

MICHIGAN Country Lines

Harvest Wind Farm Powers Up

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Facing The Wind (Power)

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- 3) Fax your meter reading at: 231-486-9404

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

On the cover and page 5 in this issue, you can see and read about the Harvest Wind Project, the first-ever large scale wind energy project in Michigan.

While John Deere Wind Energy made the \$90 million investment, the supplier of wholesale energy to Cherryland Electric Cooperative (CEC), Wolverine Power Cooperative (Wolverine), took on the 20-year commitment to purchase all of the energy generated.

The main story (opposite) gives you all the specific details, but I want to focus on what I consider to be three of the main reasons behind Cherryland's support of this renewable energy initiative.

First, it was simply good business. For a moment at least, one must disregard the environmental benefits and determine if it makes sense from the standpoints of "What is the purchase price?" versus "What can I get for the product?" just as you would in any type of open-market business.

Through Wolverine's many years of experience in negotiating power supply purchases and their knowledge of what it takes to get the electricity onto the statewide grid, the numbers involved did pass the 'fiscally responsible' test.

A key part of this lies in the fact that Wolverine will only be buying energy produced. Thus, if the wind fails to turn the turbines, there is no purchase necessary. This means Wolverine and Cherryland are not left holding an empty bag of capital investment in hopes the wind will blow and generate a return.

Secondly, it was a small step towards preparing for an uncertain legislative future. Nationally and statewide, legislators are actively debating mandating utilities to have a yet-to-be-determined percentage of their energy portfolios derived from renewable resources such as wind, wood, solar and water.

It can be argued that such mandates would merely be hidden tax subsidies for the renewable industry that will be passed on to all users of electricity. Nevertheless, the utility industry (CEC included) fully expects some

sort of renewable mandate to pass a legislative body at some level in the near future. By establishing a contract with the Harvest

Wind project, CEC and the other Wolverine members, have begun preparing a renewable portfolio.

This not only gets us partially ready for whatever legislation is passed, but allows us to provide real-world proof that renewable energy can be built apart from the confines of strict legislation.

The third reason was also very basic. Did we have a financially viable opportunity that prepared us for the future *and* allowed us to be a good environmental neighbor at the same time?

The answer was obviously, "yes."

Wind is an energy resource that clearly does not add to the global warming debate. As distributors and purchasers of electric energy, CEC board members and employees are also residents of Michigan who partake in all of the outdoor opportunities available. As such, we sincerely care about the environment and are proud that Wolverine was able to make this project a reality.

Now, going forward, satisfied in these three points of reason, everyone needs to be aware that the cost is higher than traditional generation sources. Because the demand for renewable energy in Michigan is high and the supply is so very low, opportunities are available to sell this power to individuals and/or companies interested in purchasing all or a large portion of their electric needs from a renewable source.

Until mandates are thrust upon us, this will allow the energy to be sold to such specific buyers and avoid a general increase to Cherryland members by rolling it into our overall portfolio. These details are being worked out as I write this article.

Cherryland is facing the renewable energy question head-on without losing track of what it will cost you at the end of the day. The two simply must go forward side-by-side and the Harvest Wind project is evidence that it can be accomplished while benefiting the environment and avoiding unnecessary legislative interference.



Tony Anderson
General Manager

Harvest Wind Farm Starts Producing

Wind energy is now being delivered to Cherryland members.

Nancy Tanner



Wolverine Power Cooperative, Cherryland's power supplier, is purchasing renewable energy from the Harvest Wind Farm near Elkton, in Huron County. The wind farm began generating electricity this month, as weather conditions and wind speeds allow.

Each of the Harvest Wind Farm's 32 turbines is capable of generating 1.65 megawatts of electricity for a total project capacity of 52.8 megawatts. That's enough electricity to supply the ongoing needs of more than 15,000 Michigan homes.

To put the Harvest project's size in perspective, it will generate about 150 times the annual output of Traverse City Light & Power's wind turbine in Grand Traverse County's Elmwood Township.

