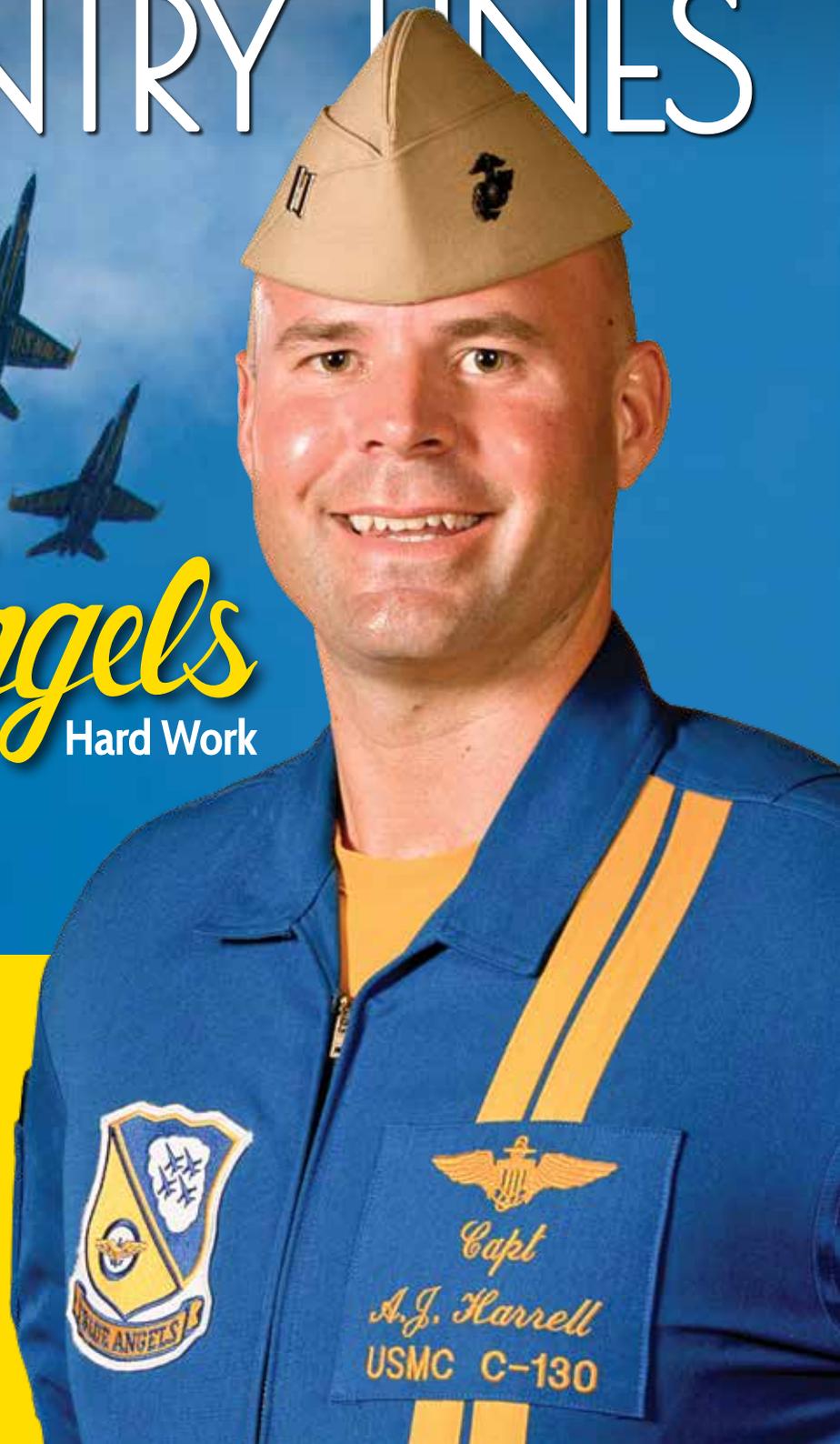


# MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

*Blue Angels*  
Fly on the Wings of Hard Work

## Plus!

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The appearance of advertising does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services advertised.

Change of Address: Please notify your electric cooperative. See page 4 for contact information.



