



RURAL  
MISSOURI

# Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

# News

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November 2014

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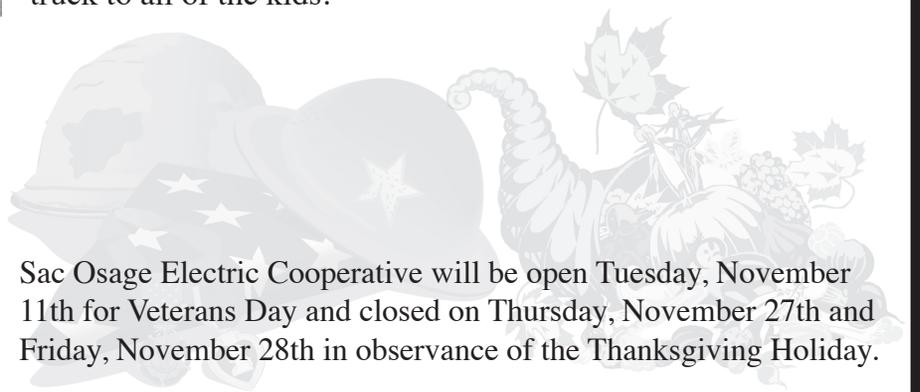
Sac Osage Electric Cooperative is proud to participate in community events like the Stockton Walnut Festival and El Dorado Springs "Bulldog" Homecoming Parades. Kids at the parade enjoy seeing the cooperative's

trucks and scoop up the candy thrown. Special thanks to Mark Frieze, Senior Service Lineman, along with his daughter and grand children for participating in the 54th annual Walnut Festival Parade. Thanks to Ronnie Simmons, Journeyman Lineman, and Brian Fugate, Journeyman Lineman, along with Brian's son Aidan and his friends for participating in the El Dorado Springs "Bulldog" Homecoming Parade and throwing candy from the truck to all of the kids.

## Dark nights on the way



Daylight saving time ends on Sunday, November 2nd. That means long nights and extra hours of darkness. Don't forget to fall back and hour on Sunday, November 2nd.



Sac Osage Electric Cooperative will be open Tuesday, November 11th for Veterans Day and closed on Thursday, November 27th and Friday, November 28th in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

## No plugged nickel

Nov. 4 marks the birthday of sculptor James Earle Fraser, who was born in 1876. His designs of the Indian head and buffalo graced our nickels from 1913 to 1938. Many of these nickels still can be found in circulation today. The buffalo depicted on the nickels was a model taken from Black Diamond, a bison in New York's Central Park Zoo. In 1938, the Thomas Jefferson and Monticello nickel, by Felix Schlag, replaced Fraser's design, Jefferson's image being the third of a U.S. president used for coinage.



## The north wind doth blow

If it was unseasonably cold at Halloween, then weather lore predicts a period of unseasonably warm weather, or Indian summer, from around St. Martin's (Nov. 11) until about Nov. 20. Use the good weather for those last-minute winter preparations. Have



you had your chimney cleaned? Your furnace air ducts and filters checked? Is your fire wood split? If you're left with a few huge unsplitables, put aside the splitting wedge and think toward Christmas: Everyone needs a yule log of exemplary proportions.

## High time?



Let your clocks "fall back." Daylight saving time ends Nov. 2. In the continental United States, we owe our four time zones to the development of the great east-west railroads. Eastern, Central, Mountain and Pacific times came into national use in 1883, although the limits of the zones were not standardized until 1918. Before the railroads made rapid transit possible, simple "local time" was the standard, where it was noon in any region when the sun was at its highest point in the sky and shadows were cast in a north-south line.