John Deere Wind Energy, the principal owner and developer of the Harvest Wind Farm, began installing wind turbines at the project site in June 2007. Construction went extremely well.

"It's gratifying to bring the Harvest Wind Farm project in on schedule due to a combination of favorable weather, good planning and excellent execution by our construction team," said Brian Lammers, manager, wind energy business development for John Deere Wind Energy.

"What's especially rewarding for John Deere is to be a part of Michigan's first multi-megawatt wind energy project and to be delivering renewable energy to Wolverine Power Cooperative and its member-customers."

The Harvest Wind Farm spans 3,200 acres in the Thumb area on property leased from landowners in two townships. However, on average, each turbine and access road together take only 1½ acres out of row crop production.

The project represents a \$94 million investment.



Governor Granholm Praises Harvest Wind Farm

Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm has voiced her support for the Harvest Wind Farm. The governor held a news conference in Lansing in June 2007 to announce the project. She also invited Wolverine to participate in roundtable discussions in October and November 2007 on how Michigan can become a leader in renewable energy development.

"I applaud Wolverine Power and John Deere for developing Michigan's first commercial wind farm that will generate clean, reliable, low-cost wind energy," Granholm said. "This project is a harbinger of the types of projects that will help grow our economy and help us reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil."

Wolverine has a 20-year agreement with John Deere Wind Energy to purchase all power produced by the wind farm. Wolverine will, in turn, sell energy from the project to its six member-companies, including Cherryland.

"Our involvement with John Deere Wind Energy on the Harvest Wind Farm project has been positive," said Eric D. Baker, president & CEO of Wolverine. "Renewable power has an important role to play, along with other technologies available today, in the creation of more balanced and cleaner electric generation in Michigan."

Wolverine plans to explore other renew-

able energy projects in the state. This past fall, the co-op installed a meteorological tower near Rogers City to determine the feasibility of a wind turbine farm in Presque Isle County. The tower will collect weather data, including wind speed, wind direction and temperature, for the next 18 to 24 months.

In addition to Cherryland, Wolverine is owned by and supplies wholesale electric power to Great Lakes Energy, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op, Spartan Renewable Energy and Wolverine Power Marketing Cooperative.

Photos - Nancy Tanner (incl. cover photo)

Cherryland Offers Scholarships

Adults: Cherryland Electric Cooperative is offering a \$250 Adult Education Scholarship to one of its members.

The scholarship goes toward covering the cost of a course or courses taken in a calendar year.

The scholarship will be awarded based on need, grades and community service. It is a one-time scholarship award.

Members may request an adult scholarship application by e-mailing Nick Edson with their name and address at nicke@cecelec.com, calling him at 486-9222, or writing him at Cherryland, 5930 U.S.-31 South, Grawn, MI 49637.

Students: High school seniors whose parents or guardians currently receive monthly electric service from Cherryland and live in our service area, may apply for a \$2,400 college scholarship (\$600 for each of four years).

Selection is based on GPA, extracurricular activities, community involvement and/or after school employment. A minimum required GPA is 2.75 on a four-point system. To continue receiving the scholarship, a student must maintain a minimum college course load of 12 credits per term or semester and receive a 2.5 GPA.

Applications are due by Friday, *March 28, 2008*. Students may apply in three ways:

1. Complete the form below; or,
2. Contact your high school guidance counselor; or,
3. Call Nick Edson, communications coordinator at Cherryland Electric, at 486-9222. His e-mail address is nicke@cecelec.com



'Adopted' Shouldn't Be An Adjective

A label isn't necessary—family is family. **Carrie Henderson**

When President Ronald Reagan died in 2004, I was drawn to the TV. I was awed by the beauty and grace of the state funeral. But among all this serenity, I was also angered by the national media.

