

January/February 2018

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association

NO BARRIERS WARRIORS

THE POWER OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT

Electricity: The Gift That Keeps On Giving

Artists In The Forest

Nahma Veteran Enlists Community Support



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Through strenuous outdoor adventures, such as white water rafting, hiking or mountain climbing, No Barriers Warriors teaches veterans how to regain their skills and confidence after a service-related injury. Read more about this inspiring, non-profit organization on page 14.

Photo courtesy of No Barriers / Samantha Hanus

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I Remember...

We invite members to share their fondest memories.

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 or email to cdorr@meca.coop

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Fiscal year-end: Dec. 31
countrylines.com/coops/ontonagon

Ontonagon County REA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



What Would Life Be Like Without Electric Co-ops?

Debbie Miles, General Manager

The holiday season just concluded, and many of you may have watched the holiday movie classic, "It's a Wonderful Life." In it, the lead character, George Bailey (played by Jimmy Stewart), wishes he had never been born due to financial troubles he is experiencing. With the help of an angel, he sees how many lives would have been negatively affected if he didn't exist. George comes to realize that, even with his problems, he has a wonderful life with great friends and family.

So what do you think life would be like if community leaders had not founded Ontonagon REA 80 years ago?

Living in the United States in 2018, it is nearly impossible to imagine life without electricity. So many of our modern conveniences that improve the quality of our lives are dependent on electricity as the "fuel" to make them work. From the alarm clock that wakes us up to the HVAC unit that keeps us cool in the summer and warm in the winter, we all depend on electricity to meet our basic needs. We also appreciate electricity when it comes to performing common household chores. Our vacuums allow us to clean more efficiently, and all those kitchen appliances save us time and physical labor. Of course, so much of our entertainment, whether it comes from the TV, radio or computer, depends on the kilowatt-hours that your electric co-op provides. Just think, there would be no smartphones or cell phones if there were no electricity to charge them.

Businesses of all kinds rely on electricity to produce and sell the products we need. So, it is no wonder that many electric co-ops feel that while our primary product is electricity, we are really in the quality of life business.

Having just celebrated the season that reminded us to be thankful for all that we have, it is important to remember the 1.3 billion people in the world that still live without reliable electric service. That is equal to about four times the U.S. population!

Many of the things we take for granted living in America are much harder and more time consuming for people in developing countries around the world. We are proud members of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) that is working through their affiliate, NRECA International, and the NRECA International Foundation to help bring power to people in developing countries like Haiti and Liberia. (nreca.coop/it-starts-with-power/)

We are thankful that our community ancestors had the vision and foresight to do for ourselves what needed to be done, gathering our friends and neighbors to form our electric co-op. As the electric business of the 21st century continues to evolve, you can count on Ontonagon REA to meet all of your electric energy needs. More importantly, we are here to help improve the quality of your wonderful life.



Electricity: *The Gift That Keeps On Giving*

When you get your electric bill in late January, you might be shocked—no pun intended—by what you see, especially if the bill is higher than you’re used to. Ontonagon REA did not increase rates, but your bill might have gone up for other reasons. Let’s take a look at what might make your electric bill higher than you expect.

The Billing Period. One of the first things to be aware of is the length of the billing period. It can range between 28 and 35 days depending on what day of the week is the last day of the month. The longer the billing period, the higher the bill will be—simply because there are more days included in the billing period. Ontonagon REA tries to keep the billing period equal to the calendar month. Even so, December and January are back-to-back 31-day months. Also, your December, January and February bills all include holidays. Your December bill includes Thanksgiving. Your January bill includes Christmas, and your February bill includes New Years’ Day. If you see an uptick in your electric bill for those months, here are some things that may have contributed.

Holiday Entertaining. Cooking and food preparation take a lot of energy, and holiday entertaining usually involves plenty of eating and drinking. Even simple presentations such as hot or cold drinks and cookies can add to your energy bill. The refrigerator typically opens and closes more frequently than normal when entertaining too.

Whether you’re entertaining for an evening or your guests are staying for the holidays, they will use water, and that takes energy. Every time your visitors wash their hands, use the toilet, take a shower or launder their clothes, the water pump—and therefore the electric meter—is running. Guests usually bring chargers for their electronic gadgets

and they might bring other things, too, such as hair dryers, curling irons, c-pap machines, and humidifiers.

More people in your home also means more opening and closing the doors as people are coming and going. Every time the door opens, warm air escapes and the demand on the heating system increases. No matter what kind of heating system is in use, more energy will be consumed as the system works to replace the heat loss.

Lights. Lighting accounts for approximately seven to 10 percent of a typical electric bill. It’s typical to have more household lights on, more frequently, and for longer durations. This might be for entertaining, but it’s also because December and January have the least daylight hours. Holiday lighting also adds to the electric bill.

Electronics. For several years now, electronic gadgets have been the hottest items on most peoples’ Christmas list, and they usually get used more in the depths of winter. Everything from a new TV with Surround Sound to a full set of rechargeable power tools all need to be plugged in. Also, most electronics are “phantom” power users – which means they consume energy anytime they are plugged in unless they are switched off using a power strip or some similar arrangement.

These are just a few of the reasons that electric bills may be higher following the holidays. If you have questions about your electric bill, call our office at 906-884-4151 for assistance.

Notice to Members of Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association

Case No. U-18277 2018-2019 Energy Waste Reduction Plan

2008 PA 295, as amended, requires all Michigan member-regulated electric cooperatives file with the Michigan Public Service Commission (the “MPSC”) an Energy Waste Reduction (“EWR”) Plan. Pursuant to this requirement, Ontonagon submitted its 2018–2019 EWR Plan as part of a collaborative plan with 12 other utilities in cooperation with the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association and Michigan Municipal Electric Association to continue to offer several existing energy efficiency programs (the “Programs”) designed to help members and customers use energy more efficiently and to achieve targeted energy savings. Ontonagon proposes to implement its 2018-2019 EWR Plan and does not intend to change the existing approved surcharge for the Programs. A copy of Ontonagon’s 2018–2019 EWR Plan as filed with the MPSC is available by request at any of Ontonagon’s offices.



Electricity Changes Everything

More than 1.6 billion people in the world remain without electricity. That's a pretty staggering statistic considering health, safety, education and economic growth all start with power. In modern times, no country has managed to substantially reduce poverty without access to electricity.

Electric co-ops know a thing or two about bringing electricity to people who don't have it. After all, it was the co-ops who brought electricity to rural America over 75 years ago when no one else would.

In partnership with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International Program, Michigan's electric cooperatives sent 10 linemen to Buena Vista, Guatemala, in 2015. The linemen worked side-by-side with local residents to bring electricity to the remote, mountainous village. When work was completed, the community celebrated together as electric lights came on for the very first time. This moment marked the beginning of new opportunities and a new future for the 54 families that call Buena Vista home.

NRECA International Program Manager Ingrid Hunsicker recently visited Buena Vista to see how life has changed with electricity. Hunsicker reported that lights in the schoolyard and classrooms provide the children with a safe, bright place to learn. Processing corn is now easier and more efficient with electric corn mill grinders. Residents have access to better communication with radios and televisions, she noted.

And, thanks to a new refrigerator, the local convenience store is able to offer cold drinks and meats.

This is just the beginning. The good people of Buena Vista now have the opportunity to grow and flourish in a way that was never before thought possible.

Up Next: Bolivia

In 2018, Michigan co-ops will send 15 linemen to bring electricity to remote parts of Bolivia. The North Beni Electrification Project will electrify six communities located on the road between Riberalta and Guayananerin in northern Bolivia. Due to the length of this project, several groups of co-op volunteers from different states will be needed to complete the entire project construction. Michigan linemen will be working to electrify the first two communities of Santa Malia and El Hondo. The climate there is hot and humid as it's one of the wettest regions in Bolivia. While planning is now underway, the construction trip will take place in the fall of 2018.

Visit partnersforpower.org to learn more.



ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE
YOUTH TOUR



YOUTH TOUR 2018

Michigan Co-ops Inspire Tomorrow's Leaders Today
June 10–15, 2018

Youth Tour teaches students of Michigan about their past—and helps equip them with the skills they need to be Michigan's next generation of energy-minded leaders. This is a once-in-a-lifetime, all-expenses-paid leadership travel opportunity for high school sophomores and juniors (going into their junior or senior year this summer) and is sponsored by Michigan's electric cooperatives. From the battlefields of Gettysburg to the halls of Congress in Washington, D.C., the program explores the leadership lessons of our nation's history and will immerse students in the cooperative spirit.

Youth Tour offers a unique opportunity to build leadership and public speaking skills, enhance students' knowledge of the cooperative form of business, and build life-long friendships with other student-leaders from across the country.

**Youth Tour applications accepted
between now and Feb. 28.**

Trip Highlights Include:

- Visit the Gettysburg Civil War battlefields
- See Fort McHenry, birthplace of "The Star Spangled Banner"
- Explore the Washington, D.C. monuments and memorials
- Attend a world-class theater performance
- Explore the museums of the Smithsonian Institution
- Pay respects at Arlington National Cemetery
- Meet with Michigan Senators and Congressmen
- And much, much more

Visit CooperativeYouthTour.com to learn more
and for an online application.

Energy Savings Opportunities For Agribusinesses

Are you tired of high energy bills eating up your budget? Upgrade outdated lighting and equipment to reduce energy waste and start saving money! And, with the help of Ontonagon REA's Energy Optimization program, you can receive cash incentives to offset the upfront cost of improvements.

A few energy-saving opportunities currently available include:

Farm Energy Audit: To get started, consider a comprehensive audit to assess your farm's current energy usage. The audit will help identify where and how to implement practical, energy-saving alternatives to outdated, inefficient equipment.

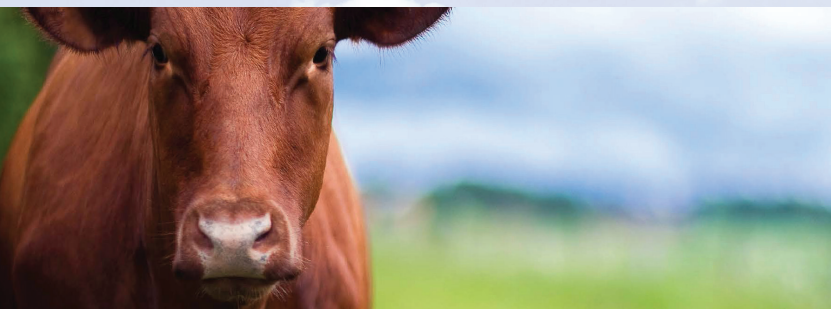
The Energy Optimization program has partnered with the Michigan Farm Energy Program (in conjunction with Michigan State University Extension) to offer a \$500 incentive toward the cost of a farm energy audit.

Incentives For Energy-Efficient Products And Equipment: Receive cash back when you purchase and install energy-efficient measures, such as:

- Low-energy livestock waterers
- Fans and controls
- Milk-handling equipment
- Variable speed pumps and controllers
- Dairy refrigeration tune-ups
- Irrigation system upgrades
- LED grow lights and poultry lights
- Long-day lighting systems

Incentives For Custom Projects: Have an energy efficiency project in mind, but don't see it on our list? The Energy Optimization program will work with you to provide incentives for innovative and unique energy efficiency projects designed to meet specific needs. Contact us to discuss your ideas!

These are just a few of the energy-saving offers currently available for Michigan agribusinesses. View all farm services incentives at michigan-energy.org or call 877-296-4319 for details.



Reduce your energy use and save!

FREE agribusiness energy
assessments available.
Call now for best availability.

Rebates available for custom and
prescriptive energy saving projects.

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.



Photo Contest

Furry Friends

1. This happy girl, Winnie, makes every day great! *By Mary Kaminski*
2. Many great dogs, five Great Lakes, but only one Superior;
A Superior dog, Bella, on Lake Superior on a mid-summer day.
By Holly Peltó
3. Norma Jean is happy to be indoors, out of the cold and waiting
for a treat! *By Nancy Young*
4. Our kitty, Napoleon, found a best friend in this stuffed bear cub!
By David DeHaan



2017 Photo Contest Winner

"Nuthatch Gymnastics." Mary Shegan, as published in the September 2017 issue.

Submit A Photo & Win A Bill Credit!

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 2018 energy bill! The upcoming topic and deadlines:

Talented Kids due January 20 for the March/April issue.

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

We look forward to seeing your best photos!

Enter to win a
\$200
energy bill
credit!



Healthy Salads

Start the year off right with these easy-to-make healthy salads.

