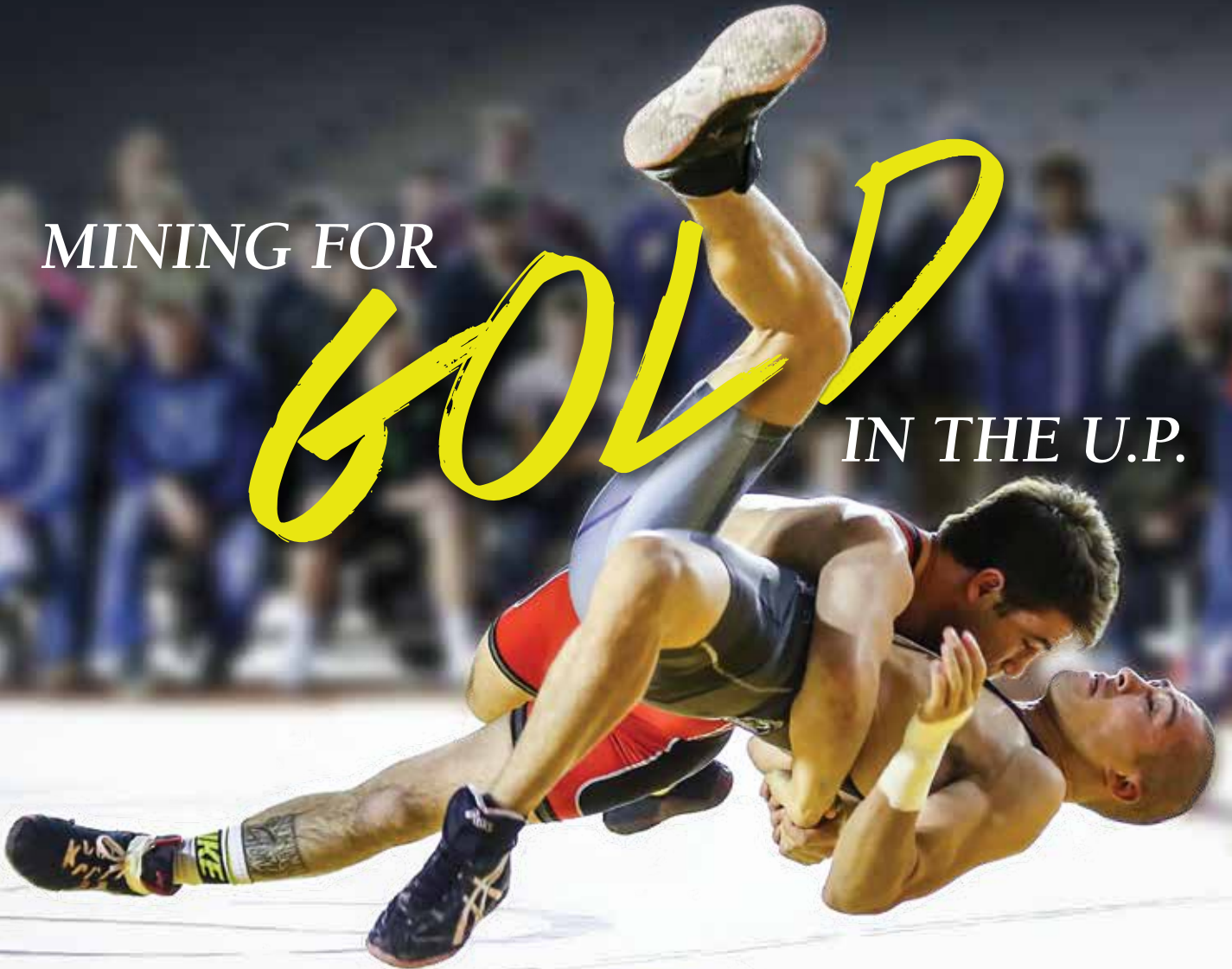


# MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

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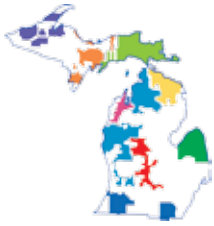
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### ON THE COVER

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.



