

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

SANCTUARY RANCH

TRADITIONS, FAMILY AND FRIENDSHIP



Shannon Taylor Joins
The Cooperative

Lured To Being Santa

Nahma Veteran Enlists
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Michigan's Electric Cooperatives
countrylines.com

November/December 2017
Vol. 37, No. 10

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Publisher
**Michigan Electric
Cooperative Association**

Michigan Country Lines, USPS-591-710, is published monthly, except August and December, with periodicals postage paid at Lansing, Mich., and additional offices. It is the official publication of the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933.

Subscriptions are authorized for members of Alger Delta, Cherryland, Great Lakes, HomeWorks Tri-County, Midwest Energy, Ontonagon, Presque Isle, and Thumb electric cooperatives by their boards of directors.

POSTMASTER: SEND ALL UAA TO CFS.

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

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Change of Address:

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I Remember...

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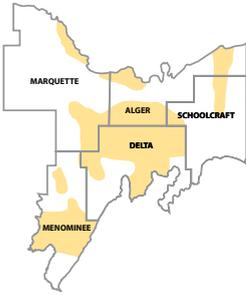
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Statement of Ownership, Management And Circulation

(Required by U.S.C. 3685) 1. Publication Title: Michigan Country Lines. 2. Publication No.: 591-710. 3. Filing date: 10/1/17. 4. Issue frequency: monthly, except August and December. 5. No. of issues published annually: 10. 6. Complete mailing address of known office of publication: Michigan Electric Cooperative Association, 201 Townsend St., Ste. 900, Lansing, MI 48933. 7. Complete mailing address of headquarters or general business office of publisher: 201 Townsend St., Ste. 900, Lansing, MI 48933. 8. Full names and complete mailing address of publisher, editors, and executive editor: Craig Borr, Christine Dorr, Casey Clark, 201 Townsend St., Ste. 900, Lansing, MI 48933. 9. Owner: Michigan Electric Cooperative Assoc., 201 Townsend St., Ste. 900, Lansing, MI 48933. 10. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities: None. 11. Tax status: Has not been changed. 12. Issue date for circulation data below: Sept. 2017. 13. Extent and nature of circulation:

	Avg # of copies each issue during preceding 12 mo.	Actual # of copies of single issues published nearest to filing date
A) Total No. of copies.....	223,380	242,500
B) Paid and requested circulation.....	222,980	242,500
C) Total paid and requested circulation.....	222,980	242,100
D) 1) Free distribution by mail	436	400
2) Free distribution outside mail	2,420	920
E) Total free distribution	2,856	1,320
F) Total distribution	225,836	243,420
G) Copies not distributed	0	0
H) Total.....	225,836	243,420
I) Percent paid and/or requested circ.....	98.7%	99.7%

16. Publication of statement of ownership: November 2017
17. Signature and title of editor: Christine Dorr, Editor



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algerdelta.com

Small But Mighty:

Alger Delta Increases Renewable Energy Supply



Tom Harrell
Chief Executive Officer

I'm proud of Alger Delta. I'm proud of our members, our employees, what we do, where we are and a whole lot more. We have a great story, too. In a nutshell, Alger Delta serves where others refuse to serve. Sometimes, when I'm networking with peers from much larger utilities, I somewhat jokingly refer to us as "small but mighty Alger Delta." While that sometimes gets a chuckle, deep down inside, I mean it.

We provide electric service to about 10,000 members in six counties in Michigan's central Upper Peninsula. That makes Alger Delta the eighth largest electric cooperative in Michigan. There are nine. Not only that, our members use about half the national average of electric consumption. In the true Yooper spirit, we do a lot with what we have, and by one measure we are improving dramatically—and that is in renewable energy.

Right now, Alger Delta gets about 13 percent of its energy from renewable resources. By 2021 that number will rise to 22 percent or higher, according to Mike Peters, CEO of WPPI Energy—Alger Delta's power supplier.

WPPI Energy aggregates the power supply needs of 51 electric utilities—which includes seven in the U.P. into one large power supply portfolio. Since wind and solar are becoming more prolific and their costs are declining, it makes economic and environmental sense to add more renewables to the mix. WPPI Energy recently added 100 megawatts of solar generation and, in August 2017, it announced plans to add 132 megawatts of wind generation to our power supply.

According to Mike O'Sullivan of NextEra Energy, Inc.—which owns and operates more renewable generation resources than any other company in the U.S.—wind and solar are no longer niche generation resources, and they are not emerging technologies. Rather, they have matured into economical generation resources that are here to stay in the energy marketplace.

The addition of these resources is cost effective and results in 40 percent of our power supply being free of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This is part of Alger Delta's small but mighty contribution to greener energy and a brighter future. ■

Meet Alger Delta's Newest Employee



Meet Shannon Taylor, Alger Delta Cooperative's newest employee. Shannon, a longtime Delta County native, began working as the organization's administrative assistant this past September.

