



RURAL  
MISSOURI

December 2012

# Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

# News

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# Merry Christmas!

*from the Board of Directors, Staff & Employees  
of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative*



**Sac Osage Electric Cooperative will be closed on Tuesday, Dec. 25th for Christmas Day & Tuesday, Jan. 2nd for New Year's Day.**

December 2012

## Memorable Women

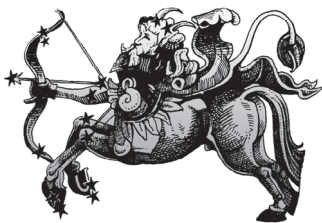
Dec. 13 marks the feast day of St. Lucia, patroness of blindness. Also called St. Lucy's Day, young girls in Sweden parade through the towns, wearing crowns of candles and deliver cakes and coffee. Dec. 13 also marks the day "Grandma



Moses" died in 1961. She was a farmer's wife who did not begin to paint until she was in her 70's. Her painted "primitives" of country scenes became popular and were exhibited throughout the world.

## Happy Birthday, Sagittarius

This is the time for Sagittarius, those born between Nov. 23 and Dec. 21. Some of this sign's birthday people include painter Gilbert Stuart (3rd); actor Jeff Bridges (4th); U.S. president Martin Van Buren (5th); lyricist Ira Gershwin (6th); and actress Felicity Huffman (9th). Sagittarians



are considered optimistic, honest and jovial. They make excellent leaders because they are strong-willed and good at organizing. Their ruling planet is Jupiter and their body sign is the thighs — a weak spot for them in terms of their health.

## Boxing Day

The origins of Boxing Day (Dec. 26) date back to the old custom of giving Christmas gifts to servants and tradespeople on the day after Christmas. The boxes were made of earthenware; each was broken open to obtain the money gift inside.



Today, the money gift often is contained in a holiday greeting card and given before the holiday. Where celebrated, Boxing Day is welcomed as a quiet day of recuperation from the season's more hectic festivities.

For recipes, gardening tips and weather forecasts, visit:  
[www.almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com)



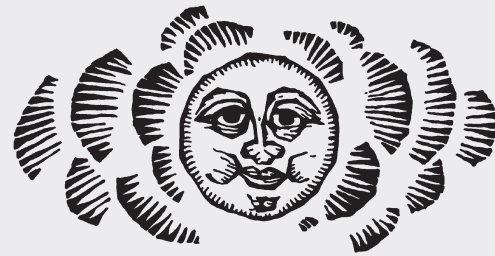
### Recipe for Chocolate Bread Pudding



1 cup soft bread crumbs  
2 ounces baking chocolate  
1-1/4 cups sugar  
1-1/3 cups milk  
2 tablespoons butter  
2 eggs  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract  
2/3 cup milk

Grease a 1-1/2-quart baking dish and preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Combine the first four ingredients in a double boiler; cook until smooth. Stir in the butter and remove from heat. Beat the eggs; stir in the remaining ingredients and add to the chocolate mixture. Cook over hot water until thick. Pour the mixture into the prepared pan and bake for 20 minutes. Makes 4 servings.

## THE OLD FARMER'S



## WEATHER PROVERBS

**If the wind blows much on St. Stephen's Day (Dec. 26), the grape will be bad in the next year.**

**Many stars in winter indicate frost.**

**Between the hours of 10 and 2, will show you what the day will do.**

**Much sleet in winter will be followed by a good fruit year.**

**If at Christmas ice hangs on the willow, clover may be cut at Easter.**

**When oxen or sheep collect together as if they were seeking shelter, a storm may be expected.**

**Black clouds in the north in winter indicate approaching snow.**





## H O M E C O M F O R T

# Peace, quiet and efficiency

*Boost your home's energy efficiency with soundproofing*

**Dear Jim: Our house walls need more insulation for efficiency and perhaps better soundproofing. We also are adding a new bedroom. Will insulation make the existing rooms quieter and the new room soundproof? — Bob J.**

**D**ear Bob: Adding wall insulation can be an expensive project and above the skill level of most do-it-yourselfers. In many older houses — particularly ones with masonry walls — there is little space inside the walls for additional insulation. In many cases, it's worthwhile to spend more on insulation with the highest R-value per inch, which is a number showing the ability of insulation to resist the transfer of heat. Higher R-values indicate more effective insulation.