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# CO-OP NEWS

## Cherryland Cares Awards \$23,400 To Five Nonprofits

At their second quarter board meeting, the Cherryland Cares Board awarded grants to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Michigan, Family Partnership, The Father Fred Foundation, Grand Traverse Dyslexia Association, and Manistee County Child Advocacy Center. Cherryland Cares has awarded \$43,550 in grants to area nonprofit agencies this year.

The Cherryland Cares Board is comprised of five volunteer Cherryland members. The funds distributed by Cherryland Cares is a result of members electing to round up their monthly bills to the nearest dollar.

If you are an area nonprofit agency seeking financial help, third quarter grant applications are due Friday, Sept. 9. For more information, please call Shannon Mattson at 231-486-9234 or email at [smattson@cherrylandelectric.coop](mailto:smattson@cherrylandelectric.coop).

## Cherryland Returns To Great Lakes Children's Museum For Day Of Caring

Cherryland will be assisting Great Lakes Children's Museum for the third year as part of United Way's Day of Caring 2016. The one-day event matches local businesses with local nonprofit agencies and schools to complete meaningful projects that fulfill agency and community needs. This year's Day of Caring takes place on Thursday, Sept. 8.

## Members May Give Input At Monthly Board Meeting

The board of directors at Cherryland is offering an opportunity for members to provide direct input to the board on Monday, Sept. 19, at 9 a.m. at the company office in Grawn.

Members are asked to come to the lobby and request to speak to the board. Members are asked to keep their comments to five minutes. Member attendance at the board meeting is allowed for the public input portion of the meeting only.

## Grand Traverse County Recycles Household Hazardous Waste

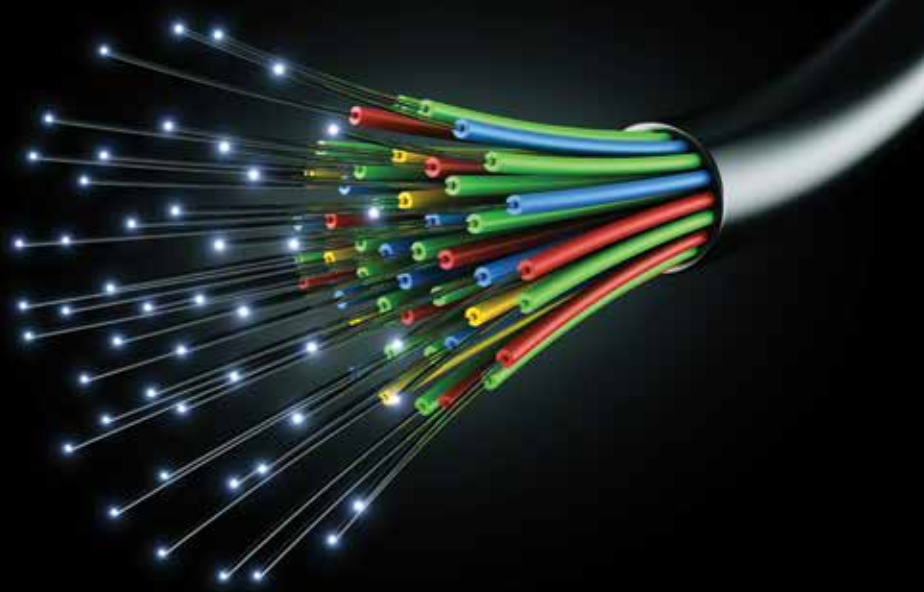
The Grand Traverse County RecycleSmart program is accepting household hazardous waste for safe disposal on Saturday, Oct. 1, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Grand Traverse County residents may bring up to 150 pounds of material at no cost.

Appointments are required. For more information and to set up an appointment, use the online scheduling system at [RecycleSmart.info](http://RecycleSmart.info) or call the RecycleSmart hotline at 231-941-5555.

## Members Earn Rebates With Energy Efficient Upgrades

Cherryland members are eligible to receive rebates for energy efficient upgrades in their homes or businesses. Common upgrades include replacing incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs and purchasing Energy Star qualified appliances. For a guide to our residential rebate program and a complete listing of rebates available on Energy Star qualified appliances, visit our website at [CherrylandElectric.coop](http://CherrylandElectric.coop). ■

# The Speed Of Light



**Tony Anderson**  
General Manager

In 1939, the first member of Cherryland Electric Cooperative signed up for service. It didn't take long before that home was alive with light, appliances and entertainment. The mission of Cherryland was born that year, and it has continued to grow for almost eight decades.