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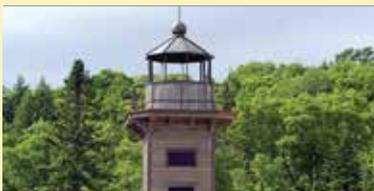
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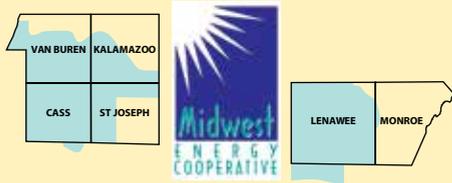
A.J. Harrell says it takes "endless practice" and hard work to become part of the Blue Angels team. He is the son of Alger Delta Electric Co-op CEO Tom Harrell, and performs flight demonstrations at the squadron's air shows.

Photos—U.S. Navy Blue Angels Public Affairs Staff

\*Some co-op editions have a different cover.



Michigan's Electric  
Cooperatives  
countrylines.com



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# Neighbor Helping Neighbor Is The Co-op Way



**Robert Hance**  
President/CEO

**W**hen you work in the electric utility industry, sometimes a quick glimpse at the weather radar lets you know you're in for a few long days.

That was the case on June 30. The lightning strikes alone on the evening radar gave us some indication of what we were in for. Three different storm systems crossed our southwest Michigan service territory overnight, and shortly after midnight we had crews on the ground ready to begin the challenging process of systemwide

clean-up and restoration.

Linemen worked 16-hour days after the storm to restore power, just like they do with every major restoration effort. They left the comfort of their homes in the wee hours, long before their families were awake, and usually didn't return until after everyone else was asleep for the night. They faced unbelievable devastation and had to figure out how to get themselves and their equipment through mazes of downed trees and power lines in order to restore service. They rejoiced with every service that was restored, and felt defeated and frustrated when equipment and fixes wouldn't hold.

Between the combined stellar efforts of our team with mutual aid and contract crews from across Michigan, we had full system restoration just 72 hours later. Our members enjoyed a power-filled Independence Day holiday as neighboring utility customers continued in the dark.

Those are the extreme circumstances, but the mentality and approach is the same every day. Your linemen work in every imaginable weather extreme, day or night, and in some pretty unsavory conditions or circumstances to keep you or get you back in service. It's challenging, dangerous, strenuous and often thankless work, but they do it with a strong commitment to our members.

An electric distribution system built across a rural landscape is a puzzle of sorts, and lines zig-zag the geography often with no apparent pattern. Our employees and their equipment have to access every part of that delivery system, and sometimes that means ditching the vehicle and hauling things through overgrown or swampy terrain. Add the dark of night, the heat of summer, or a post-storm mess and you can only imagine "a day in the life."

Lineworkers are only part of the story. Your co-op has about 100 employees, all of whom share a deep commitment to the member experience. We each wear our respective hats during typical workdays, but in a major outage everyone—regardless of title, department or job description—is singularly focused on restoration. It's not a perfect process, but Mother Nature has given us plenty of opportunity to become a fairly well-oiled machine.

The co-op way is "neighbor helping neighbor," and we helped one another weather yet another storm. On behalf of your Midwest Energy employee family, thank-you for your kind words of thanks, support and patience. ■

# Midwest Grants Add Value to Student Experiences



**M**idwest Energy Cooperative is now accepting applications for the 2015 Strengthening Schools Grant program. In January, grants totaling just over \$30,000 were provided to 22 public schools across the co-op's service territory. Lawton Community Schools was one of the recipients, receiving \$1,500 for pottery wheels and supplies to enhance the art curriculum.

Following are excerpts from a letter from art teacher Lesli Wardell:

*"I would like to send the biggest THANK YOU to you on behalf of Lawton High School students and students of the future! The grant you awarded the art department for our ceramic project was well used and has made a forever impact on our students. It was an amazing and fun adventure watching the students throwing their first pots. Students now realize the amount of effort and concentration needed to be successful. I cannot even explain the positive effect that this has given the art students at Lawton High School."*

The Strengthening Schools Program makes grants of up to \$2,500 available to public schools for academic/classroom needs and special projects, technology or specific support for academic clubs and organizations. Any teacher, administrator or school official in a public elementary, middle or high school serving children in Midwest's service territory may apply.

"Public schools and teachers are faced with increasingly stringent requirements as they tackle the diverse needs and challenges of today's students and families. The expectations are increasing while public support is decreasing," says Patty Nowlin, community relations director at Midwest Energy. "We are all impacted by the collective successes and failures of our public school systems, and Midwest Energy Cooperative wants to engage our membership in helping to impact positive change on behalf of the greater community."

