



RURAL  
MISSOURI

# Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

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August 2016

# News

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## Annual Meeting 16



Sac Osage Electric Cooperative held its Annual Meeting of the members on Tuesday, June 14, 2016. It was a superb spring evening with over 1,000 people in attendance, including members, special guest and friends of the cooperative. Randy Newman, aka "Doofus" entertained the crowd with his amazing talent. He entertained the crowd with a great mixture of music while the members registered, ate a delicious pulled pork sandwich dined by Sugar Foot Barbeque and enjoyed Schwan's ice cream sandwiches. A number of prizes donated by the cooperative's vendors were given away to attendees, as well as a 55" TV, Apple iPad, Kindle Fire along with bicycles for the youngsters.



Three director candidates ran unopposed to serve on the Board of Directors of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative: Mr. Tim Minehardt, El Dorado Springs; Mr. Tony Underwood, Jerico Springs; and Mr. Don Levi, Stockton.

## While the sun shines

Once symbolic of a good harvest, "making hay" has many superstitions associated with it. For good luck, wish on a wagonload of hay. But, if the hay is baled, you'll have to wait until the bales are opened for the wish to



come true. Avoid approaching a wagonload of hay from the rear because it may bring misfortune to watch the hay disappear from your sight. Bad luck may come your way if you fail to make a wish on a wagonload of hay, so always have your wish handy.

## Hooray for the day!

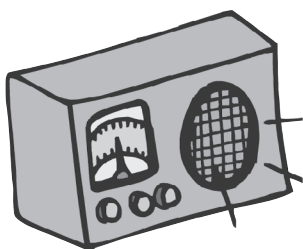
Aug. 21 — what a day! On that day in 1878, the American Bar Association was formed. Exactly 10 years later, in 1888, William S. Burroughs patented the adding machine. On Aug. 21, 1904, musician Count Basie was born. On the same day in 1911, the Mona



Lisa was stolen. August 21, 1920, saw the birth of author Christopher Robin Milne, followed in 1936 by basketball player Wilt Chamberlain and then, in 1938, by singer Kenny Rogers. In 1959, Hawaii became the 50th state on this date.

## Only the beginning

On a quick trip across the radio dial today, you will find a wide cross-section of offerings, from various types of music and sports to familiar advertising jingles. The possibility of this kind of brand-name recognition was not immediately evident to the early radio industry or its prospective clients. Radio's first



commercial was aired on Aug. 28, 1922, over station WEAJ in New York. A realty company sponsored the spot to promote Hawthorne Court, a group of apartments in Queens, and they paid the going rate: \$100 for 10 minutes of airtime.

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

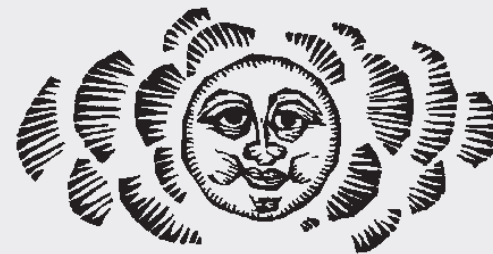
### Recipe for Dilly Beans



4 pounds fresh green beans  
8 teaspoons dill seed  
4 teaspoons mustard seeds  
16 cloves garlic  
5 cups white vinegar  
5 cups water  
1/2 cup salt

Wash, trim and cut beans to fit into pint jars. Sterilize eight pint-size jars. Fill each with 1/2 pound of beans, 1 teaspoon each of dill and mustard seeds, and two halved cloves of garlic. Boil together the vinegar, water and salt, and pour over the beans, filling to within 1/2 inch of the jar tops. Seal jars tightly and process in a boiling-water bath for about 15 minutes. Tighten lids and let jars cool. Store for 2 weeks. Makes 8 pints.