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

### Recipe for Pumpkin cookies

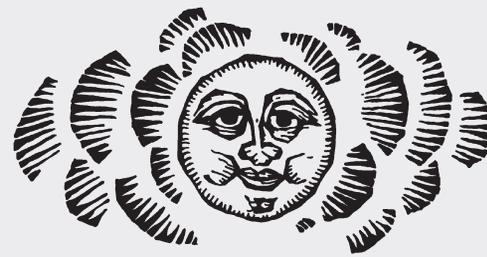
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, softened  
1-1/4 cups brown sugar  
2 eggs, beaten  
1-1/2 cups pumpkin, canned or cooked  
1-1/2 cups flour



1 tablespoon baking powder  
1/4 teaspoon ginger  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 cup walnuts, chopped

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Cream softened butter and sugar, then mix in eggs and pumpkin. Mix dry ingredients in sifter, then sift into pumpkin mixture. Stir and add nuts. Drop by spoonfuls onto baking sheet. Bake for 15 minutes or until lightly browned. Makes about 5 dozen cookies.

## THE OLD FARMER'S



# WEATHER PROVERBS

**A bad winter betide,  
if hair grows thick on  
the bear's hide.**

**When you take up the  
teapot and find sparks  
on the bottom, it is a  
sign of cold weather.**

**A heavy November  
snow will last until  
April.**

**Thunder in November,  
a fertile year to come.**

**If snow begins at mid  
of day, expect a foot of  
it to lay.**

**Anvil-shaped clouds  
bring on a gale.**

**Turnips like a dry bed  
but a wet head.**

**A severe autumn  
denotes a windy sum-  
mer; a windy winter, a  
rainy spring.**



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

# Keep the home fires burning

*Follow these steps to use your fireplace efficiently*

**Dear Jim:**  
We like to use our open wood-burning brick fireplace, but it makes the rest of the house cold. Our heating bills are high enough, so what can we do to make the fireplace more efficient?  
— Jan W.



by Jim Dulley

Dear Jan: During the winter, a warm fire can be quite comfortable. Radiant heat from the flames and coals keeps you warm when you are sitting directly in front of an open fireplace. Unfortunately, most fireplaces lose more heat than they produce.

That warm, relaxing open fire is actually costing you a lot of money — in several ways. First, for some, firewood must be purchased, which is not cheap. Second, the radiant heat feels nice in front of the fire, but heated air is being sucked up the chimney from the rest of your house. This makes your heat pump or furnace run longer. Third, if there is no damper on the fireplace or it is not fitted with its own outdoor air source, indoor air is escaping up the chimney when the fireplace is not in use. Adding a source of combustion air that ducts into the fireplace can help a great deal. This works well with fireplaces that have doors. The fire draws the air it needs for proper combustion and draft from outside rather than conditioned air from inside.

The best tip is to avoid using the fireplace in extremely cold weather. All of the indoor air lost up the chimney is being drawn outdoors through leaks in the house exterior. During mild weather, the air leaking indoors is not as cold, so less energy is needed to warm the air.

It also helps to crack open a window a little in the room by the fireplace and close doors leading to the room. Much of the excess air being drawn up the chimney will be cold outdoor air from the open window. When sitting right in front of the hot fire, you probably will not notice the chilly breeze.

Do not place wood into the fire for several hours before bedtime so that it is totally out by the time you go to sleep. It is not safe to leave a

smoldering fire. Also, if the fire is completely out, you can close the chimney damper to block room air loss without filling the room with smoke.

If you make just one investment to improve your fireplace's efficiency, it should be to install high-quality glass doors. These doors control the amount of indoor air that escapes up the chimney when a fire is burning and also when one is not.

High-quality fireplace doors are not cheap, but they are worth the expense. The best doors are relatively airtight when closed. By adjusting combustion air vents in the bottom of the glass door frame, you can still have a raging fire without major indoor air loss.

Keep in mind, the fire does need an adequate supply of combustion air for an efficient, clean burn. If the air flow is reduced too much, creosote buildup occurs, leaving the potential for a chimney fire. I recommend having the chimney inspected and regularly cleaned using several squirts of a creosote control spray each fire as directed on the product bottle.

Burn only well-seasoned wood or no more than one unseasoned log to three seasoned ones. If you try to burn more unseasoned wood, it requires more combustion air to keep it burning well, which draws even more air out of your home.