Each school district will be limited to one award per school and two awards per district in the annual award cycle. Applications are due Oct. 15, and funds will be awarded in January 2015. Projects using awarded funds will need to be completed and final reports submitted by April 30, 2015. Applications are evaluated and funding decisions made by a committee of Midwest Energy Cooperative members without knowledge of the school or district requesting funds.

For more details or an application, visit [TeamMidwest.com](http://TeamMidwest.com) or contact the public relations office at 800-492-5989 or by email at [pr@teammidwest.com](mailto:pr@teammidwest.com). ■

## Fuel Mix Report

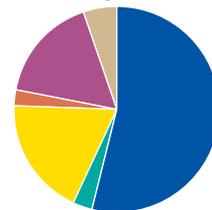
The fuel mix characteristics of Midwest Energy Cooperation as required by Public Act 141 of 2000 for the 12-month period ended 6/30/14.

### COMPARISON OF FUEL SOURCES USED

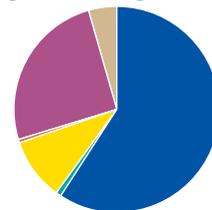
Regional average fuel mix used		
Your co-op's fuel mix		
FUEL SOURCE		
Coal	54.0%	59.4%
Oil	3.2%	0.6%
Gas	18.4%	9.8%
Hydroelectric	2.7%	0.6%
Nuclear	16.6%	25.4%
Renewable Fuels	5.1%	4.2%
Biofuel	0.4%	0.5%
Biomass	0.1%	0.5%
Solar	0.0%	0.0%
Solid Waste Incineration	0.0%	0.0%
Wind	4.5%	2.7%
Wood	0.1%	0.5%

NOTE: Biomass above excludes wood; solid waste incineration includes landfill gas, and wind includes a long-term renewable purchase power contract in Wolverine's mix.

### Your Co-op's Fuel Mix



### Regional Average Fuel Mix



### EMISSIONS AND WASTE COMPARISON

TYPE OF EMISSION/WASTE	lbs/MWh	
	Your Co-op	Regional Average*
Sulfur Dioxide	4.9	7.6
Carbon Dioxide	1,504	2,170
Oxides of Nitrogen	1.8	2.0
High-level Nuclear Waste	0.0054	0.0083

\*Regional average information was obtained from MPSC website and is for the twelve-month period ending 12/31/13.

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



## SURVIVING A SNACK ATTACK

These recipes will satisfy just about every craving and can be enjoyed at home or on the go.

### Toffee Butter Crunch

12 oz. box Crispix® or Corn Chex®  
 1 c. butter  
 ½ c. dark Karo® or other dark corn syrup  
 2 c. pecan halves  
 1 c. brown sugar  
 ½ t. vanilla extract



Preheat oven to 250°. Coat 9"x13" pan (or a large cookie pan) with cooking spray. In a small saucepan, combine butter, brown sugar and corn syrup. Cook until boiling. Add vanilla. Empty cereal into pan and coat with syrup mixture. Sprinkle with pecans

and toss until evenly coated. Bake for 1 hour, tossing every 15 minutes. Toss until cool. You can store these in jars.

*Kathryn Southerland, Hillman*

### Baked Crab Rangoon

12 oz. flaked crab meat  
 8 oz. cream cheese  
 ½ c. thinly sliced green onions  
 ½ c. mayonnaise  
 24 won ton wrappers

Preheat oven to 350°. Mix crab meat, cream cheese, onions and mayonnaise. Spray 24 medium muffin cups with cooking spray. Gently place one won ton wrapper in each cup, allowing edges of wrapper to extend above sides of cups. Fill evenly with crab meat mixture. Bake on lowest rack of oven for 18 to 20 minutes, or until edges are golden brown and filling is heated through. Serve warm. Garnish with chopped green onions, if desired. 24 servings.

*Janice Harvey, Charlevoix*

### Birdseed Bars

2 c. rolled oats  
 1 c. sunflower seeds  
 1 c. pumpkin seeds  
 1 c. sesame seeds  
 1 c. dried fruit (I use a combination of dried cherries, dried cranberries, and golden raisins)  
 4.25 oz. unsalted butter  
 6 T. honey or light corn syrup  
 8 T. raw sugar  
 ½ c. peanut butter (creamy or crunchy)

Place oats and all seeds on an ungreased 9"x13" cookie sheet. Toast in oven at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. In medium saucepan, combine honey, sugar, butter and peanut butter. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring constantly, for 5 minutes. In large bowl, combine fruit, toasted ingredients and wet ingredients, ensuring all dry ingredients are well-covered by the wet. Press mixture into a greased 9"x13" cookie sheet, cover tightly, and store at room temperature. When ready to serve, cut into bars or squares. Leftovers may be refrigerated, but always serve at room temperature.

