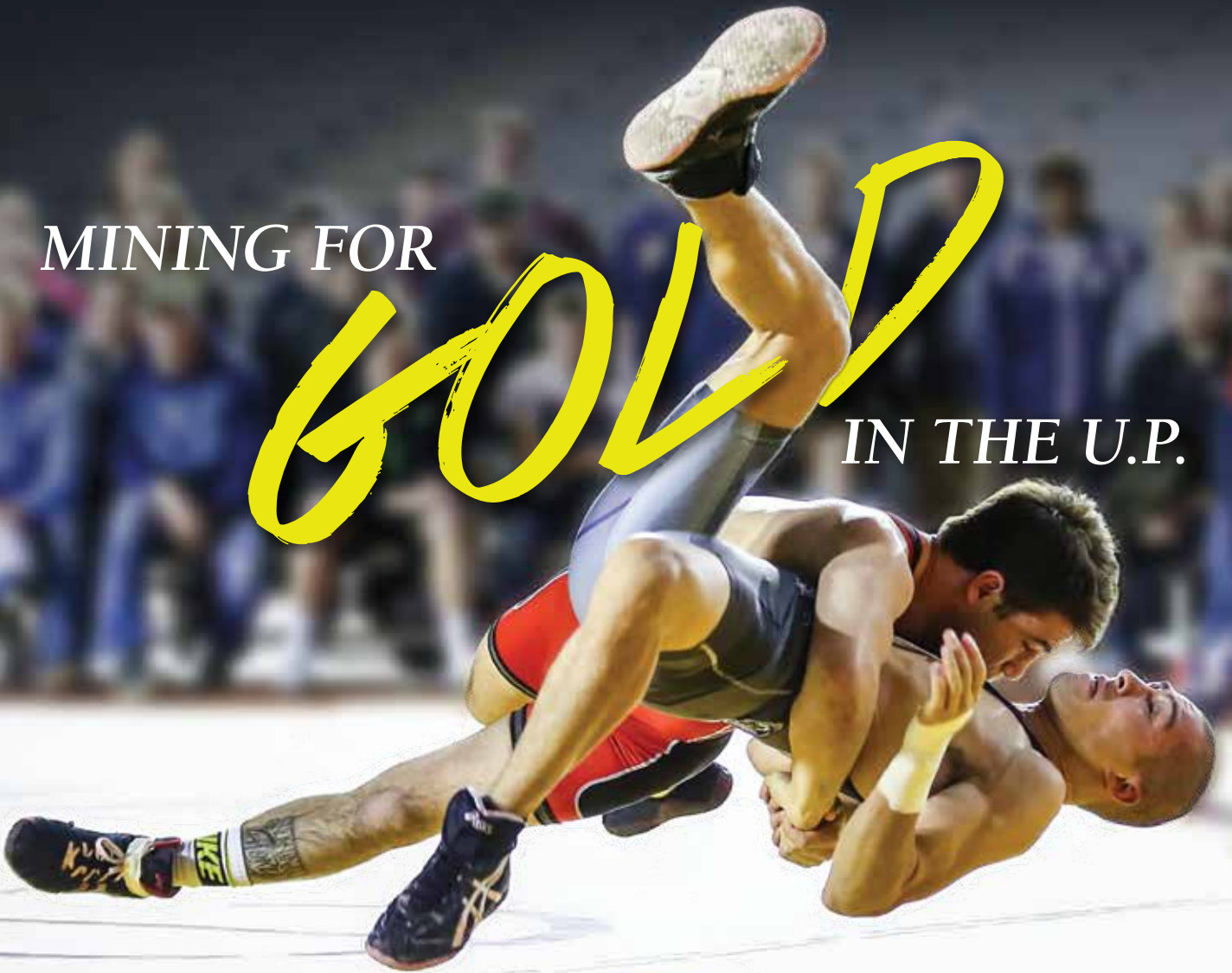


MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

MINING FOR

GOLD

IN THE U.P.



Plus!

