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Twice



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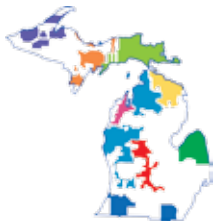
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Please notify your electric cooperative.
See page 4 for contact information.

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IN YOUR WORDS

Last month, we asked electric co-op members a question:

If you could spend the day with any celebrity, who would it be?

Thank you for all the responses. Here are some of your answers...

"Shirley Jones. I fell in love with that woman when she played Marian the Librarian in *The Music Man*. That face, that voice."

"The NCIS crew, Definitely! I could hang out with Gibbs, and his crew in DC to see all the monuments; Pride, and his crew in New Orleans for some of that Cajun cookin' and Dixieland jazz; then Hettie and her crew in LA for some California dreaming."

Our new Question of the Month is:

Where can you get the best burger in Michigan?

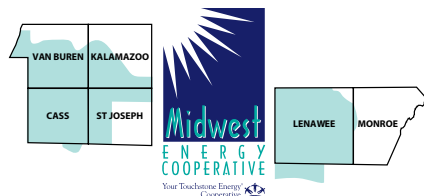
Please submit answers to countrylines.com by September 1.

ON THE COVER

Ann and Steve Loveless of Beulah, MI, stand in front of the winning panoramic landscape that they brought to life at the 2013 Michigan ArtPrize competition.

*Some co-op editions have a different cover.

Photo-Steve Loveless



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Midwest Energy Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The Power Of One Plus One



Robert Hance
President/CEO

I was recently stalked in the local grocery store. Well, maybe stalked is too strong a term, but a man approached me and asked if I was the one he saw picking up garbage in the parking lot. Rather sheepishly, I owned my actions and he proceeded to thank me for what I did.

I didn't pick up the trash for acknowledgement; I did it because it's how I'm wired. I believe in the power of one person to make a difference and affect change. One person's smile. One person's act of kindness. One person's commitment to change. One person's courage and conviction.

So just imagine the power of one plus one!

I'm reading a book right now about the power of one as it relates to making a difference and affecting change, both in business and life, and here's a passage that spoke to me: *Service to others has its own arithmetic. Combine two or more good-hearted people in the pursuit of a common cause, and suddenly one-plus-one is more than two. It's called synergy. We can all do a little something, but together we can do something truly amazing.*

On June 15, Team Midwest did just that. We created synergy and did something truly amazing through a day of service within our home community of Cassopolis. We deployed more than 90 employees to 10 project sites, donating nearly 600 "man hours" over one day to strengthen and support the local community. We cleaned up, planted and mulched gardens; painted benches, picnic tables and sign posts; installed playground equipment; cleared trails; constructed accessibility ramps; served food, and engaged in a myriad of other tasks in a spirit of community and service. We got dirty and tired, but at the end of the day, we knew we'd done something important and changed the landscape within the community we've called home for nearly 80 years.

Changing the landscape is our mantra these days. We're literally changing the landscape at the intersection of M60 and Decatur Road as we begin building the foundation of the new headquarters for your "Utility of the Future." In a more figurative way, we're changing the landscape on our members' experiences through upgrades to our electric distribution system and deployment of fiber communications solutions.

We're one team, working in pursuit of a common cause, creating synergies that will bring amazing change to our members, our communities, and the region. ■



Team Midwest Going To The Races In August

It's the fastest track in NASCAR and the largest campground in Michigan for two weekends every summer. Michigan International Speedway (MIS), nestled right in the backyard of our southeast service territory, is one of our state's great treasures and is the location of our 2016 Customer Appreciation Event.

Join us at MIS on Sunday, Aug. 28, for the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Pure Michigan 400. Gates open at 8 a.m. (parking opens at 6 a.m.), and the race starts at 2 p.m. Whether you're a die-hard racing fan, or just want to get a taste of the popular action, this event promises to deliver.

We've secured a limited block of tickets and are making those available on a first come, first served basis to Midwest members and customers. Tickets are limited to two per household (NOT meter or account), and additional tickets for the race and other weekend events may be purchased at

a special Midwest discounted rate once you've reserved your tickets. MIS offers a lot of great amenities, including a family-friendly Fan Zone, great camping, free parking, and the ability to bring in your cooler with your favorite food and beverages (cooler size restrictions apply). It's a great way to end your summer, courtesy of Team Midwest!

Be sure to visit the Midwest hospitality tent, conveniently located in the lot outside turn one near our reserved seating. We'll have a few giveaways and a chance to enter to win two passes for the MIS Champions Club, a three-day all-inclusive experience during a 2017 race weekend. Visit mispeedway.com to learn more about what MIS has to offer!

Visit TeamMidwest.com/SignUp today to register. Again, tickets are limited so act now so that you can join us in Victory Lane for this one-of-a-kind customer appreciation event. ■

Offices Closed For Labor Day

Cooperative offices will be closed for Labor Day on Monday, Sept. 5. Payments may be made at the drop box and will be posted on the next open business day.

From our family to yours, have a happy and safe Labor Day weekend.



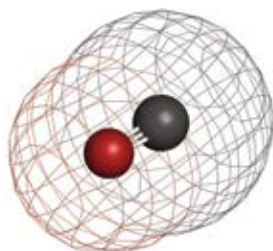


Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

You can't see, taste or smell carbon monoxide, but it can be deadly. Carbon monoxide, or CO, is a gas that is found whenever fuel is burned. Known as the "silent killer," CO causes an average of 430 deaths per year and more than 20,000 hospital emergency room visits according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Where does carbon monoxide come from?

CO is in fumes produced by items that burn fuel, including kerosene, propane, and gas space heaters, improperly working furnaces, gas water heaters and dryers, wood stoves and fireplaces. Car, truck and boat exhaust fumes contain CO as do fumes from fuel-powered generators and power washers.



How can carbon monoxide poisoning affect your health?

CO is dangerous because it blocks your body from absorbing the oxygen it needs. CO poisoning can occur suddenly or happen over a long period of time. Symptoms depend on the amount of CO a person is exposed to, the length of time exposed, and the general health and age of the person. Mild symptoms

may seem like the flu and include: mild headache and weakness, dizziness, sleepiness, shortness of breath, tightness in the chest, nausea and/or vomiting. High levels of CO or lower levels of CO exposure that last a long time can cause confusion, loss of muscle control, blurred vision, extreme headache, weakness, fainting, convulsions and even death.

Who is most at risk of harm to their health?

Anyone can be at risk for carbon monoxide poisoning. However, those most at risk are:

- infants,
- the elderly, and
- people with heart disease, lung disease, or anemia.

What should you do if you have symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning?

- Go outside and get fresh air immediately!
- Call 911 and tell them you think you have carbon monoxide poisoning, or go to the emergency room if you are able to get there without help.

A simple blood test done at the hospital can usually detect carbon monoxide poisoning. Medical treatment is available. ■

What can you do to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning?

- **DO** purchase and install carbon monoxide detectors that meet Underwriters Laboratories (UL) standard 2034-95. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper placement, use and maintenance. If the detectors plug into the wall, be sure they have a battery backup.
- **DO** leave the house if the alarm sounds on your CO detector. Go to a hospital emergency room or call 911 if anyone is feeling sick. If no one is sick, call the emergency number for your heating service or 911. Stay out of the home until your heating service or fire department says it's okay to go in.
- **DO** have a heating professional inspect, clean, and adjust your fireplace, wood stove, gas appliances including furnaces and water heaters, and chimneys/vents every fall—before the start of home heating season.
- **DO** purchase gas appliances that vent their fumes to the outside. Have them installed by a heating professional.
- **DO** read and follow all of the instructions for any fuel-burning devices.
- **DO** make sure that your car, truck, or boat has a working, airtight exhaust system. Repair exhaust leaks immediately.
- **DO** pay attention to symptoms (headache, dizziness, tiredness and/or a sick feeling in your stomach), especially if more than one person is feeling sick or if people and pets are feeling sick.



- **DON'T** operate fuel-powered machines such as generators, power washers, or mowers in buildings or semi-enclosed spaces.
- **DON'T** cook or heat with a grill indoors, even if you put it inside a fireplace.
- **DON'T** run vehicles in the garage, even if the door is open. Carbon monoxide can build up quickly and enter your vehicle and home.



- **DON'T** sit in a parked vehicle with the engine running for a long period of time, especially if your car is in snow.
- **DON'T** use gas stoves or ovens to heat your home.
- **DON'T** use an un-vented gas or kerosene space heater indoors.
- **DON'T** close the damper to the fireplace unless the fire is completely out and the coals are cold.
- **DON'T** ride in covered pickup truck beds or campers. Air moving around the vehicle can draw exhaust in.
- **DON'T** swim or play near the back of a boat where the motor gives off exhaust.
- **DON'T** ignore symptoms! You could die within minutes if you do nothing.

For more information, contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services by calling **1-800-648-6942** or visit **michigan.gov/carbonmonoxide**.

Maximize Energy Savings And Earn Bonus Incentives

When it comes to keeping your home cool, you may not realize that your A/C and furnace work hand in hand. In fact, the two pieces of equipment share the same handler/blower, and the same ductwork throughout the home—which means both systems should be upgraded at the same time in order to heat and cool your home properly and cost-effectively.

Mismatched Systems = Trouble

According to the Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute, “When improperly matched, the efficiency and longevity of these systems are significantly compromised.” When homeowners opt to replace only the A/C system and not the furnace, the following can occur:

Decreased lifespan: Mismatched levels of equipment efficiency cause systems to run at

different paces. Even if you install a high-efficiency A/C, an older furnace will cause the system to lag behind.

Premature breakdowns: Mismatched units create undue stress, resulting in the unnecessary, premature breakdown of equipment.

Possibility of no warranty: Many manufacturers are aware of the problems associated with mismatched systems, so they often won’t provide a warranty when replacing an exterior A/C unit only.

Combo cash incentives now available!

The Energy Optimization program offers bonus cash incentives for upgrading an A/C and furnace at the same time. Install a new Wi-Fi or smart thermostat to efficiently manage your new systems, and save even more! ■

Incentive Name	Equipment	Bonus Incentive	Maximum Total Incentive
HVAC Combo Bonus	New Furnace + Central A/C unit	\$100	\$800
Smart HVAC Combo Bonus	New Furnace + Central A/C unit + Wi-Fi enabled or smart thermostat	\$150	\$950

Visit Michigan-energy.org or call 877.296.4319 for additional energy-saving information and rebates.



Good things come in threes.

Beat the heat and enjoy cool energy savings.

Earn \$150 in bonus cash incentives (plus regular rebates) when you install an energy efficient central A/C system, furnace, and Wi-Fi enabled or smart thermostat at the same time! These systems work together seamlessly, so upgrade all three to maximize savings.

ENERGY TIP: Install a new furnace and central A/C system together and receive a \$100 bonus incentive.

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.

Amazing Michigan! Photo Contest Winners



The votes are in, and we're happy to share the winning photo (and some great runners-up) from our May photo contest. Winners were selected from 40 Facebook entries receiving over 1,300 votes! Thanks to everyone who submitted a photo, voted and spread the word by sharing the post on Facebook.

1. **Winner!** Shelly Evilsizor, White Pigeon – "Taquamenon Falls"
2. Tammy West, Jones – "Lights Of Lake Michigan"
3. Noelle Dunn, Jones – "A Superior Shot Of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore"
4. Lecia Lamphere, Schoolcraft – "Little Sable Lighthouse, Silver Lake"
5. Stacy Ford, White Pigeon – "Sunset Over Fish Lake"
6. David Weglowski, Niles – "A New Buffalo Sunset"

Visit teammidwest.com/photo-contest/ to view all the photos submitted.

Enter Your Photos And Win!

Team Midwest's photo contest is underway; and one lucky winner will end up with a credit of up to \$200 on their December 2016 electric bill. Every month, we will announce a new theme and invite you to submit your best shot. The photo receiving the most votes each month on our Facebook contest page will be entered into the drawing for the year-end bill credit and will also be featured in a subsequent issue of *Michigan Country Lines*.

How to submit? Just visit facebook.com/TeamMidwest and click on "Photo Contest" from the menu tabs. Not on Facebook? You can also enter at TeamMidwest.com/photocontest. Make sure to vote, and encourage others to vote for you, too! A high-resolution photo (at least 1 MB) is required to print your photos in *Michigan Country Lines*. We look forward to seeing your photos! Our July theme is **Sports/Outdoor Fun**. Photos are accepted from **July 1 to July 20**. Photos with the most votes will be featured in the September issue. The August theme is **Best Friends**, Photos are accepted from **August 1 to August 20** for our October Issue.

BBQ FAVORITES

These Great Recipes Make Summer Sizzle!



Shredded BBQ Beef

Esther Maginity, Thompsonville

- 1 lean boneless beef chuck roast (about 5 lb.)
- 3 T. cooking oil, divided
- 2 large onions, chopped
- 1 c. ketchup
- 1-2 small cans beef broth*
- $\frac{2}{3}$ c. chili sauce
- $\frac{1}{4}$ c. cider vinegar
- $\frac{1}{4}$ c. packed brown sugar
- 3 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 T. prepared mustard
- 2 T. molasses
- 2 T. lemon juice
- 1 t. salt
- $\frac{1}{8}$ t. pepper
- $\frac{1}{4}$ t. cayenne pepper
- 1 T. liquid smoke, optional
- 12-16 hamburger buns

In a Dutch oven, brown roast on all sides in 1 T. oil. Meanwhile, in a large saucepan, sauté onions in remaining oil until tender. Add remaining ingredients to the saucepan. Reduce heat and simmer, uncovered for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Pour sauce over roast. Cover and bake at 325° for 2 hours, turn roast and continue to bake 2 more hours until roast is very tender. Remove roast from oven, shred with fork and return to Dutch oven with sauce. **If too stiff, add more beef broth to the right consistency. If there is extra, just freeze in containers.*

Photos—831 Creative

Chicken BBQ

Cora Kuiper, Grand Rapids

- 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. cooked chicken, shredded
- 2 T. butter
- $\frac{1}{2}$ c. chopped onion
- $\frac{1}{2}$ c. chopped celery
- $\frac{1}{2}$ c. chopped green pepper
- 1 c. ketchup
- 1 c. chicken broth
- 3 T. vinegar
- 2 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 t. prepared mustard
- 2 T. brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ t. salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ t. pepper

Cook onion, celery and green pepper in butter until tender. Add chicken and remaining ingredients. Simmer 20 minutes. Serve on buns.

BBQ Chicken Pizza

Mindy Aves, Charlotte

- 1 refrigerated pizza dough or your favorite dough mix
- ¼ c. Sweet Baby Ray's BBQ sauce
- ½ c. shredded, cooked chicken (leftovers work great)
- ¼ c. thinly sliced red onion
- ½ c. fresh sliced baby portobello mushrooms
- 1 c. mozzarella cheese
- 1 c. sharp cheddar cheese

Prepare crust according to package directions. Spread crust on a 12-inch pan and brush with olive oil. Add BBQ sauce, chicken, red onions and mushrooms, followed by cheese. Bake at 375° for about 14-18 minutes or until crust is golden brown and cheese is melted.



Gather Round The Co-op Kitchen Table

A **NEW** and **EXCLUSIVE** online cooking community for our electric co-op members.

Members can submit recipes online for a chance to win a \$50 electric bill credit; plus there's more! We will print the winning recipe in *Country Lines* with a photo of the dish and create an instructional "how to" video for micoopkitchen.com.

Ready to pull up a seat?

GREAT! Go to **MICOOPKITCHEN.COM** and register.

Please submit your favorite "World Cuisine" recipes by August 1 and "Casserole" recipes by Sept. 1.

Enter your recipe online at micoopkitchen.com or send to (handprint or type on one side, please): *Country Lines* Recipes, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. Please note the co-op from which you receive your electric service.

micoopkitchen.com



Bringing Safety To Life For 800 Students

Emily Carlisle and Hayden Leventis enjoyed fond memories of their recently-completed fourth-grade years when they saw their artwork on Midwest Energy Cooperative billboards in June.

Emily, a student at Sam Adams Elementary and daughter of Jeremy and Aryn Carlisle of Cassopolis, was the southwest Michigan winner of Midwest Energy's Safety Month contest. Hayden took the honors in our southeast Michigan district. He is the son of Tommy and Michelle Leventis of Tecumseh and a student at Madison Elementary. More than 800 fourth-grade students and teachers from across the co-op service territory were introduced to electrical safety in April as part of the annual contest, including classes from Cassopolis, Marcellus, Edwardsburg, and Dowagiac Schools in southwest Michigan, and Sand Creek, Clinton, and Madison in southeast Michigan. Students learned about safety equipment used by linemen, what items conduct electricity, and what equipment is in place to protect the public and the lines. Following each presentation, students designed a poster depicting something they learned. The winning image from each service area was printed on t-shirts provided to all students and posted on billboards over the summer.

The contest is part of Midwest's ongoing commitment to educate the community about electrical safety. "Electricity is such an integral part of our lives that we tend to forget the inherent safety concerns involved with the flow of current," says Patty Nowlin, director of communications and community relations. "Midwest Energy is strongly committed to creating a culture of safety, both for our employees and for members of our community; and our public safety programs are one way we promote awareness."

Midwest offers electrical and propane safety programs for any group or organization. Programs are free, adaptable for various audiences and timelines, and can be conducted at Midwest or an off-site facility. Two different programs are available based on the age of the audience. For more information about safety programs, please contact the community relations office at 800-492-5989. ■



Emily's winning design.



Hayden's winning design.



Lineman Mark Kangas conducts the hotline safety demonstration for students at Clinton Elementary.



Todd Hartsell, Midwest lineman, shows interested students how dirt is impacted when it comes in contact with 7200 volts of electricity.



Electricity burns a human body from the inside out, and lineman Mike Miller demonstrates what that could look like on a human finger using a hot dog.

Lenawee County Students Aim To Improve Water Quality

Students and educators in the Lenawee Intermediate School District's (LISD) Sustainable Environmental Education Program had water concerns long before the city of Flint made national headlines. Earlier this year Midwest provided them with a \$2,500 Strengthening Schools grant to create and implement a River Raisin Watershed water quality program for the county's middle and high school students.

Kyle Hoffman, director of legal services, grants and development for LISD, says water quality within the Lake Erie basin has been a topic of concern for a number of years. Lenawee County is located within the River Raisin watershed, which consists of approximately 75 percent agricultural production. Data from the River Raisin Watershed Council indicates that despite efforts to control agricultural runoff, the levels of nitrates and phosphorus reaching Lake Erie continue to grow. This has resulted in an increase in the algae blooms found in the lake water, which is the source of drinking water for Toledo and other areas.

Using their grant dollars the LISD implemented a program, and students in one of Adrian's biology classes recently performed a series of water quality checks on the River Raisin Watershed. The class physically assessed the river, gathered invertebrates and conducted chemical testing to study the algae blooms that are threatening the wildlife and commercial use of this fresh water resource. Among other items, grant dollars helped them purchase supplies such as water testing kits, D-nets, kick nets, bib waders, a microscope, and other testing necessities to conduct their research.

LISD Instructor Kerri Nieman hopes their research efforts generate data to help educate farmers, businesses and the general public on how to better preserve the water quality of our lakes and streams. ■



Adrian biology student Randy Morgan gets into the deep muddy water searching out invertebrates that might exist in this portion of the River Raisin.

Applications Available For 2016-2017 Grant Cycle

Today's students are tomorrow's business and community leaders, and Midwest Energy Cooperative supports the important work of regional teachers and schools with our Strengthening Schools Grant Program. The program is provided in partnership with Touchstone Energy Cooperative.

Midwest is now accepting applications for the 2016-2017 program. Any teacher, administrator or school official in a public elementary, middle or high school serving students in the Midwest Energy Cooperative service territory may apply for a grant of up to \$2,500 to support classroom needs and special projects, technology, or academic clubs and organizations. School districts may be awarded multiple grants, not to exceed a total of \$5,000 during the annual award cycle.

Applications are due Oct. 17 and funds will be awarded in January 2017. Applications are evaluated, and funding decisions made without knowledge of the school or district, by a committee of Midwest Energy Cooperative members.

For more information or to apply online, visit TeamMidwest.com. Interested applicants may also contact Lori Ruff at 269-445-1139 or email lori.ruff@teammidwest.com.



art

WINS HEARTS OF THE PUBLIC

Twice

Artists are often seen as “rule breakers”—bumping up against the norm and defining new and different ways of both viewing and doing things. Few artists have been called “rule makers,” but that’s exactly what husband and wife duo, Steve and Ann Loveless, have become.

In 2013, Ann won the prestigious Public Vote Grand Prize at ArtPrize with her unique landscape quilt art piece “Sleeping Bear Dune Lakeshore.” Her unique collage and quilting technique dazzled visitors from around the globe with its 20-by-five-foot tall stature. The piece, inspired by her husband’s landscape photograph, put both Ann and northern Michigan on the map.

In 2015, Ann and Steve set out to create a piece together—melding Steve’s panoramic photography and Ann’s collage quilting techniques. The result? Northwoods Awakening—a huge quilt and photographic print hybrid that depicts a woodland panorama.



“Northwoods Awakening” earned the 2015 Public Vote Grand Prize at ArtPrize.



Ann's 2013, "Sleeping Bear Dune Lakeshore" quilt won the prestigious Public Vote Grand Prize at ArtPrize.

"Our creation begins as a traditional photographic print on the left," says Ann, "Then blends various fabrics and textiles to metamorphose into an entirely quilted textile on the right."

The two spent more than 1,100 hours on the piece, which assembles at an impressive 25 feet wide by 5 feet tall.

The ArtPrize crowds fell in love once more and awarded the couple the Public Vote Grand Prize—again.

Ann and Steve, whose art gallery is in downtown Beulah and who live near Crystal Lake in Benzie County—are never short on inspiration. Surrounded by water, woods and natural treasures like Sleeping Bear Dunes—there is always a new scene to capture.

"We've learned never to take our surroundings for granted," said Steve. "It's one thing to look at a scene, but another to actually see it."

While inspiration is plentiful, the artwork itself is quite technical. Steve's multi-row panoramic

photography process can include capturing as many as 50-60 close-ups panning rows and columns.

They eventually combine to make one panoramic photograph. It's not dissimilar to the collage stitching that Ann does on the quilting end.

"The hardest part of working together isn't the long hours," said Ann. "It's trying to combine the idea that's in Steve's head with the idea that is in my head. Communicating your vision is the challenge."

The two certainly have overcome the communication challenge. So well, in fact, that ArtPrize has amended their rules—which no longer allows an artist to win the Grand Prize more than once, making Ann the only artist in ArtPrize history who will ever have won twice.

Just when you thought breaking the rules was pretty cool, it turns out that being responsible for the making of rules is the real artist's way. ■



Photos-courtesy of Steve Loveless

Team Midwest Names New Chief Financial Officer



Midwest Energy Cooperative recently welcomed Todd Crandall as the newly-appointed chief financial officer (CFO).

Crandall joins Midwest from Telcom Management Services in Mayfield, KY, where he served as CFO and

was responsible for the financial operations of a group of telecommunications companies providing advanced communication services to customers in Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama.

"Todd's telecom background and expertise is a perfect complement to the depth of energy-related experience and knowledge on our existing finance team," said Bob Hance, Midwest president/CEO. "We are at a critical time as we continue implementation of our five-year plan to deploy fiber communications solutions across southwest

Michigan, and I'm confident Todd will make an immediate and very positive impact."

"Midwest is a dynamic company and highly respected nationally as a leader in the rural broadband movement. I'm humbled and honored to be part of an organization that is providing game-changing solutions and leadership for southwest Michigan, and developing a model for rural communities across the country," Crandall said.

As CFO, Crandall will manage development and execution of the financial strategy and budgets for all lines of business, and oversee all financial processes including business modeling, forecasting, metrics, analysis, cash management, treasury, mergers and acquisitions, and profit improvement planning.

Crandall is a Certified Public Accountant with more than 25 years of financial management experience. He has bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from Colorado State University. ■

Respected Midwest Board Member Colyne Ruth Sorsby Passes



Midwest Energy Cooperative board member Colyne Ruth Sorsby died peacefully in her home on Saturday, May 21 following a long and courageous battle with cancer. She was appointed to the co-op board in 2002 to fulfill the term left by her brother, Leroy Danzy, after his death. Colyne

was a beloved and respected member of the Midwest family and local community, and leaves behind six children, 26 grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren

and two great-great grandchildren. Her fellow directors honored her with a moment of silence and passage of a resolution honoring her life and legacy at their May 2016 meeting.

"Colyne was known far and wide for her generous laughter and vibrant personality, and brought that spirit to our board table every month. She loved and faithfully served God, her family, and the greater community and will be dearly missed," said Bob Hance, president and CEO of Midwest Energy Cooperative.

The board is now seeking candidates to fill the vacant seat through the duration of the three-year term, which ends in April 2019, and expects to appoint a new director at their August meeting. ■



Elizabeth Lycans



Adrianna Pollee



Noah Rufo



Joe Spence

Incoming Freshman Get A Little Help From Co-op

Four young adults from southern Michigan, each a successful student and leader within their school and community, will begin their college journeys this fall with a little support from their electric cooperative.

Students whose families are members or customers of Team Midwest were invited to submit an application for a \$1,000 scholarship through our annual program. Applications were judged based on academic achievements, school and community activities, and honors and awards. Instead of the typical written essay, students were asked to submit a short video describing creative approaches to energy efficiency.

"A lot of students have great scholarship applications and the video approach gave us an opportunity to evaluate them from an entirely different perspective," says Patty Nowlin, director of community relations at Team Midwest. "It was fun to see the thought and creativity behind the approaches, and really get to know our applicants in a different way."

View all 21 scholarship applications, and other TeamMidwest videos, at [YouTube.com/TeamMidwest1](https://www.youtube.com/TeamMidwest1).

2016 Team Midwest scholarship winners are:

Elizabeth Lycans, daughter of Tom and Anne Lycans and graduate of Blissfield High School. Elizabeth is very interested in physics and chemistry, and plans to pursue those interests

as she studies material engineering at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. During her high school career, she attended classes at Siena Heights University and Adrian College, and was involved in theatre.

Adrianna Pollee, daughter of Dean and MaryAnn Pollee and graduate of Mattawan High School. Adrianna is passionate about the environment and wildlife, and will attend Ohio State University to major in Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife. She is active in her school and community as a member of the Paw Paw Art Association, Mattawan Environmental Club, and Global Awareness Project Club.

Noah Rufo, son of Thomas and Heather Rufo and graduate of Decatur High School. A scholar-athlete, Noah begins a five-year master's program for athletic training this fall at Concordia University in Ann Arbor. He was voted captain and All-District Academic First team in football, basketball and baseball during his high school career, and viewed as a quiet leader among his teammates and peers.

Joe Spence, son of Ben and Shannon Spence and graduate of Clinton High School. One of five valedictorians at Clinton High School, Joe plans to attend the University of Toledo to study engineering. He participated in track and basketball, and was named to the All-County and All-League teams as a defensive end in football. ■

The Glamping Trend

By Jack O'Malley

glamping \glamp-in\ verb glamorous camping

If your idea of roughing it means finding the ice machine on another floor of your hotel, glamping might be for you!

Glamping or "glamorous camping" combines the intimacy of camping with the perks of a luxury hotel. Amenities can include everything from bath and laundry facilities to clubhouses and recreation halls. Accommodations will vary, but typically includes Airstreams and other trailers, barns, farmhouses, cabins, huts and teepees. You can even go glamping in a tree house!

Perfect for the vacationer who wants to enjoy nature without getting dirty, Michigan's first glamping eco-resort opened recently, with limited facilities, in Antrim County. Bella Solviva (Swedish for beautiful hope) covers more than 200 acres on the western edge of the Jordan River Valley, and will offer glamping grounds with restrooms, a fitness center, free firewood, and ice, as well as catered meals.

The owner, Brad Carlson, believes glamping will be a fun trend in the very traditional world of vacationing in Michigan. "Glamping will appeal to those who want to rejuvenate in nature but prefer doing so comfortably," said Carlson.

In the plans are several different-themed getaways. For the most adventurous traveler, Neverland Escapade offers hobbit huts and tree dwellings to stow-away yachts and authentic teepees. Vacationers who prefer a more nostalgic experience will enjoy Bella Solviva's Route 66, featuring vintage RVs and tent sites for the do-it-yourself glamper. Bella Solviva will even offer a replica of the M*A*S*H unit complete with swamp tents, a supply hut and mess tent for larger gatherings.



The eco-chic resort embraces environmental stewardship by finding the perfect balance between recreation and sustainability. Bella Solviva uses nontoxic cleaning agents, organic sheets and towels, bulk amenities and non-disposable dishes, on-site transportation with green vehicles and meals prepared with locally-grown food. Future plans include reliance on solar, wind and hydro power.



Jack O'Malley

They say seeing is believing and "Five billion stars beat a five-star hotel any day," Carlson says. ■

Visit bellasolviva.com for more information on availability.

I Remember...

We invite members to share their fondest memories.

Country Lines will pay \$50 for stories we publish.

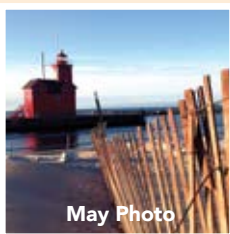
Guidelines

1. Approximately 200 words
2. Digital photos must be at least 600 KB
3. Only one entry per household, per month
4. Country Lines retains reprint rights
5. Please include your name, address, email, phone number and the name of your electric co-op
6. Submit your memories online: countrylines.com



«« Where In Michigan Is This?

Every co-op member who identifies the correct location of the photo at left by **August 18** will be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 bill credit from their electric co-op. We do not accept Mystery Photo guesses by phone. Enter your guess at countrylines.com or send by mail to: Country Lines Mystery Photo, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. Include the name on your account, address, phone number, and name of your co-op.



May Photo

Our Mystery Photo Contest winner from the May 2016 issue is Arthur Kuznicki, a Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op member who correctly identified the photo as the Holland Harbor Light, more commonly known as Big Red, located at the channel connecting Lake Michigan and Lake Macatawa at Holland State Park.



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Sunday, August 28

Join us at the Michigan International Speedway as we celebrate our Midwest Family of customers. We've secured a limited block of tickets and are making those available (2 tickets per household!) on a first come, first served basis.

See page 5 for more information.

Reserve your tickets at TeamMidwest.com/SignUp