Today, we find ourselves contemplating a new service that could be as life changing as that first light bulb and radio in 1939. Specifically, we are talking about fiber optic broadband. This technology offers super fast speeds for all of a home or business's daily internet needs. It involves the use of plastic or glass cables that allow for the transfer of data near the speed of light. This is something that standard copper wires used in traditional broadband connections obviously cannot do.

A few months ago, I was approached by a local group who was hopeful that Cherryland might get involved with bringing in this high-speed fiber optic cable to the Grand Traverse region as many cooperatives in the country are doing right now. I politely told them that I didn't think an investment that is estimated to be \$2,200 per household (multiplied by 35,000 meters—holy cow!) was worth the risk.

Cherryland employees have spent my entire 13-plus years at the cooperative working to improve our reliability and maintain affordable rates. Today, our reliability is at an all-time high and our rates are lower than our largest neighboring utility. This was done, in part, after divesting the cooperative of propane, the internet and cellular business ventures from our past. Is it time to spread out into what could be an important venture for our region or is it time sit tight and "do what we do best?"

As we look around the country, other electric cooperatives are seeing success with their fiber ventures. As was the case of electricity after the Great Depression, there is nobody willing to serve the rural areas of the country. This has always been at the core of the cooperative family. Thus, many think it is our "duty" or "obligation" to provide fiber to rural areas. Being a cooperative employee for my entire career, it is hard to disagree. It is also hard to disagree with the financial risk. Thus, I am honestly standing at a fork in the road.

Recently, I was presented with a potential game changer in this dilemma. To meet ever increasing federally-mandated reliability standards, Wolverine

**"This 'magical' speed of light cable will eventually be at our doorstep in every part of our service territory."**

Power Cooperative will be installing fiber optic cable to all 16 substations in Cherryland's service territory in the coming years. Thus, this "magical" speed of light cable will eventually be at our doorstep in every part of our service territory.

Therefore, Wolverine and its member cooperatives are doing a joint feasibility study to see if some sort of partnership or statewide fiber optic project makes sense. This study could take four to six months.

We are not moving at the speed of light by any means. Instead, we are taking a cautious and calculated look into fiber optic broadband. There are many issues to address and questions to answer in the months ahead. The debate about cooperative "obligation" or "duty" can wait until *after* we take a close look at a potential business plan and feasibility study. ■



# ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL

So is the future of rural America.

By Justin LaBerge

In 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](http://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. ■



## Fuel Mix Report

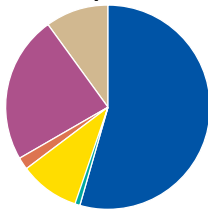
The fuel mix characteristics of Cherryland Electric Cooperative as required by Public Act 141 of 2000 for the 12-month period ended 6/30/16.

### COMPARISON OF FUEL SOURCES USED

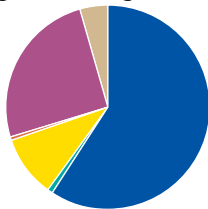
Regional average fuel mix used		
Your co-op's fuel mix		
FUEL SOURCE		
Coal	50.3%	55.0%
Oil	0.5%	0.6%
Gas	17.9%	12.8%
Hydroelectric	1.4%	0.7%
Nuclear	22.8%	25.7%
Renewable Fuels	7.1%	5.2%
Biofuel	0.6%	0.7%
Biomass	0.4%	0.5%
Solar	0.1%	0.1%
Solid Waste Incineration	0.0%	0.0%
Wind	5.5%	3.4%
Wood	0.5%	0.5%

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%.

