

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

Midwest Energy & Communications

Interlochen

Making Beautiful Music
In Northern Michigan

Maximize Your Internet
With Managed Wi-Fi

Keeping The Lights On,
Keeping You Safe

Helping Students Process
Strong Emotions





**Act now to receive a
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7 Series
*Ultimate comfort
and efficiency*



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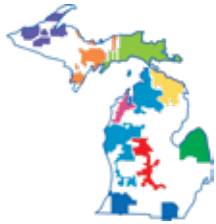
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Michigan's Electric Cooperatives
countrylines.com

Executive Editor: Casey Clark

Editor: Christine Dorr

Copy Editor: Heidi Spencer

Design and Layout:
Karreen Bird

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CONTACT US/LETTERS TO EDITOR:
Michigan Country Lines
201 Townsend St., Suite 900
Lansing, MI 48933
248-534-7358
editor@countrylines.com
countrylines.com

 [facebook.com/
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Located in northwestern Michigan, Interlochen Center for the Arts offers arts education programs for students in grades 3-12 and adults of all ages. Interlochen also hosts hundreds of concerts and events.

Photo courtesy of Interlochen Center for the Arts



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Andy Duffy, Great Lakes Energy Member

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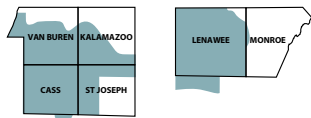
I Remember...

We invite members to share their fondest memories.

Guidelines

1. Approximately 200 words
2. Digital photos must be at least 600 KB
3. *Country Lines* retains reprint rights
4. Submit your memory at: countrylines.com under the MI Co-op Community tab.

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CONTACT US

MIDWEST ENERGY & COMMUNICATIONS

800-492-5989
teammidwest.com
Email: info@teammidwest.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Clarence "Topper" Barth, Chairperson, Three Rivers
269-279-9233
Clarence.Barth@teammidwest.com

Ben Russell, Vice Chairperson, Constantine
269-435-8564
Ben.Russell@teammidwest.com

Ron Armstrong, Secretary, Lawton
269-299-0239
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John Green, Treasurer, Dowagiac
269-470-2816
John.Green@teammidwest.com

Gerry Bundle, Cassopolis
269-414-0164
Gerry.Bundle@teammidwest.com

Arell Chapman, Onsted
517-292-3040
Arell.Chapman@teammidwest.com

James Dickerson, Bloomingdale
269-370-6868
Jim.Dickerson@teammidwest.com

Harry Gentz, Blissfield
517-443-5537
Harry.Gentz@teammidwest.com

Fred Turk, Decatur
269-423-7762
Fred.Turk@teammidwest.com

PRESIDENT/CEO

Robert Hance

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Midwest Energy & Communications is an equal
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Power Supply Partnership Providing Long-Term Stability

Robert Hance, President/CEO

Power supply, the energy that runs through your meter, comprises upwards of 60 percent of residential bills and is represented in the Energy Charge and Power Cost adjustment lines on your bill. These are the kilowatts that light our paths, brew our morning coffee, heat and cool our homes, and entertain our families.

While we bill and collect for power supply, we are not a generation company. Our role is simply delivery. Granted, there's nothing simple about the delivery process as it involves a complex, highly-technical infrastructure and everything that has to be in place to keep that operational, but that's beside the point. We collect for power supply and return it to our power supply partner.

A trusted power supply partnership is critical. Years ago we made a strategic decision to divorce our long-standing power supplier and move to Cadillac-based Wolverine Power Supply. It was a challenging and painful process that carried some significant short-term financial implications, and the board and leadership spent considerable time and energy to ensure we were making the right decision for our members and the future of the cooperative.

I can confidently, and without a doubt, tell you that it was indeed the right decision, and you will see that reflected on your bill beginning in July.

Wolverine is a nonprofit generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative whose mission is to provide reliable, cost-competitive power to its members. That's not unlike the mission of most G&Ts, but Wolverine is delivering in meaningful and forward-thinking ways.

We joined Michigan's other electric cooperatives as a member of the Wolverine family in 2012 and carried with us some weighty implications from our previous power supply arrangement. Six years in, and with a lot of leadership and patience from the entire Wolverine family of cooperatives, we're now in the position to reap and pass along the financial benefits of the move.