The reason this issue is so close to my heart is because I am adopted. On many occasions, I would hear a network anchor say, "The president is survived by Nancy, Ronald Jr., Patty, and his adopted son, Michael." Being adopted myself, I was frustrated that people found it necessary to point out that he is adopted. I never once heard the media say, "his biological daughter, Patty." So, I'm urging everyone—please do not use "adopted" as an adjective.

I moved in with the Henderson family when I was 7-years-old, and three years later I was adopted. Before that, I spent my childhood in foster care. But don't pity me. I am proud of who I am, and what I have overcome. Who would ever think that the shy, timid girl who wouldn't talk to strangers at McDonald's to order a Happy Meal would go on to receive a masters degree in broadcast journalism, work as a producer/assignment editor at TV 7&4 in Traverse City, and have a gift for gab?

I know that my past has shaped my future. However, I feel that being adopted is mine. The experience belongs to me. It is not for the media, or other people, to throw out as an adjective. It is my story to share—and one I choose to share with you. I don't know a lot of details about my biological parents, or even why my younger brother and I were placed in foster care. I do know it was not a voluntary decision on their part, and they fought the system for years.

At the age of three, Ben and I moved in with the MacLean family. Again, being so young, I don't remember many details. However, I do remember my social worker, Maria, and the weekly visits to see me. I felt so special to have this person in my life who would always bring me stickers.

Four years later, at age seven, my foster mom, Betty, gave me a blue Teddy bear (which I named Theodore and will always

keep) and told me, "It's okay to cry." I sat on the bed thinking, "Cry about what?" At that age, I couldn't comprehend what it meant to change families, with a new mom and dad, and leave your brother behind.

Again, I don't have many details on why I changed homes and Ben stayed with the MacLean's. I can speculate, but I can tell you that I am old enough and mature enough to know that it had nothing to do with me. I didn't do anything wrong. In fact, I know I was truly loved as a child and everyone wanted the best life possible for me, and that meant moving on.

I was now a Henderson. My older sister, Kathryn, was mad when she found out she was getting a 7-year-old sister. She wanted a 3-year-old sister, and wasn't happy to find out she had to share a bedroom with this "dorky girl who wouldn't talk." In addition to Kathryn, I have two older brothers—Bob and Jason.

I stayed in touch with my brother Ben for a few years before my family moved to Cincinnati.

Suddenly, it was more than 10 years and I hadn't seen or talked to him—until recently. Over Thanksgiving weekend, I was in Boston and had lunch with him.

The nervousness I felt at first turned to excitement when I saw someone who looked like me with the same dark hair and rosy cheeks. And the excitement we shared when we discovered we were both left-handed! My promise to Ben is that I will never let that much time pass again without seeing him.

As much as Ben is my brother, I am a Henderson. On numerous occasions my mom has told me, "Carrie, the only difference between you and my other children is that they grew under my heart, and you grew in it."

When children are adopted, they just want to fit in. I am now 30 years old, and I still want to fit in. I'm not ashamed of being adopted; I just don't feel it's necessary to be labeled with a big "A" for the public to see.

So, the next time you think of using the word "adopted" as an adjective, I hope you'll stop and think of me, and of former President Reagan's son, Michael.

2008 Student Scholarship Application Request

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Cherryland Account # _____

Mail to: CEC Student Scholarship
5930 U.S.-31 South
P.O. Box 298
Grawn, MI 49637



Cherryland Bulletin Board

Wuerfel Park Will Be Annual Meeting Site

Cherryland Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting will have a new twist this year. The event will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. at Wuerfel Park on Wednesday, June 11.



Wuerfel Park is served by Cherryland Electric and is the home of the Traverse City Beach Bums.

"We wanted to try something a little different to appeal to more members," said Cherryland general manager, Tony Anderson. "The Beach Bums have the parking and the seating to accommodate us."

Cherryland members can vote, get a ticket to the game, and a meal voucher for a hot dog, chips and soft drink. Members can enter at 3 p.m., and the business meeting will run from 4 to 5 p.m. After that, Cherryland will have tables set up and staffed by employees to answer any questions about the cooperative. The Beach Bums game will start at 7 p.m.