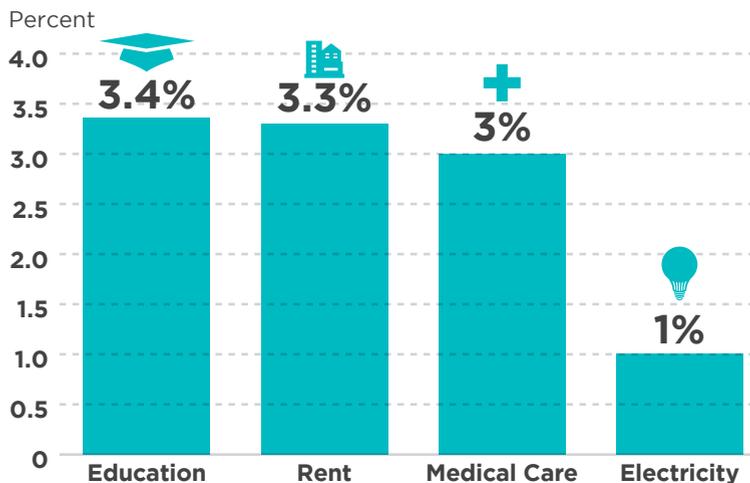
Taylor joins the Alger Delta family following an 18-year career with the Hannahville Indian Community. Her job duties at the cooperative include accounts payable, human resources, marketing and communications. When asked what she has enjoyed the most in her first few weeks at the cooperative, Taylor responded, "I've enjoyed the capacity to experience a wide variety of job duties and challenges. Coming from a marketing background, the ability to expand my job duties into functions like accounts payable and human resources has been a very welcome change."

Taylor resides in Gladstone with her two children Abby (17) and Jack (9). Outside of the cooperative, she enjoys watching sports and volunteering for local events and organizations. ■

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises at a slower pace than many of your typical expenses. Compare the average price increase of these expenses each year over the last five years, and the value of electricity shines.

Average Annual Price Increase 2011-2016



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index



Cooperative offices will be closed for the holidays on the following dates:

Thanksgiving: Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23-24

Christmas: Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 25-26

New Year's Day: Monday, Jan. 1, 2018

From our families to yours, have a happy and blessed holiday season!

Home Heating Assistance Programs • 2017–2018 Season

Program: Winter Protection Plan

Contact: Your Local Utility Company

# in Household	150% Poverty Guide Maximum Income
1	\$18,090
2	24,360
3	30,630
4	36,900
5	43,170
6	49,440
7	55,710
8	61,980

Add \$6,270 for each additional member.

Note: All customers 65+ are eligible regardless of income. Customers are responsible for all electricity and natural gas used. At the end of the protection period, participants must make arrangements with their utility company to pay off any money owed before the next heating season.

The **Winter Protection Plan (WPP)** protects enrolled seniors and low-income customers from service shut-offs and high utility bill payments during the winter months (Nov. 1–March 31). If you are eligible, your utility service will remain on (or restored with the WPP) from Nov. 1 through March 31, if you:

- pay at least 7% of your estimated annual bill each month, and
- make equal monthly payments between the date you apply and the start of the next heating season on any past due bills.

When the protection period ends (March 31), you must begin to pay the full monthly bill, plus part of the amount you owe from the winter months when you did not pay the full bill.

Participation does not relieve customers from the responsibility of paying for electricity and natural gas usage, but does prevent shut-off during winter months. You qualify for the plan if you meet at least one of the following requirements:

- are age 65 or older,
- receive Department of Health and Human Services cash assistance, including SSI,
- receive Food Assistance,
- receive Medicaid, or
- household income is at or below the 150% of poverty level shown in the Income Guidelines chart at left.

Senior citizen customers (65 or older) who participate in the WPP are not required to make specific payments to ensure that their service will not be shut off between Nov. 1 and March 31. Service for seniors can be restored without any payments.

Program: Home Heating Credit

Contact: Mich. Dept. of Treasury

# Exemp.	Max. Income	# Exemp.	Max. Income
0–1	\$13,271	4	\$27,071
2	17,871	5	31,671
3	22,471	6	36,271

Add \$4,600 for each exemption over 6.

You can apply for a **Home Heating Credit** for the **2017** tax year if you meet the income guidelines listed at left or you qualify based on alternate guidelines including household income, exemptions, and heating costs. Additional exemptions are available for seniors, disabled claimants, or claimants with 5% or more of their income from unemployment compensation.

If you qualify, you may receive assistance to help pay for your winter heating bills. **Forms are available mid- to late-January wherever tax forms are provided or from the Michigan Dept. of Treasury (517-636-4486, or michigan.gov/treasury).** The Home Heating Credit claim form must be filed with the Michigan Dept. of Treasury **no later than Sept. 30 each year.**

Program: Earned Income Credit

Contact: U.S. Treasury Dept.,
Internal Revenue Service
irs.gov/EITC
Michigan Dept. of Treasury
michigan.gov/treasury

The **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** is a refundable federal income tax credit for low-income, working individuals and families who meet certain requirements and file a tax return. Those who qualify will owe less in taxes and may get a refund. Even a person who does not generally owe income tax may qualify for the EITC, but must file a tax return to do so. If married, you must file jointly to qualify. File Form 1040 or 1040A and attach the EITC.

You may claim a **Michigan earned income tax credit** for tax year **2017** equal to a percentage of the federal earned income tax credit for which you are eligible. Visit the website or see the MI 2016 tax booklet for details.

Program: Crisis Assistance Program

Contact: Local Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) michigan.gov/mdhhs

State Emergency Relief Program (SER): michigan.gov/mdhhs You do not have to be a DHHS client to apply for help with a past due bill, shutoff notice, or the need for deliverable fuel through the SER. This program, available Nov. 1–May 31, provides most of its utility assistance during this crisis season. However, limited assistance is available outside the crisis season. If you receive a DHHS cash grant, you may vendor part of it towards heat and electric bills. Contact your local DHHS or call the Home Heating Hotline, 855-275-6424.

Program: Low-Income Home Weatherization

Contact: Local Community Action Agency

You may be able to receive help with weatherizing your home to reduce energy use if you meet low-income eligibility guidelines (200% of poverty guidelines) and funding is available. **Weatherization** may include caulking, weatherstripping, and insulation. Contact your local Community Action Agency for details. Visit mcaaa.org to find one in your area.

Program: United Way

Contact: Call 2-1-1 or UWmich.org/2-1-1

2-1-1 is a free phone service operating 24 hours daily to provide information about help that may be available in a particular area with utilities and other needs. Learn more at UWmich.org/2-1-1.

Program: Medical Emergency Protection

Contact: Local Utility Company

You are protected from service shut-off for nonpayment of your natural gas and/or electric bill for up to 21 days, possibly extending to 63 days, if you have a proven **medical emergency**. You must provide written proof from a doctor, public health or social services official that a medical emergency exists. Contact your gas or electric utility for details.

Program: Shut-off Protection for Military Active Duty

Contact: Local Utility Company

If you or your spouse has been called into **active military duty**, you may apply for shut-off protection from your electric or natural gas service for up to 90 days. You may request extensions. You must still pay, but contact your utility company and they will help you set up a payment plan.

Program: Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Emergency Grant Program

Contact: MI Veterans Trust Fund

The Trust Fund provides temporary assistance to veterans and their families facing a financial emergency or hardship including the need for energy assistance.

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund at 517-284-5299 or michiganveterans.com

Program: MI Energy Assistance Program

Contact: Utility or 2-1-1 in late November

Agency assistance through Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP), includes services that will enable participants to become self-sufficient, including assisting participants in paying their energy bills on time, budgeting for and contributing to their ability to provide for energy expenses, and being energy efficient. Shut-off protection is provided Nov. 1–April 15 for all residential customers.

Switch Things Up With Stylish, Efficient Lighting For Your Home

By Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen

Saving energy starts with choosing the correct bulb. Efficiency standards for incandescent bulbs between 40 and 100 watts, which came into effect in 2012, led to the halogen bulb (also known as energy-efficient incandescent). These bulbs are at least 25 percent more efficient than the old incandescents. The other two common types of household bulbs, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and light-emitting diodes (LEDs), are even more efficient.

Energystar.gov estimates that you can save \$75 a year by replacing the five most-used incandescent bulbs or light fixtures with ENERGY STAR® certified LED or CFL lighting. Of the three types, LEDs tend to save more money over the long run and LED prices have decreased in recent years. A downside of CFLs is that they contain a small amount of toxic mercury that can be released into your home if one breaks.

When you're considering which type of bulb to buy, consider both watts and lumens. Watts indicate how much energy (and therefore, money) is used to produce light. Lumens indicate how much light the bulb produces. A handy comparison is that an 800-lumen bulb is about equal to the amount of light from a traditional 60-watt incandescent bulb. Lumennow.org offers an excellent guide to understanding bulbs.

Bulbs also give off different colors of light, known as color temperature. If a bulb burns out—or in the case

of an LED, as it dims over time—it can be challenging to find a replacement that matches other lights in the room. If the contrast bothers you, you may want to purchase and install bulbs of the same brand and wattage for the entire room or area at the same time.

Installing dimmers instead of on/off light switches is a good way to save energy while giving you greater control of the amount of light in the room. Not all bulbs are dimmable, so be sure to check the label on the bulb. It's worth considering whether you have the right number and the right location for light switches. We recommend hiring a licensed electrician if you decide to install new lighting and switches.

The Lighting Research Center website (<http://www.lrc.rpi.edu/>) provides a resource page with many sample lighting layouts for every room in the home, which you can find by entering the phrase "lighting patterns for homes" in their website's search engine. Home décor sites also give excellent lighting explanations, plans and ideas.

It's always a good idea to check with your local electric co-op as they may offer energy audits or lighting product rebates.

With a little planning, you can have a well-lit, energy efficient home you'll enjoy for years to come! ■



A Tribute To Jim Hough



1932-2017

An exceptional journalist, Jim Hough was the "people's columnist" at the *Lansing State Journal* for 25 years. After retiring from the newspaper, he wrote a regular column in *Michigan Country Lines* for over two decades. His column, *Right at Home*, received rave reviews and was a favorite among our readers. With his passing in October, we pay tribute to him and his contributions to *Michigan Country Lines* magazine.

Five Ways To Save Energy At Your Holiday Party

It's the most wonderful time of the year—but also one of the most expensive. Control your energy use with these simple tips. You'll keep costs down while providing your guests with a comfortable, lovely atmosphere!

1. Switch to LED holiday lights. LED lights use up to 90 percent less electricity and last up to 10 times longer than traditional string lights. Save even more energy by putting your lights on a timer.
2. Lower your thermostat an hour before guests arrive. Additional people in your home mean extra warmth at no cost to you! Keep guests comfortable by turning the thermostat down a few degrees before your gathering begins.
3. Turn off room lights when your tree is lit. Allow guests to focus on your spectacular tree by turning off as many lights as possible. The glow of the tree lights should be bright enough to help your guests navigate around the room.
4. Bake several dishes at the same time. Make the most of the energy that goes into heating your oven by cooking multiple dishes at once. Also, preheat your oven as late in the cooking process as possible to avoid wasting energy.



5. Use candles to create an inviting glow. Save electricity and produce an enchanting ambience in your home with candlelight. Use scented candles for an extra touch of holiday cheer!

For more energy saving tips or information about incentives available from our Energy Optimization program, call 877-296-4319 or visit michigan-energy.org. ■

Save energy while entertaining!

Hosting a holiday gathering? Remember these tips to keep energy costs down and spirits up:

- Switch to LED holiday lights
- Lower the thermostat before guests arrive
- Turn off room lights when the tree is lit
- Bake several dishes at a time
- Use candles for an inviting glow

ONLINE: michigan-energy.org PHONE: 877.296.4319



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

Happier
Holidays

Back To School



Returning to education or recreation?—Regina Young



"Enjoying a trip to Moomer's after the first day of school!"
—By Stefanie Tschirhart-Baldwin



Back to school with friends!—Monica Field



Heading to the bus stop.—Mary Johnson

Share Your Captured Moments!

Alger Delta invites members to share their amazing photos. Selected photos will be published in *Michigan Country Lines*. Our upcoming topic and deadline is: **Winter Sports** due **Nov. 20** for the February 2018 issue.

To submit photos go to <http://bit.ly/countrylines>

We look forward to seeing your best photos!

PLEASING PIES

Sweet and savory pie recipes you will love and want to share.



Photos—Robert Bruce Photography

Fresh Pear Pie

Jan Glass, Great Lakes Energy

- 5 cups fresh peeled and cored pear slices
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest
- 3 tablespoons butter, cut into bits
- 1 unbaked double pie crust, store bought or homemade

Preheat oven to 450 F. Toss sliced pears in lemon juice and set aside. Mix flour, sugar, spices and lemon zest. Add flour mixture to the pear slices. Pour the pear mixture into the unbaked bottom pie crust pressed firmly into a pie pan and dot the top of the mixture with butter. Add the top crust and cut slits for steam. Bake for 10 minutes at 450 F, then turn down oven temp to 350 F and bake for an additional 30 minutes. This pie is wonderful served with a nice vanilla bean ice cream.

▶ Watch a video of this recipe at <https://goo.gl/iGBPTD>

Savory Onion Pie

Kris Hazeres, Alger Delta

- 3 cups thinly sliced Vidalia or other sweet onions
- 1 cup crushed Ritz crackers
- 1/4 cup melted margarine or butter
- 2 tablespoons margarine or butter
- 3/4 cup milk
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- dash of pepper
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- paprika, optional



Preheat oven to 350 F. Sauté onions in butter until tender but not brown. In a bowl, combine crackers and melted margarine; press into an 8" pie plate. Place onions in crust. Combine remaining margarine, milk, eggs, salt and pepper. Pour gently over onions. Top with cheese (add extra if desired). Sprinkle with paprika if desired. Bake for 30 minutes. Refrigerate any leftovers.

Sour Cream Raspberry Pie

Connie Pietila, Ontonagon County REA

- ¾ cup sugar
- ¼ cup flour
- 1 cup (8-ounce) carton sour cream
- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ⅛ teaspoon salt
- 4 cups fresh raspberries
- 9-inch unbaked pie crust

Crumb Topping:

- ⅓ cup sugar
- ⅓ cup brown sugar
- ⅔ cup flour
- ¼ teaspoon cinnamon
- 3–4 tablespoons butter



Preheat oven to 350 F. Mix together sugar and flour in a large bowl. In a small bowl, mix sour cream, beaten egg, vanilla and salt. Add to sugar mixture and stir well. Fold raspberries in gently. Place pie crust in a deep pie dish. Place

raspberry pie mixture in crust. Bake for 30 minutes. For crumb topping, stir together sugars, flour and cinnamon. Cut in butter until crumbly. Sprinkle over hot pie and bake another 35 minutes or until edges are golden. Let cool at least 2 hours before slicing.

Featured Guest Chef

Chef Jim Wood of Sanctuary Ranch knows his way around venison. So, it's no wonder that his mouthwatering Venison Medallions with Mushroom Marsala Cream Sauce is a favorite at the lodge. Give it a try! It might just become your new venison go-to recipe as well.



Venison Medallions

- ½ pound venison loin, cut into ½ inch thick medallions, coated in flour and salted
- Butter, enough to sauté
- ½ cup mushrooms
- ½ cup Marsala wine
- ¼ cup beef stock
- ½ cup cream
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- Salt to taste

In a large skillet over medium-high heat, add butter followed by venison medallions. Sauté for 1 minute. Add mushrooms, and sauté 1 minute, then flip medallions. Add Marsala and reduce 5 seconds. Add beef stock and reduce 5 seconds. Add cream and reduce until meat begins to bleed. Next, add Dijon, salt to taste and mix thoroughly. Arrange medallions on a plate and pour sauce over the top.

Read the full story about Sanctuary Ranch on page 14, and find this recipe and others at micoopkitchen.com.



Submit your favorite recipe for a chance to win a \$50 bill credit and have your recipe featured in *Country Lines*:

“Flatbreads and Pizzas” due December 1

“Potatoes” due January 1

“Indulgent Desserts” due February 1

Go to micoopkitchen.com for more information and to register.



Santa's soothing story telling talents seems to have put one of his admirers to sleep.



Lured To BEING SANTA

By Yvonne Whitman

Most days of the year you will find Mark Kettner of Iron River, Michigan, sporting a 'Yooperland' baseball hat and enjoying a day of fishing on Ottawa Lake. Come mid-November, however, he exchanges it for a very different hat—a readily identifiable fur-trimmed, red velvet hat that along with a matching suit turns him into the beloved persona of Santa Claus. Kettner and his hat and suit then make their way to the Chicago area where he professionally poses for seasonal holiday photos that are usually used as family holiday greeting cards.

Being Santa requires more than just putting on the suit. Theatrical abilities and acting skills are a must, and Kettner has more than 45 years of experience in this area. He first began his theatrical career in college and later worked in professional productions in and around the Chicago area in venues such as the Woodstock Opera House. While he played many different roles, Mark says, "I had always been interested in being a Santa, but the thought of a mall Santa did not appeal to me."

In 2012, his daughter-in-law, a professional photographer who had just started up Dancing in the Rain Photography in Spring Grove, Illinois, gave him the opportunity to make his dream a reality. She launched a holiday photo card promotion, found herself in need of a Santa and asked Mark if he would be interested. "This was a perfect opportunity for me because it was the way I wanted to be Santa," he recalls, "I immediately said yes."

The first year Kettner played Santa he needed to use a costume shop beard. "It was too close to the season and I did not have time to grow my own. I bought and used a fake beard and wig and I hated it. From then on I decided that I would grow my own." Kettner now begins growing his "Santa beard" on July 1 and shaves it off on January 1.

Each November Kettner travels to the Chicago area to do approximately 2,500 photos. The photo sessions are very popular and are booked well in advance, usually selling out by Labor Day. When

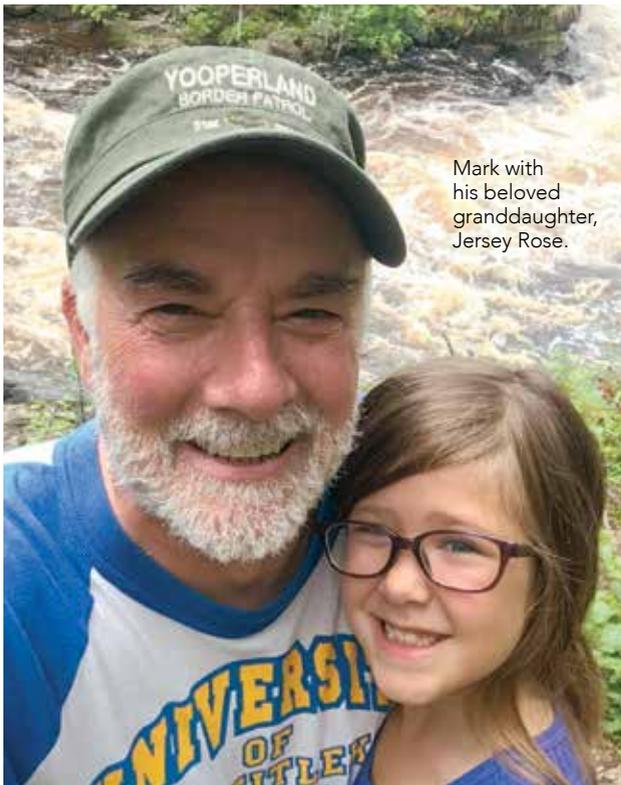
asked if either of them thought it would be this successful he modestly replies, "No. We hoped it would but this has eclipsed our expectations." More importantly for him is the satisfaction he gets from acting as one of the world's most beloved personas. "I love doing what I do. It's funny, it's sad, it's poignant, its human interaction. You know, to see the wonder in the kid's eyes when they really believe that you are Santa Claus. It really is incredible."

And Mark's natural Santa qualities have often been noticed by others. According to long-time friend Kathy Meyer, "Mark is a talented actor and an all-around super nice, kind-hearted guy. He is a perfect Santa and also a great friend."

And when it's time to put the suit away until next year, Kettner makes the trek back to the serenity of his beloved U.P. "I love the U.P.—especially the Walleye fishing," he says with a twinkle in his eye. ■

"Santa Claus is anyone who loves another and seeks to make them happy."

—Edwin Osgood Grover



Mark with his beloved granddaughter, Jersey Rose.



Santa Claus Cookies

- 1 cup unsalted butter
- 1½ cups sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar
- ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon salt

Frosting:

- ¾ cup unsalted butter, softened
- 6 tablespoons 2% milk
- 2¼ teaspoons vanilla extract
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 6¾ cups confectioners sugar
- Optional decorations: red colored sugar, miniature semisweet chocolate chips and Red Hots

Preheat oven to 375 F. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs and vanilla. In another bowl, whisk flour, baking soda, cream of tartar, nutmeg and salt; gradually beat into creamed mixture. Divide dough in half. Shape each into a disk; wrap in plastic. Refrigerate 1 hour or until firm enough to roll. On a lightly floured surface, roll each portion of dough to ¼-inch thickness. Cut with a floured 3-inch Santa-shaped cookie cutter. Place 2 inches apart on greased baking sheets. Bake 8–10 minutes or until light brown. Remove from pans to wire racks to cool completely.

For frosting, in a large bowl, beat butter until creamy. Beat in milk, vanilla and salt. Gradually beat in confectioners' sugar until smooth. Pipe onto cookies and decorate as desired. Yield: about 4 dozen.

SANCTUARY RANCH

Traditions, Family And Friendship

By Emily Haines Lloyd



The gathering area to share stories and admire trophies.

Photos courtesy of Sanctuary Ranch

It's daybreak at Sanctuary Ranch in Stanwood, Michigan. Ryan Bollman, general manager, takes his first sip of coffee long before the first rays of sunshine flicker in the morning sky. Walking into the woods in complete stillness, his breath caught in the cool air, he climbs into a deer stand, looks out through his "office window" and realizes he's not the average Joe or Jane pushing papers or punching a time clock.

Bollman spends his days a little differently than most desk jockeys. When running a business that is four square miles of gorgeous northern Michigan terrain and bursting with the largest, most sought-after Whitetail deer, the "daily grind" has a slightly different meaning.

Sanctuary Ranch is a one-of-a-kind, preserve trophy hunting experience that rivals any in the country.

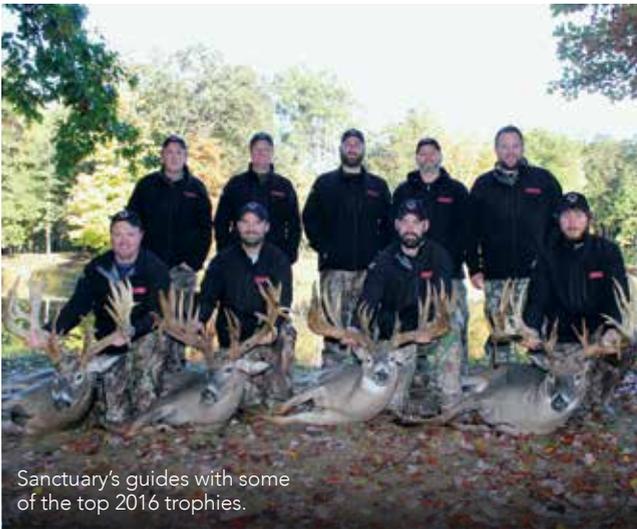
While most nature-raised, hunted Whitetail are only one and a half to two years old, the Whitetail at Sanctuary Ranch are a mature five to six years old. These larger, majestic deer are a game hunter's dream, with Sanctuary home to some of the smartest and most elusive bucks that hunting aficionados have ever seen.

"When my dad [Pat Bollman] bought this land back in the late '70s, I don't think he could have imagined all that Sanctuary Ranch would become," said Ryan Bollman. "But his love of hunting and how much it meant to our family—that became the basis for everything we built moving forward."

Ask any of the hunters who return year after year what brings them back to Sanctuary Ranch and you don't hear about trophies. You hear words like *tradition, family and friendship*. This is what Sanctuary Ranch does that elevates the experience.



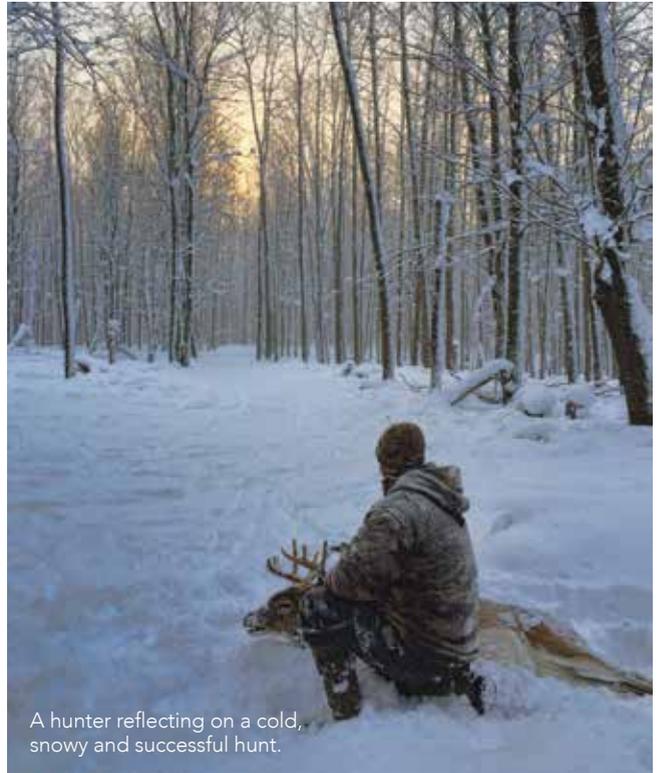
A father and daughter heading off for quality time.



Sanctuary's guides with some of the top 2016 trophies.

“
The sun rose and revealed a magnificent landscape. It teemed with game to the horizon and was a grand site. Indeed, it was to be a very good day.

”
—Ernest Hemingway



A hunter reflecting on a cold, snowy and successful hunt.

Bollman and the entire staff take the time to know their clients—their likes, preferences, how they like to hunt and where. Sanctuary Ranch pairs hunters and groups with the perfect leader who takes hunters on an experience that is custom-made just for them. Then they come back to the lodge to eat great food, tell even better stories, and make new friends.

“It’s not just about pulling the trigger,” said Bollman. “Our hunters have a relationship, a connection, to the ranch. They feel like this is their hunting property, and they know we’re here to watch over it while they’re gone.”

And return they do. Year after year, with new generations joining older generations, these hunters create memories they’ll have forever, along with their majestic trophies. These experiences are why Sanctuary Ranch has built a clientele that is

practically anticipating their next trip before they’ve even left the ranch.

Bollman doesn’t get out in the woods quite as often as he used to, as his responsibilities on the property continue to grow. However, he doesn’t seem to mind entirely.

“Of course I love being out there and taking one of our hunters out for the day,” said Bollman. “But it’s not about me—it’s about creating that awesome experience for someone else. That’s what Sanctuary Ranch is all about. That’s the tradition we want to be a part of.” ■



Please visit sanctuary-ranch.com for more information.



Cindy & Ken Bradshaw stand at the Nahma Veterans Memorial.



Nahma Veteran Enlists COMMUNITY SUPPORT



By Yvonne Whitman

On November 11 citizens and communities around the United States honor the sacrifice and service of veterans. Veterans enrich our communities, and in some instances, they continue to set an example of dedication and service. Such is the case of Nahma Army veteran Ken Bradshaw. Bradshaw, along with his wife Cindy, were the driving force in creating the recently dedicated Nahma Veteran's Memorial located in the Nahma community park.

Ken, a retired iron worker, and Cindy, who is retired as the Nahma Township Supervisor, have

been involved in the park since its inception 25 years ago. When Cindy first took office, the park did not exist but she wrote a grant to obtain funding for the pavilion. That, along with community support, has created a village focal point that now includes the memorial, a playground, pavilion, and even a locomotive. The park now provides an ideal place for community celebrations such as the annual Labor Day Festival.

Their love of community and interest in sustaining it are the primary reason for them to do what they do.



"The reward of one duty is the power to fulfill another."

George Elliot

Nahma is a shining example of the adage 'It takes a village' and a great representation of a community working together to create a better life for all. According to Ken, "We start the projects, and then we get a lot of help from friends."

When asked about the impetus for creating the memorial Ken thoughtfully responds, "My military service." He first came up with the idea three years ago when he noticed that so many other communities had memorials but Nahma did not. "I just sat down and started making some initial sketches," he recalls, and an artist friend helped finalize the original drawing." From there, "I started telling people we were going to build it and people just started getting all excited and began donating money for it." Donations poured in not only from local community groups but from individuals. A single \$7,000 donation from a Nahma resident pushed them over the top of what was needed to begin construction. "The response from the community was overwhelming," Ken reflects.

With funding in place, they broke ground and began building in the fall of 2016. Ken ordered the flag poles and medallions representing each branch of the military from the American Legion, an organization that he and Cindy are both active in. A focal point of the memorial is the onyx stone which honors Richard Morrison who is pictured standing to salute the American flag despite being in a wheelchair. Cindy captured the poignant photo during a Memorial Day service at a local cemetery in 2015.

Sadly, Morrison passed away at age 90, one week after the photo was taken. Morrison, a longtime Nahma resident, was a Marine Corps veteran who was part of the Iwo Jima invasion. He spent more than 25 years working as a Regional Service Officer for the American Legion and a lifetime working for Upper Peninsula veterans and their families.

The memorial was dedicated on August 19, 2017, with the American Legion Post 301 of Rapid River in conjunction the Marine Corps League U.P. Detachment 444 conducting the ceremony, which also included a 21-gun salute. And how does the community feel about the memorial? "They love it," Ken says with a wide grin. ■



Members of the Marine Corps League Detachment 444 pose at the dedication of the memorial on August 19, 2017.

Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger Give Back To Community

By Jack O'Malley

The fall season brings colorful leaves, crisp air, and all things orange. Fall also ushers in firearm deer season, the biggest hunting season in Michigan, which draws as many as 700,000 men and women to the woods. For the serious hunters, deer season means fresh meat on the table and a chance to give back to communities.

The Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger (MSAH) program was founded in 1991 by a group of men and women who saw a unique opportunity to provide nutritious meals for those less fortunate. Started as a nonprofit organization, MSAH connects participating licensed game processors with deer hunters looking to process and donate all or a portion of their hunt. There are two different ways a hunter can donate game at MSAH participating processors:

Give-A-Pound—Successful hunters who have their deer processed at a participating MSAH processing facility have the option to donate a pound or more of their processed deer to local food pantries.

Whole Deer Donations—Successful hunters who drop off and donate their whole deer at a participating MSAH processing facility will have the deer processed at NO COST to them. The processor turns the venison into ground burger and is reimbursed through the MSAH fund for their work in the finished product.

The processed venison is then collected by a nonprofit community food bank, pantry or shelter

working in coordination with the processor. If a specific processor needs a nonprofit community food bank, pantry or shelter to work with, locations can be provided through the MSAH. This way, deer donated and processed can help their local community.

In 2016, more than 29,000 pounds of processed venison were donated through wild game processors working with the MSAH program to 35 nonprofit organizations. That processed venison equaled over 145,000 hot and high-in-protein meals for those throughout the state of Michigan who were in dire need.

Funding for the Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger program exists through an account created through Public Acts 116 & 117 of 2005 which states that sportsmen, sportswomen and non-hunters can voluntarily donate funds to the MSAH in different ways. Funds collected reimburse processors working with MSAH for the work they perform in the processing of the deer.

So, the next time you see a flash of blaze orange or camo, tip your hat and thank a hunter because good things are happening statewide thanks to their love of the sport.



Jack O'Malley

To learn more about MSAH and how to donate your venison, please visit the website at sportsmenagainsthunger.org. ■



«« Where In Michigan Is This?

Identify the correct location of the photo on the left by December 15 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 the name of your co-op. Our Mystery Photo Contest winner from the September 2017 issue is **Jeannine Uphouse, a Presque Isle Electric & Gas Cooperative member**, who correctly identified the photo as the Rosewood Walkway-Marquette in the Upper Peninsula.

Winners are announced in the following issues of *Country Lines*: January, March, May, July/August, September and November/December.



September Photo

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