Photos—Robert Bruce Photography

Quinoa Cucumber Salad (pictured)

Patricia Wyers, Cherryland Electric Cooperative

- 4 cups cooked quinoa
- 1 small cucumber, diced (local Michigan cucumber if in season, if not use English cucumber)
- 1 small red onion, diced
- 1 red bell pepper, diced
- 2 tablespoons fresh dill weed, minced
- 1 medium garlic clove, minced
- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt

Prepare quinoa according to the package. Cool. Mix with the rest of the ingredients. Toss to coat evenly. Keep refrigerated and use within two to three days.



Watch a video of this recipe at
<https://goo.gl/6aZzpb>



Mediterranean Pesto Chickpea Salad

Ruthann Adams, Midwest Energy

- 1 15-ounce can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 1 15-ounce can black olives, drained and coarsely chopped
- 1 15-ounce can artichoke hearts, drained and coarsely chopped
- 2 roasted red bell peppers, seeded and coarsely chopped
- ⅓ to ½ cup pesto
- Salt and black pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients. Chill and enjoy.

Note: If chickpeas are mashed, this makes a tasty sandwich filling.



Spaghetti Salad

Jan Goodwin, Great Lakes Energy

- 1 16-ounce package whole grain spaghetti
- 1 package mini Hormel pepperoni
- 1 16-ounce Kraft Zesty Italian dressing
- Parmesan cheese
- Perfect Pinch Salad Supreme Seasoning by McCormick
- Seasonal vegetables: tomatoes, cucumbers, green pepper or any of choice

Cook spaghetti according to the package. Drain. Cut up raw vegetables. Add to spaghetti. Add mini pepperoni. Mix in an entire bottle of Italian dressing. Top with Parmesan cheese and Perfect Pinch Salad Seasoning. Refrigerate 3 hours and serve. Can make the night before. The recipe makes a large amount for a big crowd.



Indulgent Desserts...

due February 1

Entertaining & Potluck...

due March 1

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

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

Enter to win a
\$50
energy bill
credit!

Featured Guest Chef

Participants in the No Barriers Warriors program spend their days hiking, rafting, skiing and mountain climbing. When they come back to base, there's nothing like a warm fondue, enjoyed around the fire, to cap off those daily adventures. Gather round, skewer up, and dip in!



Backcountry Fondues

Recipe Courtesy of No Barriers Warriors

Gear Required

- Two pots (one larger than the other) that will work as a double boiler
- Pot pliers/lifter to hold pots steady while stirring
- Camp stove (we used WhisperLite)
- Fuel
- A large spoon
- Skewers

Cheddar Cheese Fondue

- 3-4 cups Cheddar cheese
- ½ cup flour
- ½ can light beer
- Garlic (optional)

Suggested Dippers: fruit (apples, pears, etc.), vegetables, meat (summer sausage) and bread cubes

Swiss Cheese Fondue

- 3-4 cups Swiss and Gruyere cheeses
- ½ cup flour
- 1 cup white wine
- Garlic (optional)

Suggested Dippers: fruit (apples, pears, etc.), vegetables (carrots, broccoli), meat (summer sausage) and bread cubes

Chocolate Fondue

- 3-4 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup cream

Suggested Dippers: fruit (bananas, strawberries) marshmallows, cubed pound cake

Directions

It's recommended to pre-cut prior to heading to the backcountry when possible. Otherwise, add a cutting knife and cutting board to the gear list.


Place water in the larger pot and bring to boil. Place smaller pot in the larger pot and add the ingredients for whichever fondue you are making. (Note: the wine/beer helps keep the mixture smooth and prevents clumping.) Stir until ingredients are melted and smooth.

Read the full story about No Barriers Warriors on page 14, and find this recipe and others at micoopkitchen.com.



ARTISTS *in the* FOREST

Story & Photos by Emily Prehoda



Imagine a small, cozy, timber-framed cabin in the woods. One big, lofted room. A wood stove. A small kitchen area and table. An easy chair and two twin beds. A propane gas stove and lights. A babbling river cascades over a rocky embankment behind the cabin. A weathered wooden swing faces the waterfalls, providing a perfect resting place for contemplation. It all sounds so serene and relaxing, and it mostly is... except all water and food must be hauled in miles by foot or cart, over a hilly and rocky terrain. Cell phone signals here are nonexistent, or sketchy at best. There is no electricity. No running water. And yet the opportunity to create art in this setting is so sought after that hundreds of artists from around the world apply for the Artist-in-Residence (AIR) program, established in 2006 by Friends of The Porkies, at the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park (the Porkies).

Entering its 12th year, the mission of the AIR program is, "To offer residencies to new and established artists of recognized excellence from around the world to pursue their creative process in a wilderness environment." The AIR program is open to artists and artisans whose work can be influenced by this unique northern wilderness setting, including, writers, composers and all visual and performing artists.

Program Director Sherrie McCabe states, "They are required to absorb the park and their goal is to try to interpret the park according to their

medium." Each artist contributes a piece of work representative of their residency to the permanent collection of the Friends of the Porkies. During their residency, the artist also shares their experience in a public program, demonstration, or workshop, in conjunction with the park's interpretive programs.

Watercolor artist Leigh Cox had to compete with over 300 other applicants to live in this solitary cabin for two-to-three weeks in the Porkies, in the fall of 2016. Cox found out about the program through a Michigan DNR Newsletter. A nature lover all her life, Cox's father is the editor of Fur-Fish-Game Magazine, thus hunting and animals were a constant presence in her life while growing up. Cox drove over 15 hours from her hometown of Marietta, Ohio, to get to the Porkies in Ontonagon, Michigan. She openly admitted, "I was really spooked the first week. I didn't think it would bother me because I live in the woods, but southern Ohio is different from this. You can't see your hand in front of your face out here at night."

A graduate of The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Cox received a bachelor of fine arts in illustration in 2006, and she has been a professional artist and illustrator for over 10 years. She uses watercolor, pencil and ink to create portraits and images of animals, or "rappers to raptors," as she likes to say. Cox thought the residency would be an opportunity to create more



Watercolor-artist Leigh Cox at the artist in residence cabin.



Watercolor artist Leigh Cox at work during her stay in the artist in residence program.



The wooden walkway leading up to the cabin.

For more information on the Artist-in-Residence program at the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, go to: porkies.org/projects-programs/artist-in-residence/.

wildlife art, which often falls by the wayside to focus on more profitable commissioned portraits. Cox was particularly inspired by the minugia of the Porkie's forest. She remarked, "It rained for a few days last week, then all of a sudden this whole separate kind of mini-forest of new mushrooms, fungus, and lichen were everywhere. I was obsessed with looking at the ground. It's so complex here and amazing, how the forest grows and how many layers it has, like plants that look

like tiny trees; it's like Jurassic Park!" Cox said she would absolutely repeat the experience, and plans to apply for another residency in coming years. Surprisingly, Cox added she felt the best part of the experience was that "the cabin is so thoughtfully done, and then on top of it, there's no power, and the phone doesn't work; you can work uninterrupted." The beauty and sweet silence of the Porkies are an inspiration for anyone who visits.

A group of people, including veterans, are participating in a white-water rafting activity. They are wearing helmets and life jackets, and are using paddles to navigate a turbulent river with large rocks. The scene is outdoors, with a rocky shoreline and some greenery in the background.

NO BARRIERS WARRIORS

THE POWER OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT

By Emily Haines Lloyd

When an organization's mission is to "unleash the power of the human spirit," participants suspect that challenging circumstances combined with lofty goals are probably expected. And, indeed, that is exactly what No Barriers Warriors does. The organization engages disabled veterans in challenging outdoor adventures that include hiking, paddleboarding, rafting and, ultimately, mountain climbing. The purpose is to help disabled veterans regain their confidence in spite of a service-related disability.

"When you take individuals from varying backgrounds and various levels of experience in the outdoors, you're obviously teaching some basic skills—like how to pitch a tent or the fundamental techniques of camping," said John Toth, director of No Barriers Warriors. "But it's

important to note that our purpose is not necessarily to build a skill set—our goal is to build a mindset."

No Barriers Warriors was inspired by the tenth anniversary of blind adventurer Erik Weihenmayer's historic climb of Mount Everest. Weihenmayer, founder of No Barriers USA, joined his Everest teammates to lead a group of disabled soldiers to the summit of Lobuche, a 20,100-foot-peak in the Himalayas. The endeavor was captured on film and eventually became the documentary "High Ground."

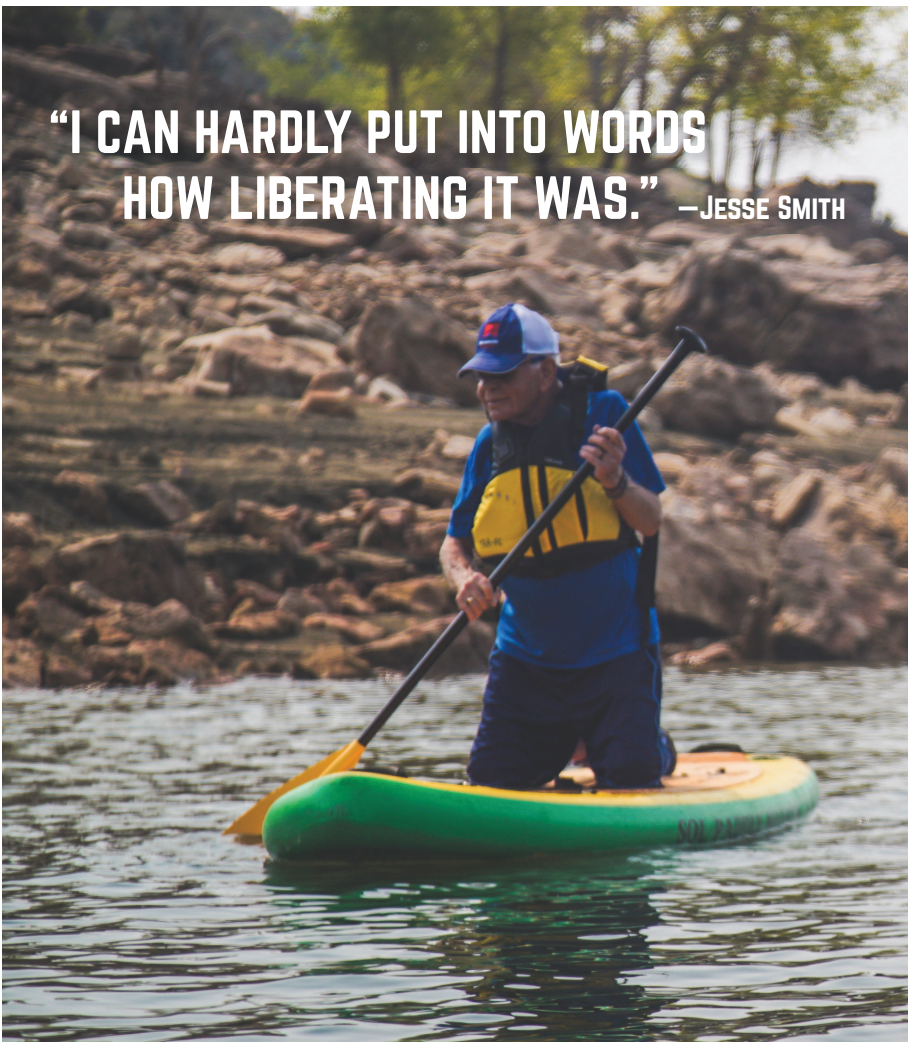
In 2012, No Barriers USA officially began incorporating its programming to include injured soldiers from all branches of the military, as well as survivors of the fallen. Today they are known as No Barriers Warriors (NBW). These individuals participate in mentally, physically, and emotionally

challenging activities, personal reflection, and group interactions designed to remind them that what's within them is stronger than what is in front of them.

Veterans from across the country have been helped through NBW's unique curriculum and no-pay policy, meaning all veterans who attend the program do so at absolutely no cost. This is another way that NBW wants to eliminate barriers, even when it comes to funding.

"When our veterans are given this opportunity, we see how their lives are changed—sometimes even saved," said Toth. "We set very high and lofty goals for our participants. When I see them accomplish those goals, I'm not surprised. I'm inspired."

Veterans are able to participate in the one-of-a-kind program through the



**"I CAN HARDLY PUT INTO WORDS
HOW LIBERATING IT WAS." —JESSE SMITH**

generosity of various organizations that donate to NBW. In November 2016, CoBank, a cooperative bank serving agribusinesses, rural infrastructure providers and Farm Credit Associations, announced a program that allowed its customer to nominate up to 50 rural veterans to participate in a No Barriers expedition. This corporate sponsorship allowed three Michigan co-op members and veterans to attend No Barriers Warriors adventures in 2017, Jesse Smith (Midwest Energy & Communications), Michael Valkner (Cherryland) and Christopher Irving (Great Lakes Energy). "America's rural communities are home to millions of men and women who have sacrificed for their country through military service, many of whom are facing some sort of disability," said Tom Halverson, CoBank CEO. "The No Barriers program provides these veterans with an opportunity to challenge their own limitations—both real and perceived—and to create a network of support that can last a lifetime."