Your Co-op's Fuel Mix



Regional Average Fuel Mix



### EMISSIONS AND WASTE COMPARISON

TYPE OF EMISSION/WASTE	lbs/MWh	
	Your Co-op	Regional Average*
Sulfur Dioxide	5.8	7.6
Carbon Dioxide	1,603	2,170
Oxides of Nitrogen	1.6	2.0
High-level Nuclear Waste	0.0072	0.0083

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

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

# Thank You To Our 2016 Annual Meeting Raffle Sponsors!

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# Sports & Outdoor Fun



"2016 Lady Elk District Champs!" By Beth Olosky

## Photo Contest Winners

### Photos With The Highest Facebook Votes!

The votes are in, and we're happy to share the winning photo (and some favorites) from our photo contest. Thanks to everyone who submitted a photo, voted and spread the word by sharing the post on Facebook.



"Early Morning Paddle." By Carrie Noren



"A Sunny Day At The Lake Ann Boat Launch." By Joe Coleman



"Me And My Shadow." By Peggy Zinn



## Enter Your Photos and Win!

Every month we will announce a new theme. Just submit your best shot and encourage your friends to vote! The photo receiving the most votes on our Facebook contest will be printed in an issue of *Country Lines* along with some of our other favorites. If your photo is printed in *Country Lines* during 2016, you will be entered to win a credit of up to \$200 on your December 2016 bill.

Our September theme is **Country Roads**. Photos can be submitted from **September 1 to September 20** to be featured in our November/December issue.

To submit a photo just visit [facebook.com/cherrylandelectriccoop](https://facebook.com/cherrylandelectriccoop) and click "Photo Contest" from the menu tabs. If you're not on Facebook, don't worry. You can also enter the contest at [cherrylandelectric.coop/photo-contest](https://cherrylandelectric.coop/photo-contest).

Make sure to vote, and encourage others to vote for you, too!

# DESSERTS

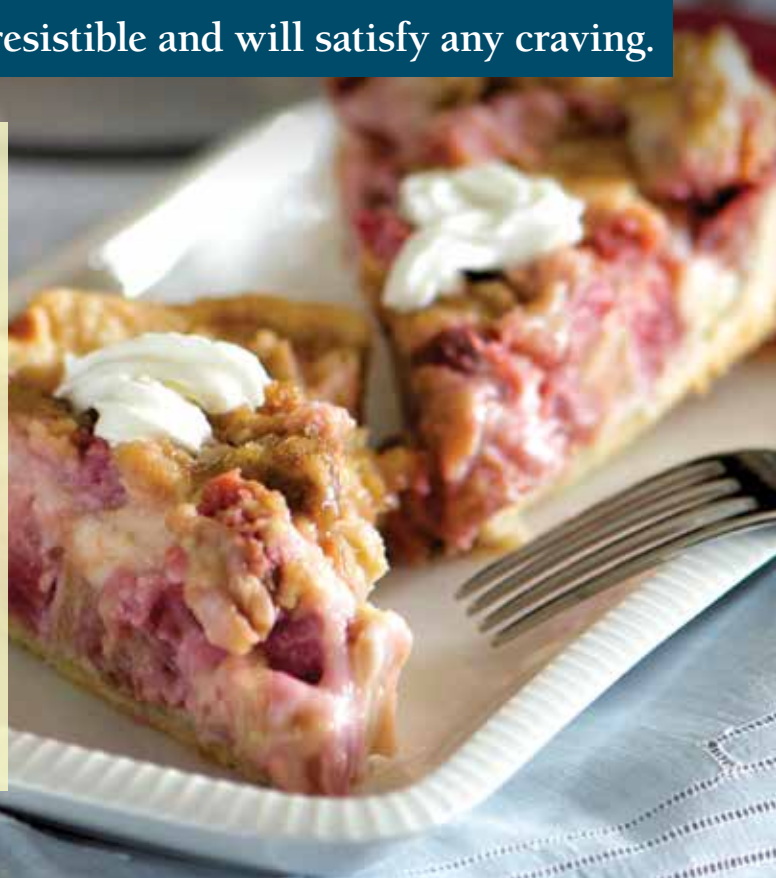
These decadent dessert recipes are irresistible and will satisfy any craving.

