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Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

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News

Visit us on the Web - www.sacosage.com



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 grandchildren for participating in the 56th annual Walnut Festival Parade. Thanks to Tysen Sayler, apprentice lineman, along with his daughter, son and friends, for participating in the El Dorado Springs "Bulldog" Homecoming Parade and throwing candy from the truck to all of the kids.

Longer nights on the way



Daylight saving time ends on Sunday, November 6th. That means long nights and extra hours of darkness. Don't forget to fall back an hour on Sunday, November 6th.

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative will be open Friday, November 11th for Veterans Day and closed on Thursday, November 24th and Friday, November 25th in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative will close the office at noon on Wednesday, November 23rd for driveway repairs and there will be NO access to the parking lot until Monday, November 28th. Sorry for any inconveniences and thank you for your corporation during the time of parking lot repairs.

High time?

Let your clocks “fall back.” Daylight savings time ends Nov. 6. 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.

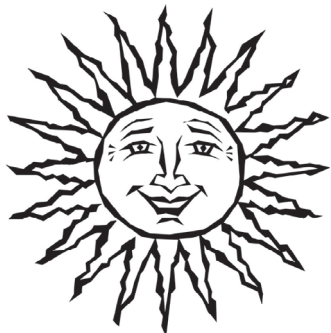
Election day

On this election day, will you exercise your right? Will you choose deliberately, with good knowledge of your candidate’s track record? Election day brings out the young and the old, the optimist and the pessimist. Which will you be? If you are choosing the “lesser of two evils,” will you write a letter telling the candidate why you feel as you do? If you believe in a candidate, have you spoken to others about why? Vote and make a difference!



Choose your celebration

Nov. 11 is not only Veterans Day, but also St. Martin’s Day (Martinmas in Germany and England) and the commencement of Indian Summer, a period of unseasonably warm weather following a cold spell. Veterans Day marks the end of World



War I in 1918. Congress changed the name from Armistice Day to Veterans Day in 1954 and dedicated the holiday to world peace. St. Martin was the patron saint of drunkards, beggars and outcasts. Choose your occasion and celebrate accordingly.

For recipes, gardening tips and weather forecasts, visit:
www.almanac.com

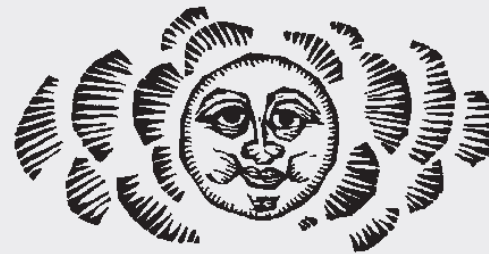
Recipe for Shrimp Fajitas



1 medium onion
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 tablespoons butter
1 red bell pepper
1 pound fresh shrimp, peeled and deveined
juice of 1 lemon
Salt and pepper, to taste
8 to 12 flour tortillas, warmed
Optional toppings: salsa, sour cream, shredded cheese and guacamole

Sauté onion and garlic in butter until golden, then add remaining ingredients (except tortillas) and stir-fry another 5 minutes, until shrimp is pink. Serve wrapped in warmed tortillas, adding toppings as desired. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

THE OLD FARMER’S



WEATHER PROVERBS

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

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

**Thunder in Novem-
ber, a fertile year to
come.**

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

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

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

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

Do you have energy hogs at home?



A hot tub or spa is an example of a potential energy hog.

Dear Pat: I'm trying to make my home as energy efficient as possible. I recently installed a new heat pump and efficient water heater, and increased the amount of insulation in my home. I also enlisted the help of a home energy auditor, and he didn't find much in the way of air leakage. However, my energy bills still seem higher than they should be. Can you point out other areas of the home that I might be overlooking? — Raymond

Dear Raymond: It sounds like you have made some solid investments with your focus on space and water heating, which are usually the major uses of energy in the home. Your energy auditor may be able to provide information about how your home's energy use compares to similar homes in the area — and if it is substantially higher, what could be causing the problem.

Your electric co-op could also be a valuable source of information. Many co-ops have installed smart meters at their members' homes, which can show detailed hourly energy use. This information can sometimes help pinpoint a large energy user. For example, you may be using more electricity on weekends, which would be an important clue to discovering what is driving up your energy costs.

Armed with whatever clues you can glean from your energy auditor or your co-op, you are better able to search for an energy hog in your home. Are there uses of energy outside your typical living space that are "out of sight, out of mind?" Below are some possible unconventional energy uses that could be adding to your energy bill:

Swimming Pools and Spas

A swimming pool and spa are nice amenities to have in your home, but they can significantly contribute to your energy bill.

- Your pool pump keeps the water circulating through its filtering system and could be the most energy intensive part of your pool. Older pool pumps run continuously on a single, high speed setting, but this circulation is more than the typical residential pool needs. An Energy-Star-certified pool pump can be programmed to run at different speeds depending on your pool's needs — and can pay for itself in as little as two years.

- If you heat your pool, try using an efficient heater. Pool heaters that run on natural gas or propane are the most common, but an electric heat pump water heater or a solar water heater could be a more cost-effective option. Remember to put a cover on the pool when it is not in use to keep your heater from working as hard.

- If you have a hot tub or spa that you occasionally use, consider turning it off when it is not in use. If you use your spa frequently, use a cover with a high insulation value to keep the water warm and your electric bill low.

Pump Systems

Water pumps often run on electricity and can be found in many areas of your property.

- Irrigation: If you have a larger property, you may have an irrigation system. Leaks in your irrigation system can greatly increase your pump's electricity use.

- Wells: If your home uses well water, you have a well pump that helps bring the water from the well to your home. A malfunctioning well pump may run continuously to try and maintain proper water pressure—this can cause a significant increase in your electricity bill.

- Garden fountains: Fountains make a charming addition to your garden, but the pumps that run them use about as much energy as a small lamp. If you have multiple fountains in your garden, look into installing a timer so that the fountains only run part of the day.

Non-living Spaces

You may have some energy hogs in your garage, outbuilding or basement. For example:

- Do you have a second working, but inefficient, refrigerator or freezer plugged in? Is it in use, or can you consolidate its contents into your kitchen?

- Do you have a recreational space in an uninsulated part of your home, like the garage or basement? Using space heaters or portable air conditioners in uninsulated spaces can definitely lead to higher bills.

- Do you have a block heater to help warm your vehicle on cold mornings? Plugging in your heater overnight will use far more electricity than needed — use a timer to start the block heater just a few hours before you need your vehicle.

Home Business

If you run a business out of your home, there could be a large energy user contributing to your electric bill. Some businesses call for equipment that simply uses more energy. Regularly using items such as welding equipment, ceramic kilns or power carpentry tools can contribute significantly to your electric bill, as can equipment used for farming operations.

Look for energy hogs around your home, and try to limit their use if possible. Find more ways to be energy efficient by contacting your local electric co-op for more energy-saving ideas.

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Amy Wheelless of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information on other potential energy hogs which could be lurking around your home, please visit: www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.



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.