Any type of insulation you add to save energy will help somewhat to soundproof the walls, but you need additional improvements for significant noise dampening because sound travels mostly through the wall studs.

For your new room addition, carefully installing fiberglass batt insulation can boost your home's energy efficiency. The key word is "carefully" because fiberglass batts don't provide protection from gaps at the wall joists.

It's up to you to make sure spaces are caulked or sealed with spray foam before insulating. Every crack and gap reduces the overall efficiency of the new wall. It's difficult to eliminate all the gaps in your existing walls, but injecting foam insulation is effective because it fills in spaces to eliminate air leakage.

Another option is to build a second insulated wall against the inside existing wall. You'll lose only about 4 inches of floor space for the new wall, which you can frame with 2-by-4 pieces of lumber, insulate with foil- or kraft paper-faced fiberglass batts and then cover with drywall. This method is particularly effective for older houses with full masonry walls.

If your windows are old, installing new ones makes the greatest improvement in saving energy and blocking outdoor noise. The air-tight quality helps, but most new windows also use heavy inert gases in the gap between the panes that further reduces sound transmission.

In fact, simply caulking and weatherstripping your old windows can have a dramatic effect on reducing noise, and it improves the energy efficiency of your house by keeping heated or cooled air from leaking out and outside air from seeping in. In turn, your heating and cooling system won't need to work as hard and use as much energy.



photo courtesy of Quiet Solution

When adding on a new room, special soundproofing board can be installed that will reduce sound transmission while improving the room's overall energy efficiency.

When planning your new bedroom, do some research regarding the STC (sound transmission class) rating for various types of wall construction. A typical uninsulated interior wall with drywall on each side of 2-by-4 framing has an STC of about 34.

If there are heating ducts and holes for electrical outlets and phone jacks, the STC of that interior wall may be only 25. Keep in mind that these openings are also culprits for drafty rooms, so using an inexpensive outlet insulation kit is one more way to improve energy efficiency. Adding insulation inside the wall increases the STC by very little — normal conversation would still be easily heard. At the other extreme, with an STC of 66, yelling is barely audible in adjacent rooms.

As with outdoor walls, your first step in soundproofing interior walls is to get out the caulk gun and seal any gaps. It won't help energy efficiency much, but it does block the vibrations that create sound.

Another consideration is the type of noise you want to block. If it's normal household sounds and voices, many standard soundproofing methods are effective. If you want to block deep bass vibrations from music or a home theater, a thicker wall is best. You can create that by installing two layers of drywall or using a high-density wallboard. If using drywall, you can nail them tightly together or leave them slightly separated for the benefits of decoupling.

Decoupling the two surfaces of a wall is critical to block sound transmission. That means drywall on one side is not attached to the same wall studs as the drywall on the adjacent wall. One simple method is to install a second layer of drywall over the existing one. Make sure not to screw it into the wall studs or very tightly to the existing drywall so it stays decoupled. This method also increases the thickness of the wall for blocking bass vibrations.

Another method is to stagger the studs on wider headers and footers in the wall cavity. The drywall on each wall is attached to every other stud, which means there is no direct path for the sound to travel.

You can also try installing thin resilient metal strips over the studs. The new drywall is attached to these strips and not directly to the studs. Strong soundproofing board made of recycled materials, such as Homasote 440, installed over the studs is another option. Screw the drywall or resilient channels to this board.

The following companies offer wall soundproofing products:

- Acoustic Sciences, 800-272-8823, [www.asc-soundproof.com](http://www.asc-soundproof.com);
- Certainteed, 800-782-8777, [www.certainteed.com](http://www.certainteed.com);
- Homasote, 800-257-9491, [www.homasote.com](http://www.homasote.com);
- Owens Corning, 800-438-7465, [www.owenscorning.com](http://www.owenscorning.com); and
- Serious Energy, 800-797-8159, [www.quietrock.com](http://www.quietrock.com).