Cooperatives Drive Democracy

Meet Lineman Gil Martinez

Guiding Strangers In A Strange Land

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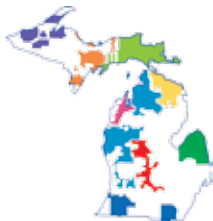
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Please notify your electric cooperative.
See page 4 for contact information.

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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"

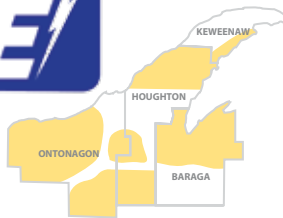
"Corky's in Allegan"

"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.



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Fiscal year-end: Dec. 31

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Ontonagon County REA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Cooperatives Drive Democracy



Debbie Miles
General Manager

It has often been said that those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. It is easy to take our right to vote for granted, maybe because there are so many opportunities to exercise that right. There are national, state and local elections for political offices. Then, there are elections for social or other civic organizations. If you own stock, you are asked to vote in those elections. So it is understandable to see how "election fatigue" can take hold.

As we head into the final stage of what has been a divisive national election, it is a good time to remember that elections don't have to be about name calling and bitterness. Co-ops can *and do* play a role in cultivating a civil society where people can practice democracy at the hyper-local level. As a member of the Ontonagon Rural Electrification Association, you have the right to run for the board of directors. Even if you choose not to have that level of participation, you should feel empowered to reach out to current board members and candidates.

The beauty of belonging to a co-op is every member has a voice, but you must use that voice if you want to be heard on the issues that matter to you. In their document, "A Blueprint for a Cooperative Decade," the International Cooperative Alliance, a global organization made up of co-ops from more than 100 countries, identified member participation as one of the five key ingredients for a co-op to be successful.

Voting and being actively involved in the affairs of the co-op are key ways in which members can participate. Take the time to get to know the candidates running for the Ontonagon REA Board. Seek out ways that you can help spread the word about the good work your co-op is doing.

The cooperative business model is a great one; it fosters engagement and creates strong communities. More than 100 years ago, President Theodore Roosevelt recognized this value when he said, "The Cooperative is the best plan of organization. Under this plan, every business is governed by a board; every person has one vote and only one vote. Everyone gets profits based on their use of the co-op. It develops individual responsibility and has a moral as well as a financial value."

Those words are truer today than ever before. Let your voice be heard, and take the time to participate in all the elections. ■

Access To Rules & Rates

Please be advised that the following information is available to Ontonagon County REA 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 Ontonagon County REA at 906-884-4151.

Meet Ontonagon County REA Lineman Gil Martinez

Ontonagon REA is staffed by people who live and work in your community. This dedicated team of employees works for you, the members, striving to provide you with reliable and cost-effective power every day. We recently sat down with lineman Gil Martinez to learn more about him and what his job entails.

Q: Please tell us about your background.

A: I was born in Los Angeles and moved to L'Anse when I was three years old. After high school, I went into the U.S. Marines for four years as an Aviation Technician. After being honorably discharged, I went to NMU and graduated with a degree in aviation maintenance. I wanted to stay in the area, but there weren't any jobs in my field. Instead, I took a job as a corrections officer at the County Jail where I worked for three years.

Q: How did you end up working at Ontonagon County REA?

A: In 2000, a lineman opening came up at REA. I applied for the job and was hired. Like everyone else, I went through the apprentice program, working and learning on the job.

Q: What is the best part of your job?

A: Working outside and working somewhere different all the time. I could never see myself working inside in an office.

Q: How do you deal with the stress of extended storm-related outages?

A: When there is a big storm, I just kind of go into overdrive. It's sort of an adrenaline rush and that keeps me going until I get the job done.

Q: Any memorable experiences?

A: My line partner and I were out in Skanee and had been working to restore power after a bad storm. The whole area was out, so no one was very happy. That's when Dale Hollon, a local REA customer, chased us down in his truck to give us a lunch he had cooked for us—hamburgers, chips and pop. We couldn't believe that he had brought us this stuff.



Q: What about hobbies? What do you like to do when you're not working?

A: Like most Yoopers, I like hunting and fishing, especially pheasant hunting in South Dakota with my springer spaniel. I also enjoy bowling at the Whirl-I-Gig.

This concluded our questions for Martinez, but we also had one for his boss, Ontonagon's line supervisor, Bill Tucker.

Q: Please tell us about Gil.

A: Gilbert is a very hard worker. He processes [information] very quickly and thinks ahead. For the last several months he has been working all over the system as a "swingman." He serves on the Township Board of Review and is an avid Detroit Lions fan (I guess he likes punishment!). ■



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 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. ■



Optimize Your Home With A Free Energy Audit

Is your home properly sealed, insulated and ventilated? If you've noticed any issues such as mold, mildew, ice dams, drafts, or overall discomfort, your home may require improvements to resolve energy inefficiencies. To better understand and manage your home's energy use and cost, take advantage of the Energy Optimization program's free energy audit!

The Home Energy Optimizer is a brief online survey that analyzes your home's energy use. You will be required to enter some specific information, such as the year your home was built, the type of heating and cooling systems in your home, and when various systems and appliances were purchased and installed.

Once you've completed the survey, you will receive a personalized, comprehensive report, as well as cost-saving tips and recommendations to help

reduce energy waste throughout your household. Additionally, all participants will receive a free energy-saving kit, which includes light bulbs and other devices to help save energy and water!

How to complete your home energy audit:

- Visit the Energy Optimization website at michigan-energy.org.
- Select your electric utility from the drop-down menu at the top of the page.
- From the left menu bar, select "Online Home Audit."
- Click "Get Started Now!" and complete the questionnaire.

Upon completion of the Home Energy Optimizer survey, your free energy-saving kit will be mailed to the address you indicate. Have questions about the free home energy audit or energy-saving kit? Call us at 877-296-4319. ■



Energy savings at your fingertips

Team up with the Energy Optimization program to improve the comfort, durability, and energy efficiency of your home! Complete our Online Home Audit to assess your home's energy performance, and receive a comprehensive report featuring cost-saving tips and opportunities.

ENERGY TIP: Receive a **FREE** energy-saving kit when you complete your Online Home Audit!

ONLINE: michigan-energy.org

PHONE: 877.296.4319

Better together



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

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 daughter, Zoe, throwing in the soccer ball during a game. *Photo by Jill Hardy*



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



Who knew you could surf in Michigan in November? *Photo by Dawn Mudri*



Photo Fun

Ontonagon REA members whose photos we print in *Michigan Country Lines* will be entered in a drawing. One lucky member will win a credit up to \$200 on their December, 2016, energy bill!

Upcoming topics and deadlines are: **Country Roads**, due **Sept. 25**—Nov./ Dec. issue and **Wild Weather** due **Nov. 15**—January issue.

To submit photos, and for details and instructions, go to <http://bit.ly/countrylines>

We look forward to seeing your best photos!

DESSERTS

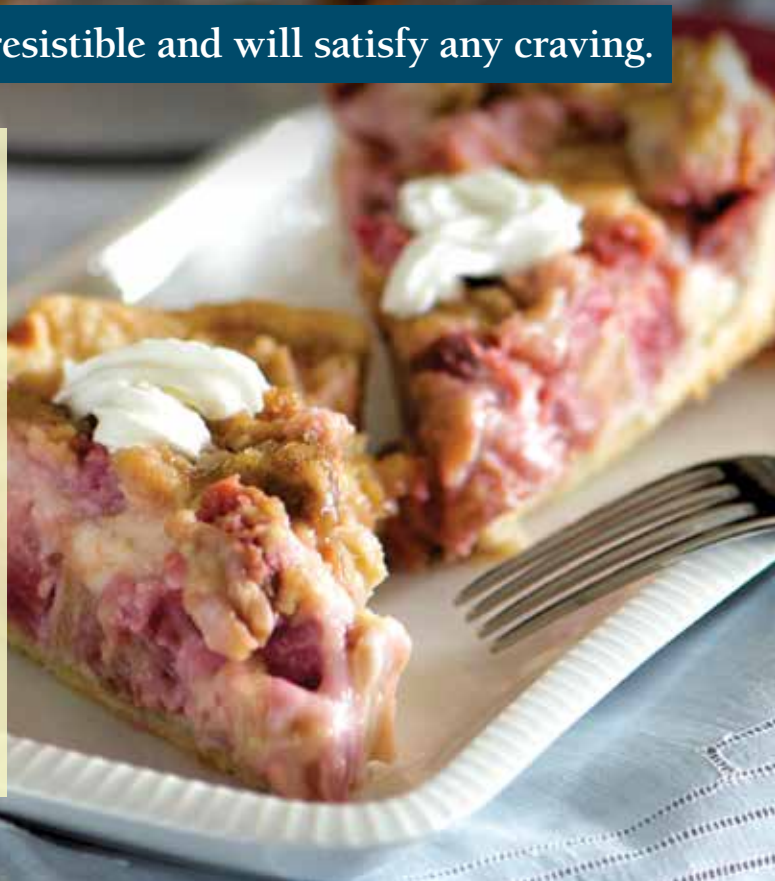
These decadent dessert recipes are irresistible and will satisfy any craving.

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 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



THE LAKE & COUNTRY TOUR

GUIDING STRANGERS IN A STRANGE LAND

By Yvonne Whitman

Baraga County is home to many natural, historical, and cultural attractions, but until recently many have remained some of the best-kept secrets known only to locals. This past June, however, 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 route. The route also passes by the Ojibwa ceremonial grounds at Pequaming, rolls through the more than 100-year-old Finnish settlement of Aura, goes past the road leading to Mt. Arvon—Michigan's highest natural point—and winds by three sets of waterfalls. In total, 18 natural and historical destinations can be found along the tour's route. According to Linnea Prost, a local resident and avid cycling enthusiast, "I really enjoy it. The sections along the lake are especially beautiful scenery."

The trail is the result of a collective group effort of a handful of local citizens, representatives from the



Tracey Barrett, Director of Baraga County Convention & Visitors Bureau; Robert LaFave, L'Anse Village Manager; and Baraga County Chamber of Commerce President Debbie Stouffer, display a map detailing the scenic route.

Baraga County Chamber of Commerce (BCCC), Road Commission, Baraga County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Village of L'Anse, who first gathered two years ago to articulate a vision and come up



Local biking enthusiasts on the Lake & Country Tour (L to R) Linnea Prost, James (Soupbone) Johnson and Grant Fenner.

Photo compliments of Karen Kautto.

with a plan. The group referenced a 2011 State of Michigan study, which indicated that a cycling, hiking and camping visitor spends twice as much as an average visitor. This economic component was a large part of the impetus for the group to create the route and vie for these potential visitor dollars. The grassroots group quickly raised \$9,000 from local township and village governments, which they used to create and install 44 road signs along the tour's route and two billboards on U.S. 41 designed to help cause drivers to leave the highway and detour into L'Anse to explore this new trail. 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."

An example of this is certainly set by 79-year-old local resident and cycling enthusiast James 'Soup Bone' Johnson who every Sunday hosts a group cycling event known as 'Cycling with Soup.' Once a group member reaches the 1000-mile mark, 'Soup Bone' presents them with a t-shirt to commemorate the occasion.

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 weather-proof box located on a large wooden trail sign at L'Anse Waterfront Park. For more information on the Lake & Country Tour contact the Visitors Bureau at 906-524-7444. ■

"COMING TOGETHER IS A **BEGINNING;**

KEEPING TOGETHER IS PROGRESS;

