

Take a tour of Akron hamburger joints that rock THE PLAIN DEALER

MORE THAN 1.3 MILLION READERS IN PRINT AND ON CLEVELAND.COM WEEKLY | 75¢ NEWSSTAND 58¢ HOME DELIVERY



NOPEC puts together 7-year deal with fixed rate on electric power

700,000-plus Northeast Ohio households to get offer

JOHN FUNK
Plain Dealer Reporter

More than 700,000 Northeast Ohio households will soon be able to lock in the price of electricity for seven years, regardless of what happens to wholesale power prices.

Customers served by the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council will receive an offer to sign a seven-year,

fixed-price electric contract for 6.75 cents per kilowatt-hour.

NOPEC, a council of governments that negotiates with utilities for power and natural gas, represents 600,000 of those households in 173 communities spread over 10 counties.

The contract, considered unheard of in the industry, is the creation of NOPEC, working with FirstEnergy

Solutions, the unregulated subsidiary of Akron-based FirstEnergy Corp.

FirstEnergy Solutions has already mailed a similar offer to 100,000 other households in non-NOPEC communities in Ohio Edison territory.

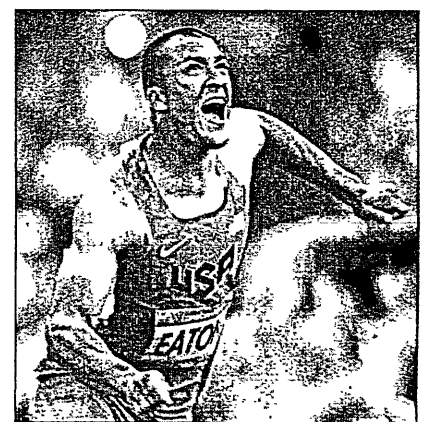
That FirstEnergy Solutions offer is a seven-year contract at 7 cents per kilowatt-hour.

Chuck Keiper, NOPEC's executive director, said the council and executives with FirstEnergy Solutions began discussing the idea last December as a strategy that consumers could use to avoid power price increases expected in 2015.

"If our market call is correct, we think people will get a fair amount of savings for about five-plus years," he said. "They will pay a little more in the front end but less in the back end."

SEE NOPEC | A8

The Olympics



DAVID J. PHILLIP | ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. claims decathlon title

The United States' Ashton Eaton, above, throws the javelin on his way to the gold medal in the decathlon. The USA finishes 1-2 in the event.

U.S. wins gold in soccer

Carli Lloyd scores two goals and the United States avenges its women's World Cup final loss to Japan, winning, 2-1, and getting gold for the third consecutive Olympics.

Medal standings

Country	🥇	🥈	🥉	Total
United States	39	25	26	90
China	37	24	19	80
Russia	12	21	23	56

More coverage in Sports

Getting ready to reopen St. Adalbert



GUSCHAN | THE PLAIN DEALER

Ryan Allen cleans the glass on the entrance doors Thursday at St. Adalbert Catholic Church in Cleveland. About a dozen parishioners were cleaning the church for Sunday's reopening. The church is one of 11 that appealed their closings to the Vatican, which ruled in March that Cleveland Bishop Richard Lennon had not followed proper procedures when he closed them over 15 months beginning in 2009. St. Adalbert will be the eighth of the 11 churches to reopen. See a Gus Chan photo gallery from St. Adalbert Church at: tinyurl.com/pdphotoblog

Pot growers are left dry and not high

Lack of rain has hurt Ohio's marijuana crop

JOHN CANIGLIA
Plain Dealer Reporter

This is one weather story police will love: The lack of rain that has withered corn and soybeans has crippled the state's marijuana crop.

The potent plant that thrives in fields and woods across Ohio has suffered through an unusually brutal summer. In many places, plants are a fraction of the 4- or 5-foot height that is normal for this point of the growing season, police say.

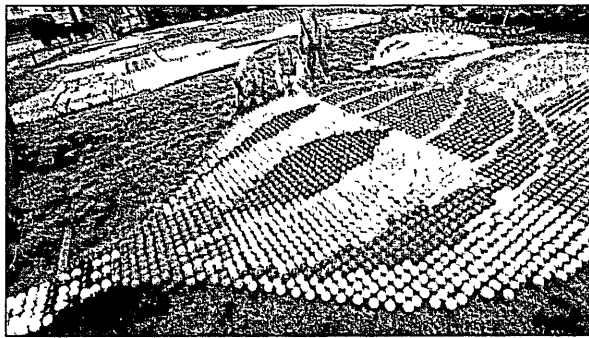
"It hasn't looked healthy at all," Vinton County Sheriff Shawn Justice said. "It's not growing well, and we're not finding as much."