## Nana's Sour Cream Rhubarb Pie

Tonya Langlois, Rogers City

- 1 unbaked pie crust
  - 5 cups chopped rhubarb
  - 1 egg
  - $\frac{3}{4}$  cup white sugar
  - 1 cup sour cream
  - $\frac{1}{3}$  cup flour
- Crumble Topping**
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup flour
  - $\frac{1}{2}$  cup brown sugar
  - $\frac{1}{4}$  cup melted butter

Preheat oven to 450 F. Shape pie crust into pie plate. Mix egg, white sugar, sour cream, and  $\frac{1}{3}$  cup flour. Evenly coat chopped rhubarb with mixture and place in unbaked pie crust. Mix  $\frac{1}{2}$  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
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 tubes crescent rolls
- mini chocolate chips
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$  stick melted butter to drizzle

Preheat oven to 375 F. Mix cream cheese,  $\frac{3}{4}$  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  $\frac{1}{2}$  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.



## Gather Round The Co-op Kitchen Table

Join our **EXCLUSIVE** online cooking community to submit your recipes and try recipes from other members.

Go to **MICOOPKITCHEN.COM** and register.

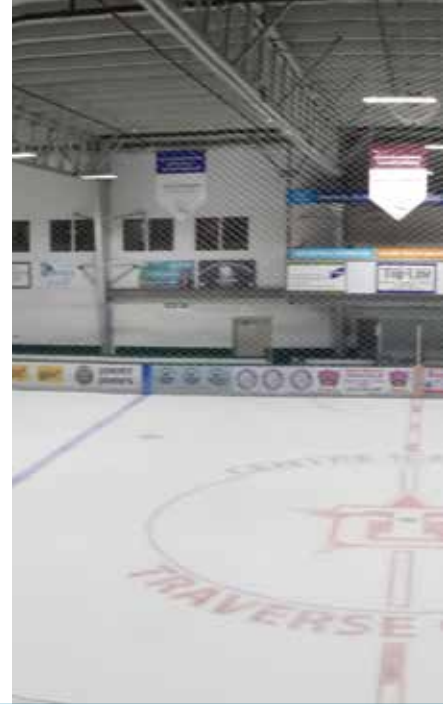
Please submit your favorite “Healthy Living” recipe by November 1 for a chance to win a \$50 bill credit and have your recipe featured in *Country Lines*.

Enter your recipe online at [micoopkitchen.com](http://micoopkitchen.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.

**micoopkitchen.com**

# CENTRE ICE GIVES BACK BY USING LESS

By Rob Marsh

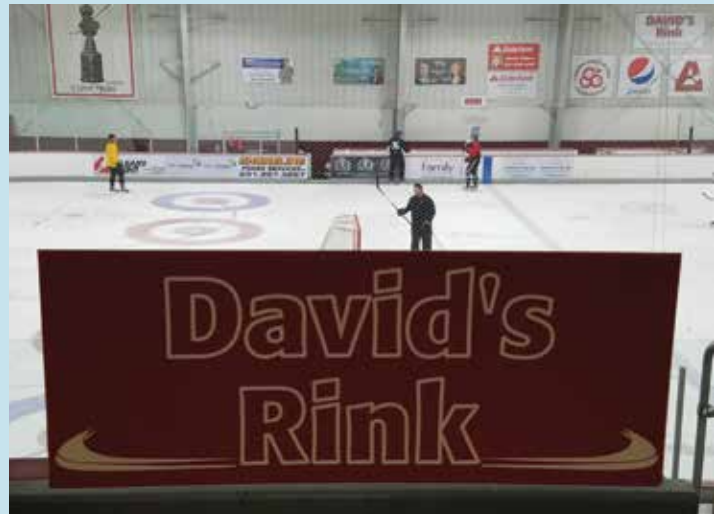


As much as the winter months seem to drag on, for some, the spring thaw puts a damper on their spirits. Many winter sports enthusiasts have to wait months for the chill in the air to return. For ice skaters and hockey players, Centre Ice Arena in Traverse City keeps the winter fun going all year long.

Centre Ice Area has represented all that is ice skating in Traverse City since its construction in 1997. Centre Ice is operated by "Involved Citizen's Enterprises" (ICE), a nonprofit volunteer community organization that has been representing the interests of local ice skaters for more than 30 years. ICE has an ongoing commitment to the community by supporting both affordable and accessible ice skating programs in the Grand Traverse region.