*Have an energy-efficiency question for Jim? E-mail him at [contact@dulley.com](mailto:contact@dulley.com) or write to: James Dulley, Rural Missouri, 6906 Royal-green Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45244. Visit [www.dulley.com](http://www.dulley.com) to read past articles on energy efficiency.*



by Jim Dulley





## Manager's Column — Happy Holidays!

As the Christmas season quickly approaches, I want to wish our members a joyous season of good cheer. This is the favorite time of year for most folks. It is a time of celebration; a time of family gatherings; a time of thinking of others and sharing our lives with others. Speaking of others, please consider signing up for our OPERATION ROUND-UP Program. By having us round up your bill to the next dollar, your donation of a few cents will go to help local civic organizations in our area communities. If we could persuade all of our members to donate their change on their monthly bill, we could help more people. Simply contact one of our service representatives in the office and they will help you to help others. On behalf of all of the Directors and Employees of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, we hope you have a safe and memo-




**Tom Killebrew**  
Manager

orable season during the Christmas holidays.

Personally, I hope you don't even think about us during your festive activities. I hope Sac Osage Electric doesn't even cross your mind. That means your power will be on and you will not be experiencing any problems that would involve us. However, if there is an occasion that you need us, we are only a call away. No one can predict the weather, or guarantee you 100% reliability. But we can assure you of being responsive, in case you have an outage.

I'm just really glad Santa's reindeer can see in the dark, and fly above power poles. Here's wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



It's the season of giving just say yes and enroll in Operation Round Up!

Sac Osage Electric members who wish to participate in Operation Round Up may have their electric bills rounded-up to the next dollar each month. Every penny collected is turned over to Sac Osage Electric's board for disbursement. Please contact us to enroll in the Operation Round Up program or fill out this form and send it along with your next electric payment. You will be glad you did.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have more than one meter in your name, specify which meters you would like to set up for the Operation Round Up program.

## \$\$\$ Capital Credits \$\$\$

The board of directors for Sac Osage Electric Cooperative has authorized the distribution of \$250,000 in capital credits for a portion of 1983.

If you are a current member who is a part of this capital credit refund, the amount will appear as a credit on your January bill.

"There is no better way to express the benefits and rewards of belonging to a coop and receiving service from Sac Osage Electric than the issuance of these capital credits," said Brad Thompson, president of Sac Osage Electric's Board of Directors. "When our members

signed up for electric service from Sac Osage, the co-op agreed to provide the best possible service at the lowest possible cost." Electric utilities are a capital-intensive industry requiring a large investment in plant and equipment and each member of Sac Osage Electric contributes to the equity of the coop through the margins of the utility.

Member equity is the essential tool for Sac Osage Electric to build, maintain, and upgrade the facilities necessary in providing members with reliable, economical electric service. This investment is also necessary to keep up with construction during periods of growth and implement the latest necessary technology.

At the end of each operating year, any excess revenue is allocated back to the members (or former members) on a basis directly

proportional to the amount of kilowatts used in a given year. In other words, capital credits are to a cooperative what shares of stock are to a for-profit company. When a person owns stock in a for profit company, their stock may pay dividends based on the performance of that company.

At Sac Osage Electric, members accumulate dividends based on their total electrical costs for that given year. "If you are a customer of an investor owned utility, you have no equity to show for the bills you pay and regardless of how much you spend or how many years you contribute to their operation, you're only a customer and draw no return on your investment unless you also buy stock in the company," said Tom Killebrew Sac Osage Electric's General Manager. "On the other hand, members of Sac Osage Electric are owners of the coop.

They have democratic control of the cooperative and every time they turn on a light, watch TV or use their electric stove, members add to their equity in the co-op and accumulate capital credits." Retirement of member dividends is a direct result of achievement of the financial goals set by the Board of Directors for Sac Osage Electric Cooperative. Each year, the board may vote to retire a portion of these dividends, based on the financial stability of the cooperative.