Smith, a mostly-retired therapist, took the opportunity to attend a NBW adventure in Colorado in September and has already recommended the program to his friends and clients.

"I can hardly put into words how liberating it was, at nearly 80 [years old], to go and do the things I did," said Smith. "I would tell anyone who is even considering it, to not be afraid and just go for the adventure."

Are you a veteran interested in being nominated for the 2018 No Barriers program? If so, please go to countrylines.com/nobarriers by Feb. 28 and complete the form to express your interest. Your co-op will follow-up with more detailed information.

Photos courtesy of No Barriers /Samantha Hanus.



Cindy & Ken Bradshaw stand at the Nahma Veterans Memorial.



Nahma Veteran Enlists COMMUNITY SUPPORT



By Yvonne Whitman

Every Veterans Day, 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.



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

George Elliot

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

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Our Mystery Photo Contest winner from the November/December 2017 issue is Christa Carbone, a HomeWorks Tri-County Cooperative member, who correctly identified the photo as Seul Choix Point Lighthouse near Manistique in Gulliver, Mich.

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



November/December Photo



Jack's Journal: Michigan's Main Street

By Jack O'Malley

Each year motorists drive over 95 billion miles on Michigan roadways, many of them on the state's longest route-numbered highway. Its full name is Interstate 75. We locals just call it 75. It has also picked up a nickname, some calling it Michigan's Main Street. In fact, Michigan's Main Street covers 395 miles through the state's upper and lower peninsulas.

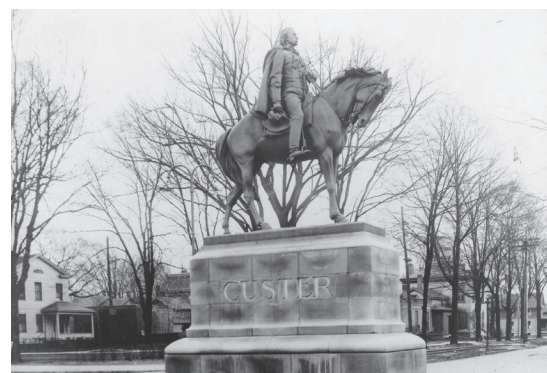
Michigan's Main Street begins in Michigan's oldest city, Sault Saint Marie. Travelers headed south will pass Castle Rock, one of the upper peninsula's most iconic tourist attractions. After climbing the 196-foot limestone stack, travelers should leave time to visit Paul Bunyan and his Blue Ox, Babe. They're always ready for a picture or two! Continuing south, I-75 crosses the mighty Mackinac Bridge to Michigan's Lower Peninsula. From there, things get really interesting!

History lovers may enjoy an afternoon touring Mackinac City's colonial Fort Michilimackinac, while travelers on the hunt for souvenirs might prefer an excursion to the legendary Sea Shell City. With the famous "man-eating clam" located at the iconic shop, it's a trip back to 1960s tourism for sure.

Continuing south, Michigan's Main Street passes through Indian River, home to the world's largest crucifix, and Houghton Lake, the state's largest inland lake. Locals love to point out the lake is "so big you can see it from space." Pinconning has the honor of being the cheese capital of Michigan, and Birch Run is home to the largest outlet mall in the Midwest.

Rolling rural hills eventually give way to the state's urban setting. Motorists maintaining a southern course will pass Comerica Park, Little Caesar's Arena and Ford Field in downtown Detroit, as well as the Marathon Petroleum Refinery with its giant butane sphere painted like a basketball. The highway's Michigan journey ends in Monroe County, hometown to General George Armstrong Custer, who was a celebrated civil war veteran.

Interstate 75 continues for another 1,390 miles, finally ending in Miami, Florida. But that's not our 75. Our 75 is just like our people—diverse, entertaining and reliable. With so much to see in our great state, where will Michigan's Main Street take you?



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