*Debbie Williams, Rapid City*

### SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "Holiday" recipes by **Sept. 15** and your favorite "Ethnic" recipes by **Oct. 10**.

Mail (handwritten or typed on one side, please) to: *Country Lines Recipes*, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864; or email [recipes@countrylines.com](mailto:recipes@countrylines.com).

Contributors whose recipes we print in 2014 will be entered in a drawing and *Country Lines* will pay the winner's January 2015 electric bill (up to \$200)!

Find more of our readers' recipes at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com)

# 'Smart' Products Make Saving Energy Easier

**E**nergy savings can be easy with some savvy shopping for power strips, thermostats and residential lighting. These are the most common products you can use to reduce energy costs, and with a little research, choosing and using them correctly is easy, too, says Brian Sloboda, a program manager specializing in energy efficiency for the Cooperative Research Network.

## Programmable & 'Smart' Thermostats

There are plenty of programmable thermostat brands and types to choose from, but you won't find one that carries the EPA's Energy Star® seal, as it was dropped from these products in 2009. Why?

Programmable thermostats can save up to \$180 a year on heating and cooling, notes ENERGYSTAR.gov, but many customers miss out on savings by failing to install them correctly. "Most people failed to use the programmable capabilities. They didn't know how or didn't want to," Sloboda says. This led to poor EPA consumer surveys, so ratings dropped, and therefore the Energy Star seal for most of them.

Enter "smart" thermostats, which are intended as an easier alternative and come with motion sensors that detect and set a home's temperature. Nest® is one brand. "Sensors will start to turn the thermostat up or down, depending on the season," Sloboda says. In a few days, the unit will learn your schedule, automatically dialing the thermostat back when you're not home.

The addition of phone and iPad apps are other smart features that make temperature control easy. But, he adds, "A thermostat will only save you money if you allow it to program."

## Interior Lighting

As of January 2014, a federal phase-out replaced incandescent lightbulbs with more energy efficient options.

Currently, there are only three bulb choices—halogen-incandescents, CFLs and LEDs.

The LEDs are the equivalent of the most widely used 60-watt incandescent, and are more long-lasting and energy-efficient, but Sloboda warns that the brand you buy matters. "There is a whole lot of junk out there. You can buy name-brand LEDs for about \$10 and more expensive



Nest® thermostat  
Photos—Nest

ones from not-so-reputable companies." He recommends sticking with long-time brands such as GE® and Sylvania®, but says "don't overlook the lesser-known Cree® products." A 60-watt (800 lumens) Cree costs about \$10 at a big box store and is guaranteed to last 10 years or more.

Transitioning to LEDs is easy if you read the "lighting facts" on the box, which will help narrow your choice by temperature and color, which has nothing to do with wattage, and means you can choose bulbs with a "daylight" or "soft white" glow.

Smart devices are even now in the lightbulb aisle. Manufacturers like LG® and Philips® produce LEDs that can be controlled by your cell phone and change colors to suit your mood. "Today's lighting is really starting to become part of a home's entertainment system," Sloboda says. Many smart lighting units come with software that allows you to create different modes (party, romantic, reading or TV watching) with the flip of a switch.

With the new lightbulb standards, the Department of Energy estimates consumers will save between \$6 billion and \$10 billion a year.

## Power Strips

Traditional power strips expand your number of outlets, but waste electricity by drawing power when they're not in use. Smart power strips are a better choice because they are bigger, color coded, and reduce energy use by shutting down power to products that go into standby mode.

Most feature three outlet colors, each with a unique task. Blue controls heavily-used devices, like a TV. Anything plugged into a red outlets stays on—electricity to these is never cut off—making them perfect for satellite boxes or units needing constant power. The remaining outlets, usually neutral or green, are sensitive to current flowing through the blue one, so turning off the TV or computer also cuts power to them. Some smart power strips (about \$20) even have occupancy sensors and timers that can determine when to cut power to various devices, and you can start to see a payback in about one year. ■



SmartThermostat iPhone

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
NOTICE OF HEARING FOR THE CUSTOMERS OF CLOVERLAND ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, MIDWEST ENERGY COOPERATIVE, AND THUMB ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, CASE NUMBERS U-17611, U-17612 AND U-17613**