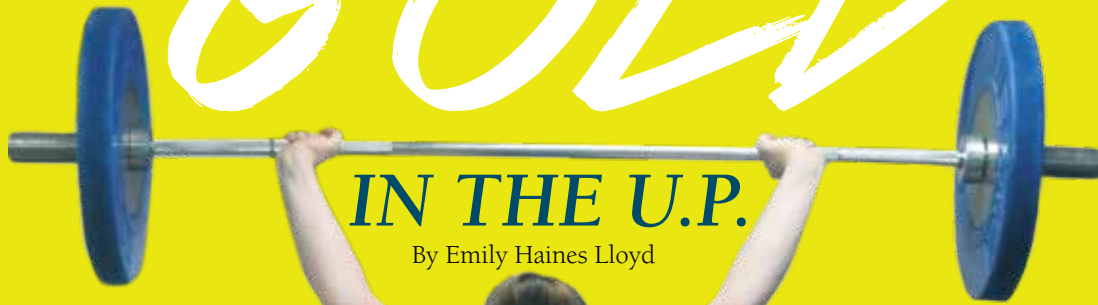
WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS." — HENRY FORD

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
MARQUETTE. SPENDING
TIME OUTDOORS IS
REALLY INSPIRING."*

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

Haley O'Connell,
NMU student-athlete

Photos—Courtesy of Northern Michigan University

On 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.

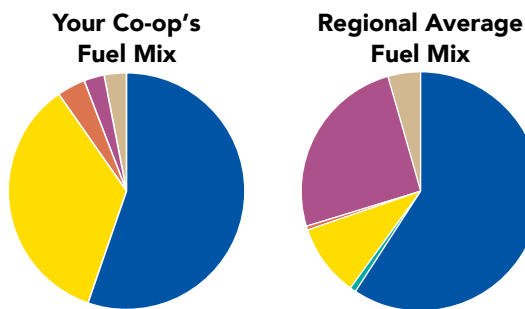
Fuel Mix Report

The fuel mix characteristics of Ontonagon REA as required by Public Act 141 of 2000 for the 12-month period ended 6/30/15.

COMPARISON OF FUEL SOURCES USED

Regional average fuel mix used		
Your co-op's fuel mix		
FUEL SOURCE		
Coal	47.0%	55.0%
Oil	0.0%	0.6%
Gas	37.1%	12.8%
Hydroelectric	4.7%	0.7%
Nuclear	2.7%	25.7%
Renewable Fuels	8.5%	5.2%
Biofuel	0.0%	0.7%
Biomass	0.0%	0.5%
Solar	0.0%	0.1%
Solid Waste Incineration	0.1%	0.0%
Wind	6.6%	3.4%
Wood	1.8%	0.5%

NOTE: Biomass above excludes wood; solid waste incineration includes landfill gas.



EMISSIONS AND WASTE COMPARISON

TYPE OF EMISSION/WASTE	lbs/MWh	
	Your Co-op	Regional Average*
Sulfur Dioxide	0.8	7.6
Carbon Dioxide	1,454	2,170
Oxides of Nitrogen	0.6	2.0
High-level Nuclear Waste	0	0.0083

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

Figures for Ontonagon County REA are based on those of its principle power suppliers, Wisconsin Public Service and WE Energies.

Public Act 295: The Clean Renewable and Efficient Energy Act

2015 Annual Energy Optimization Report, Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association, MPSC Case Number U-17784

Ontonagon County REA 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 www.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 Ontonagon County REA collected \$65,997 through the Energy Optimization Surcharge and spent \$42,246 resulting in an over-collection of \$23,751 which will be applied towards the 2015 EO Program delivery expenses and goal achievement. Ontonagon County REA achieved 18 MWh of energy savings in 2015. For every dollar spent on energy efficiency programs, customers will save \$3.00 in avoided energy costs. The full report can be obtained at michigan-energy.org or <http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile>

Notice to Members of Ontonagon County REA

Case No. U-16595, 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, Ontonagon County REA submits an annual report to the MPSC regarding its Renewable Energy Plan. In 2015, Ontonagon County REA acquired a total of 3,614 renewable energy credits and 157 incentive credits. Ontonagon County REA will continue to acquire 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 ontonagon.coop or by request at any of the cooperative's offices.

Bay Cliff Health Camp, A Place Apart

By Yvonne Whitman

Nestled 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).

Before the camp began, these health professionals 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 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, camp leaders placed new 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



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

lunch, 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 is an electric cooperative member. ■

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



«« 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.



July/Aug Photo



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**Ontonagon County Rural
Electrification Association**

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



A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
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