## THE OLD FARMER'S



## WEATHER PROVERBS

**Dry August and warm doth harvest no harm.**

**Fog in August indicates a severe winter and plenty of snow.**

**At St. Bartholomew there comes cold dew.**

**If many meteors in summer, expect some thunder.**

**If horses stretch out their necks and sniff the air, rain will ensue.**

**When it rains in August, it rains honey and wine.**

**Onion's skin very thin, mild winter coming in; onion's skin thick and tough, coming winter cold and rough.**



photo courtesy Weatherization Assistance Program

Here a technician uses mastic, a putty-like waterproof sealant, to close small gaps and leaks in furnace ductwork. Air leaks in your home's ductwork could be costing you money.

## MISSION POSSIBLE: DUCTWORK EFFICIENCY

*Stop your ductwork from leaking energy — and money*

**Dear Pat: I recently moved from a home with wall-mounted heaters to one with central heat and air, and a duct system. How can I ensure my ducts are working efficiently? — Carla**

Dear Carla: Homes with central forced-air heating and cooling systems, like furnaces, central air conditioners and heat pumps, use air ducts to deliver the conditioned (heated or cooled) air through the home. Ducts are often concealed in walls or in areas of your home you don't go to often, like a crawlspace, so many people do not immediately think of them as an area to save energy.

You may have received flyers in the mail with offers for air-duct cleaning and claims that doing so will improve the air quality and efficiency of your home. However, duct cleaning may not always be necessary for air quality, and there is no indication that just cleaning your air ducts will improve your system's efficiency.

Duct cleaning may be necessary if:

- There is visible mold in your duct system or there was a recent flood that caused mold or mildew in your home. This could also be important if someone in the home battles serious allergy problems or other breathing-related health issues.

- There is something in the ductwork impeding airflow, like debris or an infestation. Major renovations or new construction can put construction debris into the duct system, so post-construction is an ideal time to consider duct cleaning.

- Your heating registers are releasing dust into the air.

- Home residents have allergies or asthma problems that have not been alleviated by other changes.

While duct cleaning may not always be necessary, regularly changing your air filters can help your heating and cooling system work more efficiently. How often you change them depends on how much your system runs, whether you have pets and whether you periodically vacuum your air filters. For the average home, air filters should be changed four to six times a year.

Though duct cleaning may not do much for the efficiency of your systems, duct sealing is important for saving energy and lowering utility costs, particularly if your ducts are in unconditioned spaces, like a crawlspace or an uninsulated attic. In a typical home, 20 to 30 percent of heated or cooled air escapes through unsealed gaps and holes in the duct system, which can cost you money and make your home less comfortable. You wouldn't put up with a leaking water pipe, so why should you put up with a leaking air duct?

The best way to assess the condition of your home's ductwork is to have it tested by a professional home energy auditor who can conduct a Duct Blaster test. If you can easily access your ducts, you might get by with a visual inspection, which will identify the larger holes and disconnections. Where ducts meet or where they connect to a heating register are common places to find leaks. A professional trained in ductwork can help you identify and fix the gaps and leaks you may not be able to see. Talk to your local electric co-op to find the right person for the job.

Once gaps and leaks have been identified, you can work to seal your ducts. Small duct leaks can be sealed with mastic, a type of caulk. Larger duct leaks and disconnections may require additional lengths of duct, mechanical fasteners or special heat-resistant tape. Do not use duct tape — ironically, it is not designed to adhere well to ducts.

If you have ducts in unconditioned areas, like an attic or crawlspace, your ducts could be wasting energy by heating or cooling the surrounding air, even if there are no leaks in the ductwork. Insulation around the ducts can help reduce this energy loss. Consider adding some insulation to the unconditioned space, such as in the attic or basement. It can further increase the efficiency and comfort of your home as it heats and cools.