AMR Installation Ahead of Schedule

Cherryland Electric Cooperative's AMR (Automatic Meter Reading) project is ahead of schedule and is expected to be completed in 2008.

According to Cherryland supervisor Karrie Yanska, who is overseeing the project, more than 21,000 AMRs have been connected to the cooperative's system. They give automatic meter readings and can also notify Cherryland of an outage.



There are 12,000 AMR meters left to go in the Kings Court/South Airport area, Karlin, Lake Ann, Interlochen, Suttons Bay and Timberlee.

Yanska reminds members that notification letters will be sent before installation.

Pay Your Cherryland Electric Bill Online

Want to save money and pay your Cherryland Electric Cooperative bill online?

It's easy to do. You can now set up your account to get only an e-mail bill, no more paper bills.

If you would like to do this, access your account on www.cherrylandelectric.com. It will prompt you immediately after you sign in to make a decision on

whether or not you want the paper bill to continue; if you do, check the box, if not, simply press "Update."

Questions about the online payment can be answered by Cherryland's Member Service Department at 486-9200.



Community Caring Board Makes Award

Cherryland Electric Cooperative's Community Caring Board approved an award of \$3,500 toward the trail program for Grand Traverse Area Community Living at its October meeting.

The Community Caring Board takes money from Operation Round Up® and gives 100 percent of the funds to needy individuals and organizations in northern Michigan. It didn't meet over the holidays.

Cherryland members "opt in" to Operation Round Up and then round up their bill each month to the nearest dollar. That money is then distributed by the Community Caring Board on a monthly basis.

To join Operation Roundup and help those in need, call Brenda Burrows at Cherryland Electric at 486-9266.



Deneweth Is New Board Member

Rick Deneweth has been appointed a member of the Cherryland Electric Cooperative board to fill an at-large position created by the retirement of Bill Hoxie. More than 50 applications were received for the position.

Deneweth has a background as a lawyer, accountant, business owner and developer of Copper Ridge, along with his wife Connie. He will be up for re-election in June. For details about running for Cherryland's board, see page 29.

visit www.cherrylandelectric.com for more information about co-op services.

Practice 'Safe Stew': Make A Fire Escape Plan

I know recipes are usually printed on their own page in *Michigan Country Lines*, but I have to give you my favorite for this time of year. "Don't-Peek Stew."

Stay with me now, you know the safety stuff is coming. Cut up into bite size pieces, a cheap pot roast, an onion, a potato, and some carrots. Add a can or two of mushroom soup and a cup of dark red wine. Throw it all in a large casserole dish (because it could boil over) and shove it into a pre-heated oven at 325°. Then let it cook all day and *don't peek*.

After four or five hours you will have a great stew to serve over noodles, or eat alone with some great bread. It will keep you warm until spring.

Now, when I recently made this wonderful dish, I failed to remember the part about using a "large casserole dish because it could boil over." About two hours into the whole deal, the stew was dripping onto the floor of the oven and the smoke detectors started blaring.

I told you we would get to the safety stuff.

Thanks to our daughter's wonderful first-grade teacher, Mrs. Daciuk, we had completed a "family fire escape plan" for our house. Now, whenever the smoke detector goes off, no matter the reason why, we treat it as a "fire drill" and practice our fire escape plan, including leaving the house and meeting outside. The fire drill usually coincides with my cooking.

So, on this occasion of burning dinner, we met outside, and then I returned to the house to give the all-clear. To complete the dinner, I placed the "Don't-Peek Stew" in the microwave, while letting the oven cool for cleaning. Believe me, the microwave is *not* the way to cook this stew.

The family fire escape plan is a must for all families, particularly those of us in the cold north. In the box above are a few items to remember when planning your fire escape plan.

If you have computer access, do a quick

Family Fire Escape Tips:

- Plan ahead
- Plan an escape route
- Realize the danger of smoke
- Establish a safe meeting place
- Provide for those requiring additional help
- Practice your fire escape plan

search and you will find other great resources to help you make your plan. If you do not have access, contact me, I will be glad to send you some helpful information in the mail. A family fire escape plan is one of those things you need but never hope to use.

So, now that you have a recipe to keep you warm and a plan to keep your family safe, rest easy, and before you know it, I will be preaching the benefits of using sun block in the northern Michigan summer sun.

*Tim Keenan is
safety director for
Cherryland Electric Co-op*



Choosing An Electric Space Heater

If you are thinking of buying an electric space heater but can't sort through the competing technology choices and money-saving promises, then this article is for you.

Here are four basic types of space heaters:

▲ **Radiant heaters** transfer warmth in the same way as the sun's rays or the light from a fireplace. Radiant heaters use a variety of heating elements (including quartz tubes, carbon tubes, metal coils, and halogen lamps) to emit radiated heat in a specific direction. Since radiant heaters rely on direct rays, they are better suited to heating targeted areas or portions of spaces rather than entire spaces.

▲ **Convection heaters** are designed to heat entire spaces by heating air, rather than focusing the heat on any particular object. Convection heaters work best in rooms that can be sealed off, usually by



closing a door. The main difference between convection and radiant heaters is air flow. Convection heaters come in two styles—oil-filled and portable baseboard.

▲ **Combination heaters** employ both radiant and convection heating techniques. These heaters are sometimes regarded as having more flexible operating use requirements than conventional heaters. Combination heaters heat specific objects in addition to the air surrounding them, although they don't do either as well as a heater designed solely with radiant or convection technology.

▲ **Unit space heaters** are used in the commercial and industrial sectors and are basically a mounted forced-air furnace without ducts.

The efficiency of an electric space heater is essentially 100 percent. In other words, all the electricity it consumes will be

given off as heat. Natural gas and propane have a typical efficiency range between 55 and 80 percent, because some of the heating energy in the fuel is lost during combustion.

Satisfaction or dissatisfaction often comes down to whether or not the space heater is used in the manner it was intended to be used. Using a space heater in a manner for which it was not intended—e.g., using radiant heat to try and heat an entire room—can drive up energy costs and fail to provide occupant comfort.

Used properly, space heaters can maintain comfort and lower overall energy costs. Advertisements that promise substantial savings often assume the consumer will turn down the central heating system considerably and then use space heaters to heat only those areas that are occupied by people.

*—Bill Garey is Cherryland's
energy use advisor*

Out With The Old, In With The New

Helpful advice to make your transition to a new computer much easier.

Here it is, the beginning of 2008, and if you're like lots of other people, you're settling into a new computer and wondering what to do with your old one.

Updating Your New Computer

Most new computers come with some sort of antivirus program already installed. But remember, most of the time they only come with anywhere from 30 to 90 days of updates. After that, you will need to purchase a license to continue receiving necessary antivirus updates on your computer.

Another thing to consider is that some of the software programs will require you to register the product with the vendor before you can receive the program updates.

And, it's a good idea to update your brand new computer's operating system once you have turned it on. While the computer is brand new to you, it may have been built last summer in preparation for the holidays and hasn't been updated since. Bugs have been found and fixed, so make sure the operating system is up-to-date.

Donate Or Recycle Your Old One

If you have an older computer that you're replacing and it still works, consider donating it to a worthy cause. However, many of the more notable charities in town will not accept computers—and for good reason.

If they were to accept all electronics, people would flood them with worthless computers and printers that don't work or aren't able to run modern software. This would leave them with a very large disposal bill.

The key here is to think small. There are many smaller organizations that rely on the larger organizations, so going straight to them could help. Do you know somebody who works with one?

Goodwill Industries, in partnership with Dell, is one of the few organizations in town that does accept old computers. RECONNECT is a comprehensive electronics recovery, re-use and environmentally-responsible recycling opportunity. Computers and accessories dropped off at participating Goodwill



stores are sent to Dell for recycling with profits going back to Goodwill for use in its missions. Learn more about the program at www.reconnectpartnership.com.