Across the state, rainfall is way down. Take Cleveland. From April through Wednesday, the city had 9.94 inches of rain. That's 5.04 inches below normal.

In Cincinnati and Columbus, it's worse. Each city is more than 6.5 inches below normal. Toledo is about 4 inches below normal, according to the National Weather Service.

"It's the same deal with any other type of plant: You need to get them water for them to grow," said Dan Skye of High Times magazine, a publication that tracks trends in marijuana's cultivation and the war on drugs.

SEE RAIN | A4



LYNNISCHAY | THE PLAIN DEALER

Ronald and Betty Manolio's egg-festooned Lyndhurst lawn, better known as Eggshelland, in April 2011. Ronald Manolio died, Tuesday of blood poisoning. He was 82.

Ronald Manolio, creator of Eggshelland, dies at 82

Family plans a final grand display next year

LEILA ATASSI
Plain Dealer Reporter

Even Ronald Manolio's workbench in the basement of his Lyndhurst home is a work of art. Covered in vibrant drips and speckles like a Jackson Pollock masterpiece, the bench bears the vestiges of thousands of hours spent working in Manolio's media of choice:

Enamel paint and eggshells.

This week signals the end of an era for curiosity-seekers and families who, for decades, made pilgrimages to Manolio's front yard every Easter to take in the elaborate display of colored eggshells aptly known as Eggshelland.



Manolio

Manolio died Tuesday at Regency Hospital in Richmond Heights of blood poisoning, after complications arising from a dental procedure. He was 82.

Thursday afternoon, in the living room of the Manolios' Linden Lane home, Betty Manolio, 79, flipped through scrapbooks commemorating the displays that she and her husband designed and built with the help of their growing family.

SEE FAMILY | A5

Municipal Court employees facing theft charges

Bailiff, clerk accused of pocketing fines

JAMES F. MCCARTY
Plain Dealer Reporter

A Cuyahoga County grand jury returned indictments Thursday against a Cleveland Municipal Court bailiff and a clerk of courts employee on charges of theft in office.

The indictments against bailiff Glenn Webb, 53, of Cleveland, and former Chief Deputy Clerk Aisha Muhammad, 50, of Euclid, came more than two years after The Plain Dealer first reported on a Cleveland police investigation into practices in the court.

The co-defendants worked in concert, stealing about \$5,000 in fines and court costs from about a dozen people who appeared in traffic court from Jan. 30, 2009, to June 7, 2010, according to Nicole DiSanto, a spokeswoman for County Prosecutor Bill Mason.

Muhammad was indicted on 11 additional counts of tampering with records. All of the charges are third-degree felonies, punishable by prison terms of one to five years and a \$10,000 fine.

Several people who had appeared in Municipal Court for traffic violations or minor offenses told The Plain Dealer that they were approached by a bailiff who offered to accept partial payments for their fines.

SEE POCKET | A5

METRO

Felony charges in theater arrest

The North Ridgeville man who police say took a loaded gun, extra ammunition clips and four knives into a showing of "The Dark Knight Rises" has been charged with 21 felonies. **Details, B1**

Human trafficking: Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine says the Central Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force "is the first task force of its kind in central Ohio." PolitiFact Ohio puts his statement through the Truth-O-Meter. **Details, B1**

BUSINESS

East Fourth store to close

Fourteen months after opening, Dredgers Union is closing on East Fourth Street. The apparel and housewares store never attracted enough local shoppers to survive. **Details, C1**

Manufacturers seek changes: Business leaders say Ohio needs to invest in roads and bridges, beef up internship programs and offer tax breaks for investing in factories. **Details, C1**

SPORTS

Paul Dolan's low point

For Tribe CEO Paul Dolan, the recent 11-game losing streak is the low point of his family's 12-year ownership. "That was probably the most disappointing stretch of baseball in our tenure," Dolan tells Terry Pluto. **Details, D1**

Tribe wins again: Ubaldo Jimenez struck out a season-high 10 batters and closer Chris Perez notched his 30th save to help the Indians beat the Boston Red Sox, 5-3. **Details, D1**

4-HOUR FORECAST

Full report: B8 or cleveland.com/weather

6 a.m.	10	2 p.m.	6	10	2 a.m.
78°	78°	73°	69°	65°	62°

Today: Windy with a couple of thunderstorms. Precipitation: 75% morning, 55% afternoon.

To subscribe, call 1-888-559-7555



74776 18011 4