This summer, ICE made a commitment to the community in a different way. ICE embarked on two major upgrades to Centre Ice's facilities that will have a major impact on its energy savings and environmental footprint.

The first upgrade was to Centre Ice's cooling tower. Centre Ice was operating with a cooling tower that was five years past its expiration date. On top of that, it was designed to operate only for the length of a hockey season. "Before, we would have to run two condensers at 100 percent capacity and sometimes that wasn't enough to keep the ice



Hockey camps take place all summer long on Centre Ice's two ice rinks.

cool on a hot summer day," explained Tod Cook, building manager at Centre Ice.

The strength and efficiency of the new cooling tower is having a significant impact in the short time that they have had it. "Now we are running just one condenser at 60 percent capacity this summer," said Cook. "The ice is perfect."

The second upgrade was made to lights over the ice rinks. The old lights were replaced with high-powered LED fixtures equipped with dimming and occupancy controls. These LEDs are designed to provide more than 50 percent reduction in energy use. A total of 56 fixtures at Centre Ice were replaced with LEDs.



“The EPA estimates energy reduction of that size equates to **66.9 tons** of waste recycled instead of landfilled, planting **200 acres** of trees, or removing **31.1 homes** from the electrical grid.”

Mike Powers, an energy solutions consultant for Keen Technical Solutions of Traverse City, worked on the project and analyzed the effect the upgrades will have on energy costs and usage. “Overall, the lighting and cooling tower projects are going to reduce their energy use by 300,000 kWh annually as well as save them more than \$30,000 in annual energy costs,” explained Powers.

The EPA estimates energy reduction of that size equates to 66.9 tons of waste recycled instead of landfilled, planting 200 acres of trees, or removing 31.1 homes from the electrical grid.

Like any big upgrade, it comes with a big price tag. According to Terry Marchand, ICE’s executive director, the upgrades were a big financial undertaking. “This is the biggest project at Centre Ice since it was constructed.”

Centre Ice received rebates for performing these energy-efficient upgrades through Cherryland’s rebate program. Tammy Squires, an energy use advisor for Cherryland, assisted them through the rebate process. “Our rebate program provides us with another opportunity to be a part of their team when meeting their energy efficiency goals,” said Squires. “When they reach those goals, our whole community wins.” Between the rebates and early release of some of their capital credits, ICE received a check for \$40,000.

“Without Cherryland, we would not have been able to do it,” said Marchand.

ICE is giving back to Traverse City in more ways than one. From affordable skating programs to reduced energy usage, ICE has a comprehensive commitment to its community. The savings alone ensure ice skaters and hockey players will not have to wait for the chill of winter to hit the ice. ■



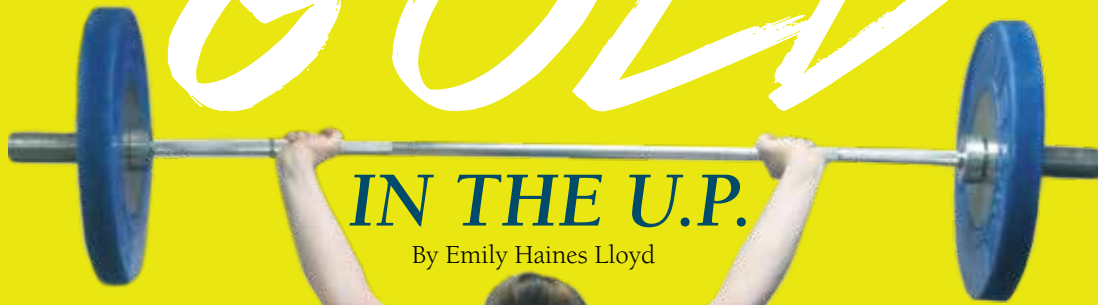
(Left to right) Tammy Squires, Tod Cook, and Terry Marchand admire the new cooling tower.

# MINING FOR

# GOLD

## IN THE U.P.

By Emily Haines Lloyd



*"WE'VE SEEN  
AMAZING  
STUDENT-  
ATHLETES TRAIN  
HERE AND THEN  
GO ON TO MEDAL  
AT THE OLYMPICS  
AND WORLD  
CHAMPIONSHIPS."*

*"I LIKED THE  
ISOLATION OF  
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REALLY INSPIRING."*

*"YOU LEARN TO  
LOVE IT ALL -  
EVEN THE EFFORT."*

Haley O'Connell,  
NMU student-athlete

Photos—Courtesy of Northern Michigan University

**O**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 student-athletes 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-OTS'S GOLDEN GIRL

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 gold-winning alumna.