There are several designs of heat-circulating grates that increase the heat output from a fireplace. Many efficient grates are designed to fit snugly under the bottom edge of the fireplace doors and contain an electric blower that circulates indoor air through the grate, keeping the air warm.

If you decide to purchase a heat-circulating grate, select a model with a blower that has several speeds and a thermostat with an on/off switch. This switch shuts off the blower when the fire burns down. If you prefer to use the fire-



photo courtesy of Stoll Fireplaces

Consider a heat exchanger for your fireplace update. These mount to the top of the fireplace opening, producing a great amount of heat. They work on gas or wood-burning models.

place with the doors open, tubular heat-circulating grates are available to blow the heat directly out the front. Other models have no blower and rely on natural convection.

Stoll Fireplaces makes a unique heat exchanger. It mounts at the top of the fireplace opening and creates a tremendous amount of heat output. These models work with gas or wood-burning models.

A circulating heat exchanger with built-in glass doors also is available for a more airtight combination.

When your fireplace is not in use, insert an inflatable chimney pillow in the fireplace flue. This seals much better than the chimney damper. Once the pillow is inflated, it should stay in place. Some models include a pole to keep it steady. Chimney top dampers, which operate from indoors with a chain, also help reduce air leakage and keep critters and debris out of the chimney. It's a good idea to hang a sign in the fireplace to indicate that the damper is shut or a pillow

is installed. This hopefully will stop someone from building a fire when the chimney is closed.

For additional tips and information about fireplace efficiency, check out TogetherWeSave.com's Home Efficiency Analysis Tool at [homeefficiency.togetherwesave.com](http://homeefficiency.togetherwesave.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 Royalgreen Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45244.*

Fireplace efficiency resources:

- Battic Door, 508-320-9082, [www.batticdoor.com](http://www.batticdoor.com)
- Northline Express, 866-667-8454, [www.northlineexpress.com](http://www.northlineexpress.com)
- Stoll Fireplace Inc., 800-421-0771, [www.stollfireplaceinc.com](http://www.stollfireplaceinc.com)



# THANKFUL

As the seasons change and the bright colors of fall begin to give way to winter's gray, it's a good time to pause and give thanks for the many blessings we have. Some obvious blessings which come to mind are our friends and family, the great country we live in, the roof over our heads, and the ability to make a decent living. Unfortunately, we sometimes overlook some wonderful conveniences we are fortunate to have in a rural community.

One such incredible blessing we often overlook is the marvel of electricity and all the uses and comforts it affords to our everyday lives. These days, though, keeping this energy source available at a price that members can afford is becoming a challenge.

We realize that over time costs tend to go up, but certain government agencies and special interests groups are now pushing hard to implement expensive requirements that will hurt our most vulnerable Cooperative members. If no one objects to these requirements, many members who have taken affordable electric energy for granted may be forced to make significant unwanted changes to their budgets.

You can be thankful that in spite of environmental pressures, rising costs, and the challenges of providing ever-higher levels of service, your energy requirements are being met by a caring Board of Directors and by employees who are dedicated to providing you safe, reliable and affordable electric energy that can power our lives and provide comfort to our homes.

So, as you pause to count your blessings this Thanksgiving, we hope you remember:

- The lineman who works in heat, cold, rain or snow so that you can be comfortable
- The Board Member you elected who spends hours studying the electric industry in order to make wise decisions on your behalf
- The Tree Trimmers who work year-round ensuring reliability by clearing limbs from your power lines
- The employees who stand ready to help solve your problems and answer your questions
- The energy industry advocates who work behind the scenes with legislators to ensure that your best interests are served, and
- The Cooperative leaders of the past who established a three-tier system of generation, transmission and distribution which provides rural Missouri members with affordable energy

Together, we still have the ability to make a difference...and for that we can also be thankful!

Happy Thanksgiving from the Board and Employees of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative.