

January 2015



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**Sac Osage Electric Cooperative**

**News**

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Happy New Year from Sac Osage Electric



**Sac Osage Electric will be closed  
on Friday, January 1, 2016.**

*Happy New Year!*



January 2016

## Feast of the Epiphany

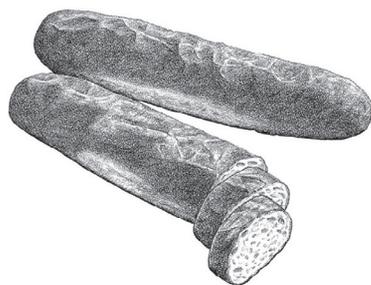
Jan. 6 is the Feast of the Epiphany, or Twelfth Day, the end of Yule festivities. It translates as “manifest one,” from the Greek epiphaneia, meaning “manifestation” or “appearance.” More recently, Epiphany became associated with the coming of the Magi as the first



manifestation of Christ’s divinity to the gentiles or, in the Eastern Church, the baptism of Christ. Tradition advises the removal of Christmas greens by the end of Twelfth Night (the night before Epiphany), lest bad luck come in where the drying evergreen needles fall.

## First Footer

In many countries, it is believed that the first person to cross the threshold in the new year, he “first footer,” will bring good luck into the house for the coming year. Although this custom is known in countries from Ireland to China, it is particularly well observed in Scotland and parts of England.



Generally, a tall, dark male is thought to bring the best luck, but in some regions fair men (especially redheads) are preferred. Regardless of his looks, the visitor must never arrive empty-handed. Traditional gifts are a piece of coal for the fire or a loaf of bread.

## Propitious days

In ancient folklore, the 14th day of the month was seen as particularly propitious for the birth of women. The 13th was considered propitious for marriage, and the 10th and 11th were lucky days for the birth of men. Hesiod, from the eighth century B.C., marked each day of the month



as fortunate for some things and unlucky for others. The 9th was seen as a good day for the “works of men,” while reaping fruit and shearing sheep were best done on the 10th or 11th. Although women had only one propitious birth day, their day was considered “holy above all.”

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

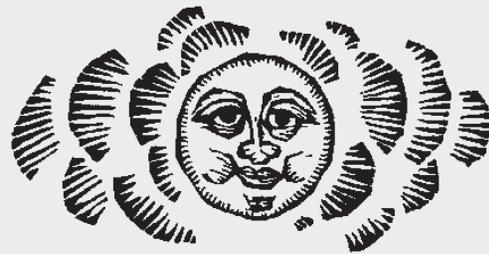
### Recipe for Alfredo Sauce



1/4 cup butter  
1 cup heavy cream  
1 clove garlic, crushed  
1-1/2 cups freshly grated Parmesan or Gruyere cheese  
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg  
1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley

Melt the butter in a saucepan over medium-low heat. Add the cream and simmer for 5 minutes, then add garlic, cheese and nutmeg. Stir in the parsley and serve over pasta. Makes 2-1/2 cups.

## THE OLD FARMER'S



# WEATHER PROVERBS

**On St. Distaff's Day (Jan. 7), neither work nor play.**

**Fog in January makes a wet spring.**

**A fire hard to kindle indicates bad weather.**

**When the North Star twinkles, expect stormy weather.**

**When oak trees bend with snow in January, good crops may be expected.**

**It will be the same weather for nine weeks as it is on the ninth day after Christmas.**

**A fair day in winter is the mother of a storm.**

# Exploring Inner Space: *How to use space heating efficiently this winter*

by Patrick Keegan

**Dear Pat: It's cold this winter! Instead of turning up my central heat, I'm considering purchasing a space heater to help warm my living room. I saw one in the store that is 100 percent efficient! What should I consider when choosing a space heater? - Arthur C.**

Dear Arthur: It can be more cost-effective to run a space heater than to turn up your central heating, but if you're not careful, you may increase your electric bill.

Generally, it is best to run a space heater when you need to heat just one or two rooms, or if you need temporary heat in a normally unheated area such as a garage or shed. If you have a particularly cold-sensitive person in the home, it can be more efficient to use a space heater in the room they most often occupy rather than overheating the whole house.

However, be mindful of the costs that these little heaters can add to your electric bill. Nick Rusnell, an energy advisor with HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative in Portland, Mich., shared, "During an energy audit, I found three 1,500-watt heaters in the house of a co-op consumer with a high bill complaint. I did a cost analysis for him and he was shocked."

Do your own calculations for how much running one, two or three in your home would cost. And beware the efficiency hype around space heaters: electric space heaters are all 100 percent efficient at turning electricity into heat, but an Energy Star air-source heat pump can be 300 percent efficient!