# College Lineman Rodeo Hosted In Michigan

Becoming a lineman is hard work, but that doesn't mean it can't be fun. Alpena Community College (ACC) in Alpena recently hosted the 2016 College Lineman Rodeo, a national collegiate event designed to inspire and promote the lineman trade for today and the future.

In a Lineman Rodeo, teams compete in events based on traditional linemen tasks and skills. More than 100 students from seven schools competed in 24 teams, including nine teams from ACC. Visiting students came from schools in Nebraska, Wisconsin, South Dakota and Missouri.

ACC students took home a variety of individual and team awards, as well as an experience that they won't forget. "Students who normally wouldn't have had the chance to compete were able to this year," said Utility Tech Instructor Roy Smith. "Hosting the rodeo gave our students a chance to broaden their skills and themselves."

For some at ACC this was their first rodeo, but hopefully, it won't be their last. ■



## Notice to Members of Cherryland Electric Cooperative

### Case No. U-16591, 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, Cherryland Electric Cooperative submits an annual report to the MPSC regarding its Renewable Energy Plan. In 2015, Cherryland acquired a total of 12,331 renewable energy credits (7,898 credits from Harvest Wind Farm, LLC and 4,433 credits from Thunder Bay—Four Mile) and 411 incentive credits from Thunder Bay—Four Mile. All credit transfers were directed through Cherryland's wholesale power supplier, Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Inc. Wolverine 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 [cherrylandelectric.coop](http://cherrylandelectric.coop) or by request at any of the cooperative's offices.



# Westwoods Students Raise Funds By Promoting Energy Efficiency

By Rob Marsh

**F**rom classroom supplies to library books and computers, a school's budget can be stretched thin.

Westwoods Elementary School in Grand Traverse County is no different, but they do have an added challenge. Westwoods saw an influx of students after several area elementary schools were closed this year, making their needs that much greater.

Rather than shy away, Westwoods embraced the challenge and used it to create an opportunity to not only raise money for the school, but educate their students on the benefits of energy efficiency as well.

In partnership with Cherryland Electric Cooperative and Hybralux, a Michigan-based energy technology development company, Westwoods established the LED Learning program. The program encourages students and their families to upgrade their old incandescent lighting to more energy-efficient LED lighting in their homes.

The students' parents purchase the LED light bulbs from Hybralux and, in turn, the company donates the profits back to Westwoods. "This is truly a win-win-win program," said David Noe, director of new business development for Energy Advantage Group (the sales arm of Hybralux). "The school is creating revenue, the parent's households are saving dramatically on their energy bills and the environment is being improved through a cut in power consumption."

In addition to the energy savings, students are taught about Cherryland's residential energy optimization program. Once the lighting upgrades are complete, students are encouraged to help their parents fill out a rebate form so they may receive a credit on their Cherryland electric bill.



Students report their results and earn achievements within the Michigan Green Schools program—a statewide initiative meant to encourage students to learn about preserving natural resources, protecting the environment, and promoting energy efficiency and savings. Based on their green initiatives, the school receives points that earn the school growing levels of environmental stewardship.

To date, the students at Westwoods have achieved the level of "Emerald School" in the program. Their next goal is to replace the current bulbs in the school with LEDs and earn the level of "Evergreen School." Kris Moffett, president of Michigan Green Schools, applauded Westwood's initiative. "It is really great to see Westwoods move to LEDs," said Moffett. "It isn't widely known, but energy costs are the second biggest part of most school budgets."

All in all, Westwoods' LED Lighting program is a success. The school now has 28 families participating and raised \$4,135. Westwood Elementary School met the challenge of its growing pains. They developed a fun, educational program that satisfies the needs of its students, their families, and their budget. ■

# The Wheels On The Bus

By Jack O'Malley

Admit 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,” 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.” ■



Jack O'Malley

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](http://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](http://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.



July/Aug Photo



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



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