Another option in the Traverse City area is through E Waste Electronic Recycling. This company accepts PC and Mac computers, reconditions them, and gives them free-of-charge to needy families in the Traverse City and surrounding areas. Older or nonfunctional computers are recycled. For more information, contact them at 231-947-7436.

You may also be able to sell your computer either online or through the local paper. Currently, the local paper in my area offers classified ads for items under \$100 free for four days.

Before you get rid of your old computer, though, you must take steps to make sure your personal data is safe from falling into the wrong hands. I will address some of these issues in next month's column.

Steve Weaver is the head of information and technology at Cherryland Electric Co-op



You Can Serve On Cherryland's Board

Any qualified Cherryland Electric member can be elected to serve on the cooperative's board of directors.

To be nominated in 2008, candidates should file a petition with the secretary of the cooperative not earlier than the first day of March and not later than 4 p.m. on the last business day of March.

Nominating positions shall be signed by not less than 25 active members of the cooperative, in good standing, and all signatures must be obtained within 60 days prior to the date the petition is filed. Nominating petitions shall be in the form prescribed by the board and are available at Cherryland's headquarters in Grawn.

Nominating petitions must specify the geographic service area for which the candidate is being nominated.

The term of the office is three years, and two directors will be elected at this year's annual meeting. This year's directors will represent Leelanau County and an at-large position.

Nominees must meet the qualifications for the office of director as set forth in the bylaws under Section 2 of Article III.

Any member interested in becoming a candidate is invited to visit the cooperative's office and learn about the duties performed by directors.

In the event no qualified candidate is nominated to fill the vacancy of a director whose term has expired, the newly elected board of directors will appoint sufficient directors to fill the vacancies. The election will be by majority vote of the board and must be done within 60 days of its first meeting. Directors elected in this manner will serve until the next annual meeting, when members will be given an opportunity to nominate and elect directors to fill the balance of the regular three-year term.



Hey, Co-op Teens!

Take a chance on fun and you might win a free trip to D.C.!



You may be eligible to win two free trips sponsored by your electric co-op, Cherryland Electric Cooperative.

▲ Michigan Electric Cooperative **TEEN DAYS**, April 16-18, 2008, takes place at the Kettunen 4-H Conference Center near Cadillac. As a participant, you will learn about electrical safety, how your co-op provides power, career opportunities and you'll even get to watch a live TV news broadcast on the set of 9&10 News. Plus, there'll be plenty of time to relax and have fun in the beautiful natural surroundings with new friends you'll meet from co-ops across the state.

▲ Students chosen to attend Teen Days will automatically be considered to win a trip with the Rural Electric **YOUTH TOUR** to Washington, D.C., June 14-19, 2008. With 1,500 students from electric co-ops nationwide, participants will see the sights and learn about the history of the United States and electric co-ops. The group will fly to D.C., stay at a beautiful hotel and tour by bus

to such places as the Smithsonian museums, Arlington Cemetery, National Cathedral, the war memorials, take a river boat cruise on the Potomac, see a play at the Kennedy Center, and even visit Capitol Hill to meet Michigan members of Congress and their staff.

Your electric co-op will pay your way to participate in these programs as a way of teaching a new generation how a co-op business works, the importance of staying informed and safe around electricity, and to see government and leadership in action.

If you are 16 or 17 years old at any time in 2008, and your family receives their electric service from Cherryland Electric, you are eligible to apply to win the free trips to Teen Days and Youth Tour. For an application or more information, call or write: **Leah Olson, P.O. Box 298, Grawn, MI 49637; 231-486-9254; or e-mail leaho@cecelec.com.**

Don't miss out ... take a chance on fun!

Learn more about Teen Days and Youth Tour at www.countrylines.com, click on "Youth."
Also check out www.youthtour.coop — see a video and learn more about the trip.