If a space heater is right for you, remember a few things to save energy and money:

- If you're using a space heater to heat the one or two rooms you use most, turn down your central heating so you don't heat up rooms you aren't using.
- Close doors to rooms that are being heated to avoid heat loss.
- Turn off the heater when not in use or get a space heater with a timer feature.

- Purchase a heater with thermostat settings and use the lowest setting with which you are comfortable.

- Select a space heater that is the right size for the space you need to heat; most will have a sizing table on the box.

Due to safety and air-quality concerns, portable propane and kerosene space heaters are not recommended for use in a home or other unventilated areas. Even when installed properly, these types of heaters can emit low levels of carbon monoxide. Instead, look for an electric space heater; there are two main types:

- Infrared heaters: Radiates heat to the objects and people directly in front of it, rather than the air in the room. If you are often sitting in one place, such as at a desk, this can be a good option. Note that the surface of these heaters can get very hot.

- Convection heaters: Uses convection to warm and cycle the air in a room. These heaters are quiet and can be warm to the touch, but not so hot as to burn you. Some models use fans to push the air over warm coils; these heaters can warm a room faster but are usually noisier.

If you need a space heater to keep your home comfortable, this may be a sign that your home needs insulation or air sealing, both of which can be great investments and significantly reduce your energy bills. You can consider simple short-term measures, such as:

- Putting in weatherstripping around drafty doors and windows.
- Hanging thermal curtains or blankets or installing window film.
- Using rugs to cover uncarpeted floors.

In the long term, increasing your home's insulation or switching to a more efficient heating system, such as a ductless heat pump, can be a cost-effective solution. A good energy auditor can help you figure out the best measures to take to keep your home comfortable. If your co-op offers free or discounted home audits, take them up on it.

*Keegan writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*

## Calculate Your Space Heater Cost

Wattage

X

Hours Used per Month

X

Co-op's kWh rate/1000

=

Monthly Cost

**Most space heaters are 1,500 watts. If you're operating a space heater 8 hours a day and your rate is \$0.12 per kWh = (1,500 watts x 240 hours/month x \$0.12/kWh) / 1,000 = \$43.20/month**



## OPERATION ROUND-UP AWARDS LOCAL PROJECTS

The Board of Directors authorized the Sac Osage Electric “Operation Round-Up” Committee to distribute funds collected from our members throughout the year to several local and regional projects. The Operation Round-Up program uses the generosity of cooperative members who participate to provide these additional funds.

As members of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, you can voluntarily choose to have your monthly electric bill “rounded up” to the next whole dollar. The most money individual members could possibly contribute is \$11.88 over a 12 month period. These excess payments are collected in a special account that is used for such special purposes. “This program is a very easy way for our members to help families who need a little help”, said Jim Davis, manager of the cooperative.

Please contact our customer service representatives to set up your account, and start putting your pennies to work. Together your little change may make a big change for someone else.



*Sac Osage Electric’s Board Secretary/Treasurer, Jan Neale presents Steve Wiseman a check for the El Dorado Springs Christmas Basket Fund.*



*Sac Osage Electric’s Board President, Neale Johnson presents a check to Mike Tunnell, treasurer for the Stockton Area Ministerial a check for the Stockton Christmas Fund.*

The Operations Round-Up committee awarded \$250 to the following organizations:

1. El Dorado Springs Christmas Basket Fund
2. Christmas Fund, Stockton, MO.
3. Christmas Fund, Community Outreach, Nevada, MO.
4. St. Clair County Senior Center, Osceola, MO.

## Sac Osage Electric Recognizes Years of Service

Experience is a valuable commodity in any workplace, especially in a cooperative where we serve member owners every day. Sac Osage Electric Cooperative is extremely proud to have these nine dedicated employees who have given many years of quality service to the Cooperative. At the annual Christmas Dinner in December, employees shown below were honored for their years of service at Sac Osage Electric Cooperative. These employees were presented with a cooperative service pin. These employees were recognized for their years of service, from right to left: David Spencer, Senior Lineman, 35 years; Aaron Ash, Member Service, 10 Years; Janna Dody, Communications Coordinator, 10 years; Joyce Cain, Cashier, 15 years; Dennis Markham, Purchasing Agent, 15 Years; not pictured Randy Fletcher, Journeyman Lineman, 15 Years; Randon Marshall, Journeyman Lineman, 15 Years; Josh Berning, Journeyman Lineman, 15 Years; and Charles Bean, Vehicle Custodian, 10 Years.



### Energy Efficiency

### *Tip of the Month*

To determine if a door leading out of your house needs new weatherstripping, look for daylight around it. If even a sliver of daylight remains visible between the door and its frame or the floor, you need to add weatherstripping.