*This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Amy Wheelless of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information on how to test and seal your ductwork, please visit: [www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips](http://www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips).*



## You have the power with prepaid metering

### *BILLING OPTION HELPS MEMBERS MAKE WISE ENERGY CHOICES*

Prepay Power is as simple as it sounds: members pay for electricity before it is used, then use the electricity until the credit expires. A terrific analogy for Prepay Power is putting gas in your car. Say you only have \$30 for the week to pay for gasoline. You drive down to the station, pump in \$30 and drive off. As you drive during the week, what happens? You monitor the gauge and make sure each trip is necessary. If you drive too much, you burn up your \$30 before the week is out. Literally. By checking the gauge throughout the week, you became more prudent with your gas use and made informed decisions on when and how much to use.

Now let's transfer that analogy to your account with Sac Osage. With traditional metering, you get a bill after you have used the electricity. Sometimes it comes as a surprise. "How could I possibly have used this much electricity?" Prepay Power is designed to ease — and hopefully eliminate — that surprise. Let's look at how it works.

The components of a prepay system aren't too different from traditional metering. Through the use of SmartHub, Sac Osage's online account access tool, you can see how much you have left in your account; think of this as your "electricity tank gauge." Once set up on Prepay Power, you'll begin viewing electricity use notifications through SmartHub or by calling 866-999-4573.

Now you decide how often you want to buy electricity. Monthly? Weekly? Then you budget for a certain amount of power and pay the cop. Bingo, your electricity tank is full.

During the time period you have paid for (let's say a week in this example), you can check on how much you have left in your tank as often as you want. As you approach "empty," you add more money to your account and are then set for the next period. If you run out, the power goes off just like your car stops when it runs out of gas. As soon as more money is put on the account, the power will come back on.

To complete the analogy, let's look at what you have been doing during the week. You become quite aware of how you are using electricity. You turn things off more often. You may change the setting on your thermostat so you don't cool or heat as much. You might cook outside to avoid using the oven or make sure your dishwasher is really full before running it. Industry studies show that consumers who participate in prepay metering plans use as much as 10 percent less electricity than their counterparts.

Prepay Power teaches the value of electricity, how much electricity appliances use, provides absolute control over how much you pay and helps you reduce your energy use. It is a tremendous way to power your life. Contact

Member Accounts at 800-876-2701 to learn more about Prepay Power or about setting up your free SmartHub account.

Setting up your free, SmartHub account is fast and easy. You can use SmartHub on your computer by visiting [www.sacosage.com](http://www.sacosage.com) and clicking on the "SmartHub" icon. Here, you'll either follow directions to set up your account for the first time or log in to your existing account.

SmartHub is available for all members — those on Prepay Power and those using traditional billing.

## Youth Tour



Hard work and creativity has paid off for one area high school junior. Rachel Jones, a student attending El Dorado Springs Christian School, represented Sac Osage Electric Cooperative on the Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. One hundred four high school juniors participated in the 53rd annual Missouri Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 10-16. The six-day tour provided an action-filled week for high school students, offering them opportunities to learn first-hand what it is like to be involved in politics, community service and today's pressing issues. Highlights included a special session on Capitol Hill with Senator's Roy Blunt and Claire McCaskill to discuss the process of government and issues of the day, and increasing their knowledge of electric cooperatives and American history. The young people also visited with representatives from their congressional districts, toured famous monuments, the Smithsonian Institution's museums and the Arlington National Cemetery. The group also took a sightseeing and dance cruise on the Potomac River one evening with delegates from other states. Other events of the week included participation in the Electric Youth Day, during which a special program coordinated by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association brought together over 1,400 Youth Tour delegates from across the United States. The delegates enjoyed featured speeches by government leaders and motivational speakers, such as Mike Schlappi, an inspiring four-time Paralympic medalist and two-time world wheelchair basketball champion. Since 1964, the nation's electric cooperatives have sponsored more than 40,000 high school juniors and seniors for visits to their U.S. congressional delegations, energy and grass roots government education sessions, and sightseeing in Washington. For more information about the AMEC Youth Tour program, please go to [www.amec.org/youth.html](http://www.amec.org/youth.html).