We are on track to save more than \$2 million per year in power costs beginning this year. But that's just the beginning of the good news. Wolverine expects power costs to decrease again in 2019 and remain stable through 2030. They own and operate seven natural gas plants in Michigan, and they lead Michigan's utilities by providing nearly 20 percent renewable energy and an energy portfolio that is 56 percent carbon-free.

So what does all that mean for you and your bill? You'll notice the Power Cost Adjustment charge move from \$.0054/kWh this month to \$0/kWh in July. We can't promise it will stay there beyond the next calendar year. While Wolverine is well positioned for the future, weather and other unexpected events can wreak havoc on the best-laid plans. However, our confidence is high that we are in a long-term arrangement with a partner that shares our forward-thinking approach for the best reliability and service possible.

Happy



INDEPENDENCE



Day!

We will be closed on Wednesday, July 4,
in observance of Independence Day.

You can make a payment or report a
power outage via SmartHub or by calling
800-492-5989. Drop box payments made
at our three solutions centers will be
processed on the next open business day.



NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF MIDWEST ENERGY & COMMUNICATIONS TARIFF CHANGE FOR BILLS RENDERED IN JULY 2018

The Midwest Energy & Communications Board of Directors adopted the following change to the cooperative's tariffs at a special Board Meeting on April 24, 2018, in accordance with Public Act 167 (P.A. 167).

- An increase of \$.009106/kWh in the Variable Distribution Charge across all rate classifications.

These unapproved minutes are published in accordance with P.A. 167 of 2008.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF MIDWEST ENERGY & COMMUNICATIONS CHANGES TO TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE EFFECTIVE JULY 2018

The Midwest Energy & Communications Board of Directors adopted the following changes to the Terms and Conditions of Service during their regular Board Meeting on April 24, 2018, in accordance with P.A. 167.

- C-14: Deposits—Commercial and Industrial
 - Allow the cooperative, at its discretion, to require a deposit from a new Member-Consumer, or a new or increased deposit from an existing Member-Consumer, when it determines that the Member-Consumer's payment record with the cooperative has become unsatisfactory. An unsatisfactory payment is one consisting of two or more late payments in any 12-month period, or one necessitating the discontinuation of energy service.
 - Eliminate the accrual and pay out of interest on deposits.

These unapproved minutes are published in accordance with P.A. 167 of 2008.

Look For The Blue Ribbon
For Chances To

WIN
BILL CREDITS
& CASH!

MI CO-OP Community

A place for you to share, win and belong.

As a *Michigan Country Lines* reader, not only are you the heart of your co-op, you are the heart of this magazine. The recipes, memories, photos and stories you share are what make our magazine one-of-a-kind. It brings us together as a community, and we want to encourage more of it. Thanks to the new MI Co-op Community page on countrylines.com, it's now easier than ever to share your content and to read content submitted by other members. Better yet, we don't expect you to work for free. Many submissions are rewarded with cash and bill credits. Just look for the blue ribbon—and we'll look forward to your content.



1.

Monthly Recipe Contest And MI Co-op Kitchen

If you're in need of some food inspiration, look no further than MI Co-op Kitchen—our online cooking community. MI Co-op Kitchen is an interactive space where you can share your recipes and food ideas with other like-minded members. Submit a recipe for our monthly contest and you could win a \$50 bill credit and have your recipe published. A winner is selected every month.



2.

Where In Michigan Is This? Our Mystery Photo Contest

Have you traveled much in the mitten state? If so, it could pay off. Correctly identify our mystery photo and you could win a \$50 bill credit. A new "Where in Michigan Is This?" mystery photo is published in our January, March, May, July/August, September and November/December *Michigan Country Lines* issues. Each correct guess is placed into a drawing and one lucky winner is selected.



3.

I Remember—Members Share Their Fondest Memories

The best stories come from the people who've lived them, so share yours with us. If we publish your story, you receive a \$50 check! Just send us your memory up to 200 words; photos are always a great addition!



4.

Our New Guest Column

We know many of our members are talented and have great ideas—so we invite you to share that talent in *Country Lines*! We will pay \$150 for stories we publish. Let the ideas flow! Stories could be about a significant or memorable event, a person in your life, life lessons learned, educational topics, Michigan recreational activities—and more! Please keep stories to approximately 350 words. Photos are always welcome!



NEW!

Best Of Michigan

Do you have a favorite spot you bring out-of-state guests? What about a favorite Michigan ice cream store you can't resist or a Michigan-inspired treat you always buy? We want to know! Our new Best of Michigan column is a way for you to submit your favorite treats, sites, restaurants, opinions and activities.

We will publish many submissions for the Best Of Michigan section—so there is no monetary reward. However, your name will be published!

Best Beaches!

Tell us your top toes-in-the-sand, sun-soaking beaches along Michigan's coastline.

Submit your answers at countrylines.com under the MI Co-op Community tab by June 20.

HOW TO PREVENT ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING

Each year 3,800 people die from drowning.

Electric shock drowning occurs when an electric current escapes boats, docks and lights near marinas, shocking nearby swimmers.

There are no visible signs of current seeping into water, which makes this a hidden danger.

The electric shock paralyzes swimmers, making them unable to swim to safety.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR:

Swimmers

- **Never swim near a boat or launching ramp.** Residual current could flow into the water from the boat or the marina's wiring, potentially putting anyone in the water at risk of electric shock.
- If you feel any tingling sensations while in the water, **tell someone and swim back** in the direction from which you came. Immediately report it to the dock or marina owner.

Boat Owners

- **Ensure your boat is properly maintained and consider having it inspected annually.** GFCIs and ELCIs should be tested monthly. Conduct leakage testing to determine if electrical current is escaping the vessel.
- **Use portable GFCIs or shore power cords** (including "Y" adapters) that are "UL-Marine Listed" when using electricity near water.
- Regularly have your boat's electrical system inspected by a certified marine electrician. **Ensure it meets your local and state NEC, NFPA and ABYC safety codes.**

IF YOU SEE ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING TAKING PLACE:



TURN POWER OFF



THROW A LIFE RING



CALL 911

DO NOT enter the water. You could become a victim, too.

Heat Pumps:

An Energy-Efficient Alternative

Looking to save on heating and cooling costs? Heat pumps are a smart alternative to furnaces and air conditioners.

How do Heat Pumps work?

Like a refrigerator, heat pumps use electricity to move heat. During the heating season, heat pumps extract and move heat from the cool outdoors into your warm house. In the summer, they move heat from your cool house into the warm outdoors.

Because heat pumps *move* heat rather than *generate* heat, they can cost up to 75 percent less to operate compared to conventional heating or cooling methods.

Types of Heat Pumps

There are various types of heat pumps, two of which are outlined below:

- **Air-Source Heat Pumps:** These are the most common type of heat pump. Today's models can reduce electricity use for heating by up to 50 percent compared to furnaces and baseboard heaters. For homes without ducts, a ductless version called a "**mini-split heat pump**" is available.

- **Geothermal (Ground-Source) Heat Pumps:** These models achieve even higher efficiencies by transferring heat between your home and the ground. These heat pumps can be used in a wide variety of home types and in more extreme climates than air-source heat pumps, and also help control humidity.

Save now with cash back from the Energy Optimization program!

Equipment	Energy Optimization program incentive*
Central Air-Source Heat Pump	\$150–\$500
Mini/Multi-Split Air-Source Heat Pump	\$750
Ground-Source Heat Pump	\$350–\$500
Heat Pump Water Heater	\$300
HVAC Combo Bonus	\$100
Smart HVAC Combo Bonus	\$150

View all incentives at michigan-energy.org or call **877-296-4319** for details.

**Incentive amounts are subject to change; other restrictions may apply.*

Grow YOUR \$SAVINGS!

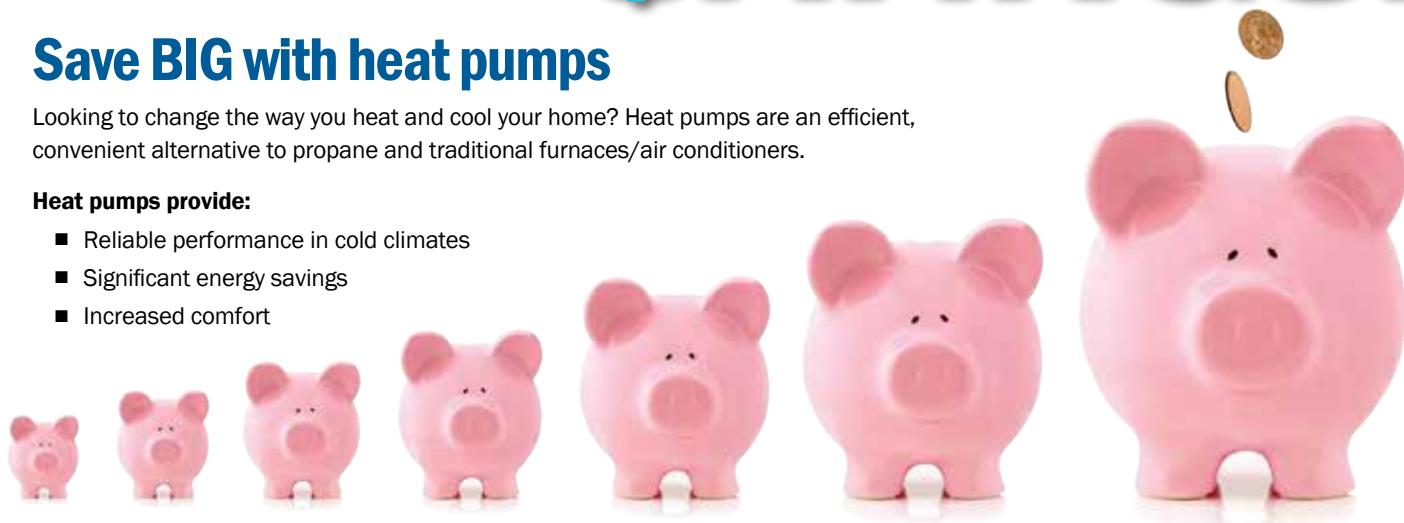
VISIT OUR WEBSITE
for a full list of incentives!

Save BIG with heat pumps

Looking to change the way you heat and cool your home? Heat pumps are an efficient, convenient alternative to propane and traditional furnaces/air conditioners.

Heat pumps provide:

- Reliable performance in cold climates
- Significant energy savings
- Increased comfort



ONLINE: 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.

E Energy
Optimization

M E C

Students discover new ways to alleviate stress with materials in one of Ruth Hoppin Elementary's new decompression rooms.



Decompression Rooms Help Students Work Through Difficult Emotions

By Amy Pales

David Soderquist, principal at Ruth Hoppin Elementary, works hard every day to give his students the tools they need to stay focused and excel in school. However, his goals extend beyond academics; he wants his students to succeed in life. After witnessing some students struggling to work through strong emotions during challenging situations, he decided to create a space for students to refocus their attention, collect themselves, work through issues and return to the classroom.

These “decompression rooms” offer a respite from what can quickly become an overwhelming classroom environment. They contain items like stress balls, stretch bands, stuffed animals and exercise balls to give kids a way to physically alleviate anger and other emotions. MEC helped make these rooms possible through a recent Strengthening Schools grant.

“We worked with occupational therapists and studied concepts in play-based therapy to select items

shown to help kids relieve stress and redirect energy,” stated Soderquist.

Soderquist understands that talking at a child in the midst of an emotional moment is simply unproductive at best; kids cannot listen if their emotions are on overdrive and they certainly cannot learn. As a result, these decompression rooms provide students the chance to refocus their attention and safely calm themselves while educators work with them to identify triggers.

“Ultimately, we want these kids to return to the classroom so they can continue to learn. Sending them home for disruptive behavior is not a good long-term solution for anyone. We want to get to the root of the problem rather than just treating the resulting behavior,” noted Soderquist. He hopes these rooms will create an opportunity for students to learn how to identify and avoid emotional triggers as well as how to implement self control when necessary.



While these rooms are still in their infancy, Soderquist already recognizes a positive change in students. He says these rooms, and his efforts overall, have helped build trust among students. “I now have some students who stop by daily, just to say hello,” he observed. That kind of rapport goes a long way towards making an impact in the lives of these young Wildcats.

Now through Oct. 15, 2018, any teacher, administrator or school official in a public elementary, middle or high school serving students in the MEC service territory may apply for a grant of up to \$2,500 to support classroom needs, special projects, technology, or academic clubs and organizations. School districts can receive multiple grants, not to exceed a total of \$5,000 during an award cycle and funds will be awarded in January 2019.

Applications are evaluated and funding decisions are made by a committee of MEC members without knowledge of the school or district. Applications and more information are available online at teammidwest.com/grants.



Spice It Up

These recipes are packed full of flavor.

Photos—Robert Bruce Photography

Spiced Red Lentil Soup With Cilantro (pictured above)

Cynthia Hodges, Ontonagon REA

- | | |
|---|---|
| 4 tablespoons unsalted butter | 4 cups chicken or vegetable broth |
| 1 large onion, chopped fine | 2 cups water |
| $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon ground coriander | $10\frac{1}{2}$ ounces ($1\frac{1}{2}$ cups) red lentils, picked over and rinsed |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ground cumin | 2 tablespoons lemon juice, plus extra for seasoning |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon ground ginger | 1 teaspoon paprika |
| $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon ground cinnamon | $\frac{1}{4}$ cup fresh cilantro, chopped |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon pepper | |
| • pinch cayenne powder | |
| 1 tablespoon tomato paste | |
| 1 garlic clove, minced | |

Melt butter in large saucepan over medium heat. Add onion and 1 teaspoon salt and cook, stirring occasionally, until softened but not browned, about 5 minutes. Add coriander, cumin, ginger, cinnamon, cayenne, and $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon pepper and cook until fragrant, about 2 minutes. Stir in tomato paste and garlic and cook for 1 minute. Stir in broth, water, and lentils and bring to simmer. Simmer vigorously, stirring occasionally, until lentils are soft and about half are broken down, about 15 minutes. Whisk soup robustly until it is coarsely pureed, about 30 seconds. Stir in lemon juice and season with salt, pepper and extra lemon juice to taste. Ladle soup into individual bowls, sprinkle with paprika and cilantro, and serve.



Watch a video of this recipe at
micoopkitchen.com/videos

Chicken Hot Legs

Stanley Pohl, HomeWorks Tri-County

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 4–5 pounds of chicken legs | 1 cup Drake's Crispy Fry Mix |
| 2 eggs | $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups Frank's RedHot™ sauce |
| • salt and pepper | $\frac{1}{2}$ stick butter |

Preheat oven to 425 F. Pull skin over the meat (do not remove the skin). Beat eggs; add some salt and pepper. Dredge legs in eggs then coat well with Drakes mix. Cover a cookie sheet with aluminum foil and grease generously with butter. Bake until the bottom side gets crispy, then turn over and bake again until bottom is crispy.

For the spicy sauce: Mix together the butter and hot sauce in a large bowl.

Toss the chicken legs in the spicy sauce until well coated. Place the drumsticks back on the cookie sheet and continue baking an additional 10 to 15 minutes.





FEATURED GUEST CHEF



Buffalo Chicken Tacos

Nancy Popa, Cherryland

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2 boneless chicken breast halves | 2 tablespoons buttermilk |
| 2 tablespoons hot sauce (such as Frank's RedHot™) | 2 tablespoons mayonnaise |
| 1 teaspoon butter, melted | 1 ounce blue cheese crumbled (about ¼ cup) |
| ½ teaspoon ground red pepper | 2 cups shredded romaine lettuce |
| | 1 celery stalk, thinly sliced |
| | 8 6-inch corn tortillas |

Heat a grill pan over medium-high heat; coat with oil. Cut the chicken breasts in half lengthwise to make 4 cutlets. Season well with salt and pepper. Cook chicken 2–3 minutes on each side until done. Remove from pan and let the chicken sit a few minutes before slicing thin. Combine hot sauce, butter and red pepper with a whisk. Add sliced chicken to mixture and coat. Combine buttermilk, mayonnaise and blue cheese; mash with a fork. Add lettuce and celery to the mixture. Warm the tortillas as the package directs. Place chicken mixture in tortilla and top with cheese mixture. Serve with tortilla chips or rice.



Cookies And Cakes: due July 1
Cocktails And Drinks: due August 1

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

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

Enter to win a
\$50
 energy bill credit!

Interlochen Cookie Bar

Stone Cafeteria at Interlochen Center of the Arts works hard to nourish the body and creative spirits of the students, faculty and staff. While menus are managed weekly to take advantage of local and seasonal produce, the menu occasionally includes an indulgent treat. So, when the Cookie Bar hits the menu, it's music to everyone's ears.

- ½ cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1½ cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1 (14-ounce) can EAGLE BRAND® Sweetened Condensed Milk
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate morsels
- 1⅓ cups flaked coconut
- 1 cup chopped nuts

Heat oven to 350 F (325 F for glass dish). Coat a 13x9-inch baking pan with non-stick cooking spray. Combine graham cracker crumbs and butter. Press into bottom of prepared pan. Pour sweetened condensed milk evenly over crumb mixture. Layer evenly with chocolate chips, coconut and nuts. Press down firmly with a fork. Bake 25 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool. Cut into bars or diamonds. Store cookie bars covered at room temperature.

Read the full story about Interlochen Center of the Arts on page 14, and find this recipe and others at micoopkitchen.com.



A student from Ruth McDregor Elementary in Sand Creek tries on a lineman's tool belt during a hotline safety demonstration.



MEC Lineman Mark Kangas demonstrates the proper use of extension cords and outlets to students from Sand Creek.

Keeping The Lights On And **KEEPING YOU SAFE**

Understanding what to do—and not do—around electricity can save your life. That's why MEC dedicates every April to teaching local fourth graders about the power, and dangers, of live electrical current.

This year, we reached over 430 students in Bloomingdale, Mattawan, and Hartford schools in southwest Michigan, and nearly 240 in Clinton, Onsted and Sand Creek schools in southeast Michigan. Students learned about safety equipment used by lineworkers, items that conduct electricity, equipment that protects the public and the lines, general electricity safety, and ultimately what to do should they encounter a downed power line.

These demonstrations aren't just for fourth graders, however. We are available to present to both children and adults at schools, emergency response organizations, churches, civic groups, local businesses, and more.

In fact, we started these demos in an effort to keep our first responders safe. "Years ago, while working storm damage, a local firefighter led me through the woods to the source of the outage and a downed wire sparked about two feet from his head," said Rich Drews, safety director at MEC. "I instantly realized that our community members did not understand the extreme danger of live wires. So I started looking into ways to present safety information and built our first hotline demo trailer."

We can host these interactive presentations at your location or ours and can customize them to meet necessary state standards and your specific needs. We also have our Hazard Hamlet, a presentation for kindergartners through third graders that teaches them about electrical safety concerns in everyday situations.

Beyond electricity, we host demonstrations for propane safety too because our efforts to keep the community safe do not stop where our electric lines end.

For more information or to schedule a demonstration, contact the community relations team at 800-492-5989 or email pr@teammidwest.com.



MEC Lineman Jordan Wilson (left) shows students in Bloomingdale the power of electricity.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY LESSONS

for kids

Children often do not understand the dangers of electricity. At MEC, we encourage you to share these electrical safety tips and lessons with your little ones as often as possible:



1

Instruct them to avoid any downed power lines. In fact, it is best to avoid power lines, transformers, and substations in general. A downed power line can still be energized, and it can also energize other objects, including fences and trees. Make sure your kids understand the potential dangers of coming in contact with a downed power line or low hanging wire. And, if they encounter a downed power line, ask them to tell you or another adult to call for help.



2

Point out electronics in your home that are not in use and how to keep appliances safely away from liquids.



3

Discuss fire prevention and create a family fire drill plan.



4

Never put metal objects in outlets or appliances.



5

Do not overcrowd electrical outlets.



6

Never mix water and electricity.

No matter how you choose to get your kids interested in staying safe around electricity, MEC is here to help.



Interlochen Making Beautiful Music In Northern Michigan

By Emily Haines Lloyd // Photos courtesy of Interlochen Center for the Arts



In Interlochen, Michigan, nestled within 1,200 acres of woods with not one, but two crystal blue lakes sparkling with glints of light, is an idyllic setting worthy of an opening sequence in a movie. With its rustic-looking cabins, noticeable absence of technology, and campers rushing off to their activities, it's not unlike other summer camps.

But, as they say, it's all about the details.

Take a closer look to see campers in their iconic blue polo shirts, walking along with instrument cases, sheet music, scripts, portfolios and a variety of accessories that display the fact that Interlochen is no ordinary summer camp. Each year Interlochen plays host to approximately 2,500 third through 12th-grade students from around the world who want to make something beautiful over their summer vacation.

"The Interlochen Arts Camp experience gathers students and teachers from all over the country and the world in an intensive, inspiring artistic experience that trains and rejuvenates young artists," said Jason Hubbard, vice

president of academy programs. "The reservoir of skills and experiences informs their practice and continues to inspire their work throughout the year."

Interlochen Arts Camp, formerly called National High School Orchestra Camp, has been in operation since 1928. It expanded its efforts in 1962 when it opened its year-round boarding school—Interlochen Arts Academy, which now hosts approximately 500 students each year from grades nine through 12. Both programs offer young artists opportunities to explore their craft in a variety of disciplines like music, theater, creative writing, dance, film, visual arts and more, while building in authentic camp experiences like off-campus field trips or lake activities.

While you'll find a large number of campers and students who hope to one day have a career in the arts, there are just as many who will one day find careers as software designers, teachers, or accountants, but the long-term impact can be equally significant.

"Students come to Interlochen to find their voice, to develop in their artistry, and to find their people," said Leslie Donaldson, director of engagement.

This finding of one's tribe is a common theme. Famous alumnus Josh Groban, an actor and vocalist, talked about his experience as a camper at Interlochen Arts Camp on Bloomberg TV in 2015.

"You're surrounded by nature, on a lake, and you're also surrounded by kids from all over the country and all over the world who share the same passion for the arts as you do," said Groban. "It was the first place I realized I was not an outcast."

Interlochen provides world-class instruction in the arts for its campers and provides a variety of performances, shows and interactions for art lovers from the region. In 2018, Interlochen announced a new Day Camp program that invites local residents in grades six through 12 the opportunity to attend three and six week programs at a substantially discounted rate. Now, community members can more than enjoy the performances against the camp's idyllic backdrop, they actually have the opportunity to participate.

Yes, Interlochen is brimming with talented artists, unlike your average camp program. But at its core, it is all about the students and the opportunity for them to produce beautiful art, make lifelong friends and create cherished memories. So maybe, at its heart, Interlochen is exactly what summer camp is all about.



Tickets for the 2018 Interlochen Arts Festival are now on sale!
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Report Of Independent Auditors

Following are excerpts from the audit report. The full report may be accessed at teammidwest.com or by calling 800-492-5989.

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of Midwest Energy Cooperative, which comprise the consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the related consolidated statements of operations, equities and margins, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the consolidated financial statements. Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Cooperative as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Moss Adams
March 30, 2018

Director's Compensation Disclosure

Elected directors are paid an annual retainer of \$1,200 and a per diem based on board position, and years of service or credential status for meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative. The chairman is paid an annual retainer of \$2,200.

Consolidated Statements of Operations

Years Ended December 31,
(Dollars in 000)

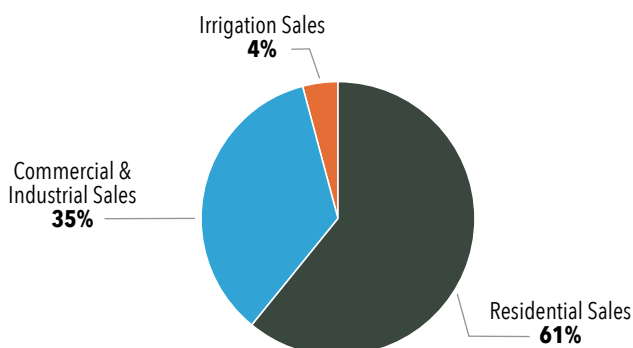
	2017	2016
Operating revenues	\$ 88,517	\$ 87,748
Operating expenses	85,711	83,463
Interest expense	4,181	3,536
Operating margins (deficits)	(1,375)	749
Capital credits	3,594	4,549
Non-operating margins (deficits)	826	(32)
Net margins	\$ 3,045	\$ 5,266

Consolidated Balance Sheets

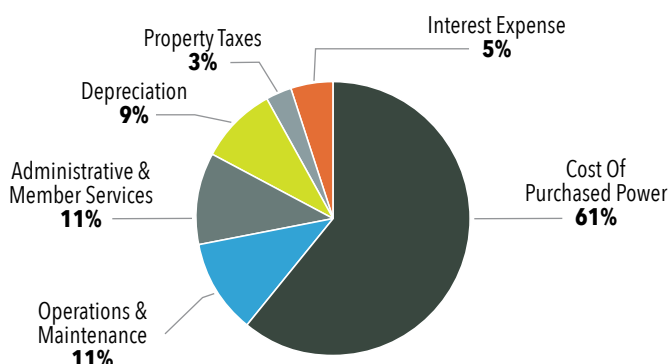
December 31
(Dollars in 000)

ASSETS	2017	2016
Net electric plant and equipment	\$ 193,479	\$ 160,179
Other assets and investments	25,646	24,077
Current assets	20,252	14,901
Deferred charges	142	142
Total assets	\$ 239,519	\$ 199,299
EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES		
Equities	\$ 56,199	\$ 52,969
Long-term debt	158,141	105,747
Other liabilities	4,831	5,365
Current liabilities	19,805	34,644
Deferred tax liability	528	563
Deferred credits	15	11
Total equity and liabilities	\$ 239,519	\$ 199,299

Where Our Sales Come From



Where Your Dollars Go



GUEST COLUMN

Anything Is Possible While Fishing In The Dark

Love or monsters: Take your pick.

By Andy Duffy, Great Lakes Energy Member

"You and me going fishing in the dark," wrote a brace of country song lyricists. My dad was a fan of the idea.

Dad grew up when white pine stumps remained from the logging days. Lakes were pristine. I don't know where he got his fishing knowledge, but he knew about fishing in the dark.

We lived on some derelict farmland perched beside a winding river. I was just a kid with a compulsion to fish. Dad told me to try fishing at night with a black, Arbogast Jitterbug.

I had the Jitterbug. My yard-mowing income saw to that. My empty tackle box compartments always outnumbered my full ones because I lost lures as fast as I bought them. Trees, old bridge pilings and rocks were anglers' adversaries, and they beat me often. Because of my dad's recommendation, though, I always had a Jitterbug.

So, one June night after the final rays of sunlight disappeared in the evening sky, I made my way down the winding path, between patches of poison ivy and snake grass, to the sandbar that lined the river. Mosquitoes descended on me. I swatted.

Still, I dutifully went about my fishing. I made a cast, and then another.

I had little room to fish. Upstream and down, the stream wasn't safe for someone my age. I was restricted to 30 feet of shoreline. So, I decided to make one last cast and call it a night.

In the dark, I could hear my lure, but I couldn't see it. When the plug was right at my feet, an unholy commotion shook my world. Water splashed. A maelstrom opened, and I thought it would suck me in. My heart leaped into my throat. My rod bent. Line zipped through the line guides. I realized I had a fish on. I played it in. It was a smallmouth bass, the first one I ever caught. The world became a magical place for me that night.

Today, Michigan remains an enchanted place. As the song suggests, the magic may come with falling in love in the middle of the night. Or, it might come as a raging monster surging from the water to devour a young angler. A person can take his pick: One type of magic is probably just as enchanting as the other.

Left: Sam Shaffer of Concord knows that at the time of the summer solstice, magical things can happen. A kiss probably won't turn a fish into a princess, but anything is worth a shot.

Below: Janet Day of Clark Lake fishes one of Michigan's country lakes. The lakes are magical places where anything can happen.



A proponent of the bucolic life, Andy lives in co-op country in a rural area near Evart. There, he engages in a wide variety of outdoor activities including hunting, fishing and gathering.

Country Lines Invites Members To Submit A Guest Column

Country Lines will pay \$150 for stories we publish. In general, great columns are those that talk about a significant or memorable event or person in your life, and the lessons learned. If we choose to publish your column, we will contact you via phone or email.

Guidelines

1. Approximately 350 words
2. Digital photos must be at least 600 KB
3. *Country Lines* retains reprint rights
4. Submit your guest column at countrylines.com under the MI Co-op Community tab
5. Please include a head shot photo and a couple sentences about yourself

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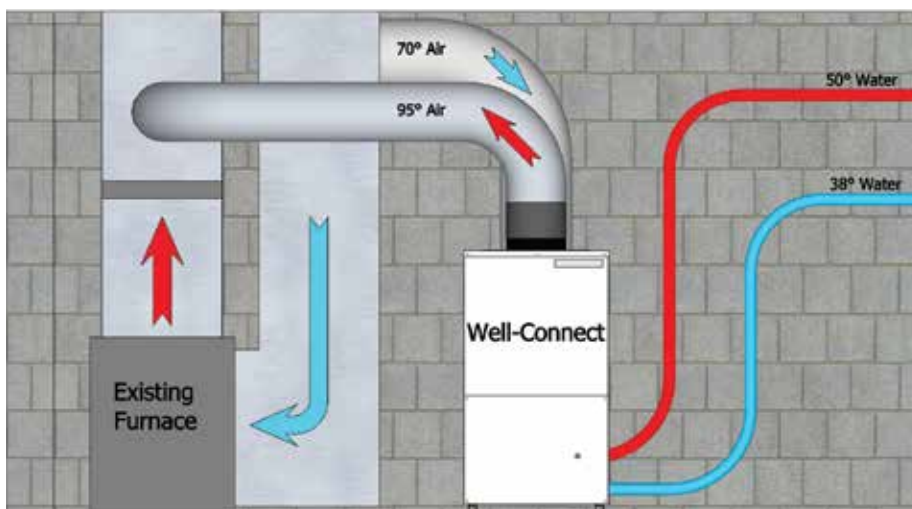
Steve & Miriam - Owosso, MI



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