- Cloverland Electric Cooperative, Midwest Energy Cooperative and Thumb Electric Cooperative (the Cooperatives) request Michigan Public Service Commission approval to reconcile their individual Energy Optimization (EO) plan expenditures and revenues collected for 2013.
- The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.
- You may call or write the Cooperatives' attorney, Mr. Shaun M. Johnson, at Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933, 517.374.9100 for a free copy of the application. Any person may review the application at Dykema's offices or at the respective offices of the Cooperatives: Cloverland Electric, 2916 W. M-28, P.O. Box 97, Dafer, MI 49724; Midwest Energy Cooperative, 901 E. State St., P.O. Box 127, Cassopolis, MI 49031; and Thumb Electric Cooperative, 2231 Main St., P.O. Box 157, Ubly, MI 48475-0157.
- The first public hearing in this matter will be held:

**DATE/TIME:** October 1, 2014, at 9:00 a.m.

This hearing will be a prehearing conference to set future hearing dates and decide other procedural matters.

**BEFORE:** Administrative Law Judge Mark E. Cummins

**LOCATION:** Constitution Hall, 525 West Allegan, Lansing, Michigan

**PARTICIPATION:** Any interested person may attend and participate. The hearing site is accessible, including handicapped parking. Persons needing any accommodation to participate should contact the Commission's Executive Secretary at (517) 241-6160 in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a public hearing to consider the Cooperatives' July 1, 2014 joint application for Commission authority to reconcile the expenditures and revenues for their individual EO plans for 2013.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: [michigan.gov/mpscedockets](http://michigan.gov/mpscedockets). Requirements and instructions for filing can be found in the User Manual on the E-Dockets help page. Documents may also be submitted, in Word or PDF format, as an attachment to an email sent to: [mpscedockets@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscedockets@michigan.gov). If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 241-6180 or by email at: [mpscedockets@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscedockets@michigan.gov).

Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the case shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by September 24, 2014. (Interested persons may elect to file using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon the Cooperatives' attorney, Shaun M. Johnson, at Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, Michigan 48933.

Any person wishing to appear at the hearing to make a statement of position without becoming a party to the case may participate by filing an appearance. To file an appearance, the individual must attend the hearing and advise the presiding administrative law judge of his or her wish to make a statement of position. All information submitted to the Commission in this matter becomes public information: available on the Michigan Public Service Commission's website, and subject to disclosure. Please do not include information you wish to remain private.

Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure R 460.17315 and R 460.17335. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 241-6060.

A copy of the Cooperatives' request may be reviewed on the Commission's website at: [michigan.gov/mpscedockets](http://michigan.gov/mpscedockets), and at the office of Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, Michigan; or at the respective Cooperatives' offices. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Commission at the above address or by telephone at (517) 241-6180.

Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1909 PA 106, as amended, MCL 460.551 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.54 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; 1982 PA 304, as amended, MCL 460.6j et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; 2008 PA 295, MCL 460.1001 et seq., and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, as amended, 1999 AC, R 460.17101 et seq.

August 1, 2014

# Midwest Propane Fuels the Fight for Cancer

**W**ith sunny skies and temperatures in the low-to-mid 70s, Mother Nature provided a perfect backdrop for July's Midwest Propane Fueling the Fight Charity Golf Scramble at Pilgrim's Run Golf Club in Pierson. The perfect weather was topped only by the announcement that participating teams helped raise \$12,613 to support the Susan P. Wheatlake Cancer and Wellness Endowment Fund of the Big Rapids Hospital Foundation. The fund provides services to cancer patients and their families through the Susan P. Wheatlake Cancer and Wellness Center located at Spectrum Health Big Rapids Hospital.

"Cancer touches so many lives, and as a locally-owned and operated company we wanted to do something meaningful to help individuals and families who face this devastating disease," says Bob Hance, president/CEO of Midwest Energy Cooperative. "Susan has used her own personal experiences to create an amazing support center, and we are proud to honor her life and work with this event."

The golf event is part of Midwest Propane's "Fueling the Fight" campaign to raise money and awareness about cancer care and services in Michigan. Funds raised



Bob Hance and Susan Wheatlake embrace after the announcement that the "Fueling the Fight" golf event raised \$12,613 to support the Susan P. Wheatlake Cancer and Wellness Endowment.

through various activities through late summer and fall are donated to local cancer services across the service territory. Midwest Propane serves over 6,500 customers across 17 counties in Michigan, northern Indiana and northern Ohio, and is a non-regulated subsidiary of Midwest Energy Cooperative. ■

## Public Act 295: The Clean Renewable and Efficient Energy Act

### 2013 Annual Energy Optimization Report Midwest Energy Cooperative MPSC Case Number U-17365

Midwest Energy contracted with the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association (MECA) to administer the Energy Optimization efforts in order to comply with PA-295. MECA filed a 4-year Energy Optimization plan with the MPSC on August 1, 2011, as required by PA 295. This EO plan was approved by the MPSC on November 10, 2011 and we began implementing the plan January 1, 2012. The Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation (WECC) was selected to implement all Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Programs, and the Energy Optimization website michigan-energy.org. WECC has subcontracted with JACO, Michigan Energy Options, Franklin Energy, Morgan Marketing Partners, and Honeywell to assist with the implementation of the EO Programs. MECA contracted with KEMA as the independent 3rd party evaluation contractor for the certification of kWh savings.

In 2013, Midwest Energy collected \$1,138,976 through the Energy Optimization Surcharge and spent \$929,834, resulting in an over-collection of \$209,142 which will be applied towards the 2014 EO Program delivery expenses and goal achievement. Midwest Energy achieved 6,880 MWh of energy savings in 2013. For every dollar spent on energy efficiency programs, customers will save \$3 in avoided energy costs. The full report can be obtained at michigan-energy.org or <http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile>.



# Blue Angels

Fly on the Wings of Hard Work



**A**J. Harrell decided early in life that he didn't want to sit behind a desk.

Strapped into the cockpit of a C-130 aircraft, he now works at executing maneuvers at 400 mph and fighting G-forces that double his bodyweight, which pretty much takes care of that aversion to desks.

But Blue Angels pilot Capt. Harrell sees a mission beyond the roaring engines. "The folks at our shows see that I'm just a guy in the cockpit. I'm from a small town (Frederick, Md.), I went to college in the middle of nowhere (Anderson, Ind.). I'm proof that a job like this is not outside the grasp of the average person."

The Blue Angels, the U.S. Navy's flight demonstration squadron, performed at the 88th National Cherry Festival Air Show in Traverse City, July 5–6. Capt. Harrell, the son of Tom Harrell, CEO of Alger Delta Electric Cooperative in the U.P. town of Gladstone, flew his Marine Corps C-130, known affectionately as "Fat Albert."

Just before heading to Traverse City, Capt. Harrell came down from the clouds to talk to *Country Lines* about the Blue Angels. Like Harrell's achievements, the breathtaking precision of their flight acrobatics is the result, he emphasizes,

of hard work. To air show spectators, it's 48 minutes of magic, but in reality, he notes, "We practice endlessly; talent is not enough."

While the primary mission of Harrell's C-130 is to give the squadron logistical support, the plane is also part of the show. Fat Albert starts the action with an 8½-minute flight demonstration that showcases its tactical capabilities.

Flying in tight formations, the squadron's six Boeing F/A-18 Hornets reach speeds of 700 mph. Fat Albert chugs along at 400 mph. Between shows, the Blue Angels—named after a 1950s New York night club frequented by pilots—don't stand still, either. From mid-March to mid-November they typically travel to 35 U.S. towns, doing 70 shows for 11 million spectators.

Based in Florida, Harrell regrets being away from his wife and children so much. "I'm on the road 300 days a year," he says, but adds that 10 years in the Marines has taught him to accept travel as part of the job.

The automatic spending cuts triggered by the federal budget sequestration in April 2013 grounded the Blue Angels. Harrell's reaction? "Our season got canceled, but we were more concerned about our friends and coworkers in Afghanistan. It's one thing to not have air shows; it's a completely different thing to not have people who, due to budget cuts, are not as prepared as they should be going into combat."

The squadron was flying again in 2014, after Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel ruled that outreach is crucial to the military's mission.

Still on Harrell's bucket list: Landing a jet on an aircraft carrier. "I'm holding out hope," he says. ■

**Opposite page:** Capt. A.J. Harrell, 33, earned his wings in 2006, has flown in Afghanistan and on humanitarian missions, and applied to the Blue Angels in 2011. A Blue Angels pilot generally spends up to three years in the squadron before returning to regular duty.

**Below:** Capt. A.J. Harrell's C-130 is nicknamed "Fat Albert."

Photos—U.S. Navy Blue Angels Public Affairs Staff



Captain Harrell takes a selfie at Mach 3.



**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
NOTICE OF HEARING FOR THE CUSTOMERS OF MIDWEST ENERGY COOPERATIVE  
CASE NO. U-17638**

- Midwest Energy Cooperative requests Michigan Public Service Commission approval to reconcile its renewable energy plan costs associated with the plan approved in Case No. U-17309, for the period ended December 31, 2013.
- The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.
- You may contact Midwest Energy Cooperative's attorney, Mr. Shaun M. Johnson, Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, Michigan 48933, 517.374.9100, for a free copy of the application. Any person may also contact Midwest Energy Cooperative, 901 E. State St., P.O. Box 127, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031, 800.492.5989, for a free copy of its application.

- The first public hearing in this matter will be held:

**DATE/TIME:** Oct. 9, 2014, at 9:00 a.m.

This hearing will be a prehearing conference to set future hearing dates and decide other procedural matters.

**BEFORE:** Administrative Law Judge Mark E. Cummins

**LOCATION:** Constitution Hall, 525 West Allegan, Lansing, Michigan

**PARTICIPATION:** Any interested person may attend and participate. The hearing site is accessible, including handicapped parking. Persons needing any accommodation to participate should contact the Commission's Executive Secretary at (517) 241-6160 in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a public hearing to consider Midwest Energy Cooperative's (Midwest) July 31, 2014 application for Commission approval to reconcile its renewable energy plan (REP) costs for the period ended December 31, 2013. Midwest Energy represents that its REP filings included no request for a renewable energy surcharge, no surcharge was approved and none was charged to its member-customers in 2013. Midwest Energy further represent that there are neither revenues nor expenditures to reconcile.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: [michigan.gov/mpscedockets](http://michigan.gov/mpscedockets). Requirements and instructions for filing can be found in the User Manual on the E-Dockets help page. Documents may also be submitted, in Word or PDF format, as an attachment to an email sent to: [mpscedockets@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscedockets@michigan.gov). If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 241-6180 or by email at: [mpscedockets@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscedockets@michigan.gov).

Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the cases shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by October 2, 2014. (Interested persons may elect to file using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Midwest Energy's attorney, Shaun M. Johnson, Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, Michigan 48933.

Any person wishing to appear at the hearing to make a statement of position without becoming a party to the case may participate by filing an appearance. To file an appearance, the individual must attend the hearing and advise the presiding administrative law judge of his or her wish to make a statement of position. All information submitted to the Commission in this matter becomes public information, thus available on the Michigan Public Service Commission's website, and subject to disclosure. Please do not include information you wish to remain private.

Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure R 460.17315 and R 460.17335. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 241-6060.

A copy of Midwest Energy Cooperative request may be reviewed on the Commission's website at: [michigan.gov/mpscedockets](http://michigan.gov/mpscedockets), and at the office of Dykema Gossett PLLC, or at the office of Midwest Energy Cooperative. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Commission at the above address or by telephone at (517) 241-6180.

Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1909 PA 106, as amended, MCL 460.551 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.54 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; 1982 PA 304, as amended, MCL 460.6j et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; 2008 PA 295, MCL 460.1001 et seq.; and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, as amended, 1999 AC, R 460.17101 et seq.

August 7, 2014

## How To Use A Generator Safely

Keep this page in your home's emergency kit or with your generator.



1. Never plug a portable generator into a wall outlet or your home's electrical system. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment:
  - Stationary Generator:** An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from the electric co-op, should be installed by a professional.
  - Portable Generator:** Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.
2. Set up and run your generator in a dry, well-ventilated area outside your home, and away from the garage, doors, windows, and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is **DEADLY**—install a CO detector in your home and check the batteries regularly.
3. Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator.
4. Start the generator **BEFORE** connecting appliances.
5. To avoid a fire, turn off and let the generator cool before refueling.

Source: [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)  
 Developed jointly by the Energy Education Council  
 & Rural Electricity Resource Council

## Did you wear out your furnace last winter?

With another winter just around the corner, don't wait until the last minute. Purchase a furnace with a high-efficiency motor and get **\$150 back from Midwest Energy Cooperative**. Rebates available at [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org).

**ENERGY TIP: Don't wait until your furnace stops working—shop now, avoid a rushed decision, and get a great rebate!**

ONLINE: [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) PHONE: 877.296.4319



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

# IT'S TIME

# Are You a Michiganiaan or a Michigander?

**B**ased on the positive feedback on its debut, “Jack’s Journal” looks to be a winner in the eyes of many *Country Lines* readers. So far, so good!

The first column (May 2014) hit a nerve, however, as readers sounded off on my use of the term “Michiganiaan” over “Michigander.” I chose Michiganiaan because words written and spoken infrequently tend to garner a bit more attention than “the usual.” Little did I know just how much debate my choice of words would cause!

*“I chose Michiganiaan because words written and spoken infrequently tend to garner a bit more attention than the usual.”*

Needless to say, Michiganiaan fans were overjoyed as a serious blow was struck against the villainous Michiganders. To any newcomers, let me explain the apparent identity crisis. A battle of sorts has raged for years about the proper way of referencing folks from here. I remember Michiganiaans debating Michiganders when I was a kid growing up in Detroit. So, what are we? Michiganiaans or Michiganders?

While surveys show Michigander to be the people’s choice, research uncovered some interesting facts. Abraham Lincoln coined the phrase in 1848 while making

a speech as a member of Congress. Abe took a shot at Michigan Gov. Lewis Cass, who was running for president against Lincoln’s Whig Party candidate. In his speech, Lincoln called the governor a “Michigander” in an effort to make the state’s top man appear foolish, like a “goose.” The term seems to have stuck, and the original use seems lost on us...Michiganders.

Before Honest Abe was born, “Michiganiaan” was used as far back as 1805. The Michigan Historical Society has favored it since 1870, when the term first appeared in its publications. Turns out, most women prefer “Michiganiaan” too, saying “Michigander” is a sexist and discriminatory term that essentially leaves women out of the picture by referencing the male goose (gander) only.

I could further muddy the waters by adding to the debate another popular moniker, “Michiganite,” but I’ll save that for a future column. Whether you’re a Yooper or a Troll, hail from the Motor City or somewhere on the Sunrise side or Gold Coast, it’s safe to say we like our nicknames in the Wolverine State, regardless of the name’s bearing.

(Michigan hasn’t seen a wolverine in a long time!)

Until next time, be kind and enjoy the Great Lakes State no matter what you call yourself!

Share a story idea with Jack by email to: [jack@countrylines.com](mailto:jack@countrylines.com) or write J. O’Malley, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864. ■



Jack O'Malley



## «« Do You Know Where This Is?

Every co-op member who identifies the correct location of the photo at left by **Oct. 10** will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 credit for electricity from their electric co-op.

We do not accept Mystery Photo guesses by phone. Enter your guess at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) or send by mail to: *Country Lines* Mystery Photo, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, 48864. Include your name, address, phone number, and the name of your co-op. Only those sending complete information will be entered in the drawing. The winner will be announced in the Nov/Dec issue.



July/Aug Photo

Photo—Bill Savage

The July/Aug contest winner is Chris Rogers, a Great Lakes Energy Cooperative member from Grand Rapids, who correctly identified the photo as Au Train Falls.

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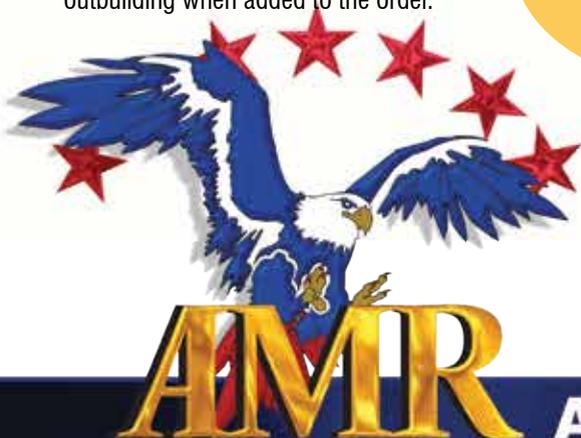
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 <p><b>12w BR30 LED Bulbs</b> (85W equivalent, limit 12 bulbs)</p>	<b>\$17.00</b>	<b>\$7.00</b>
 <p><b>Advanced Power Strips</b> (Limit 2)</p>	<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
 <p><b>Aerator Kits</b> (Limit 2)</p>	<p>Kit includes: low flow showerhead, kitchen aerator and 2 bath aerators</p> <p><b>\$15.00</b></p>	<b>\$5.00</b>
 <p><b>LED Nightlight</b> (Limit 4)</p>	<b>\$2.00</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>

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\* See page 4 of this issue for locations.  
\*\* Plus sales tax.

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