



RURAL
MISSOURI

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

News

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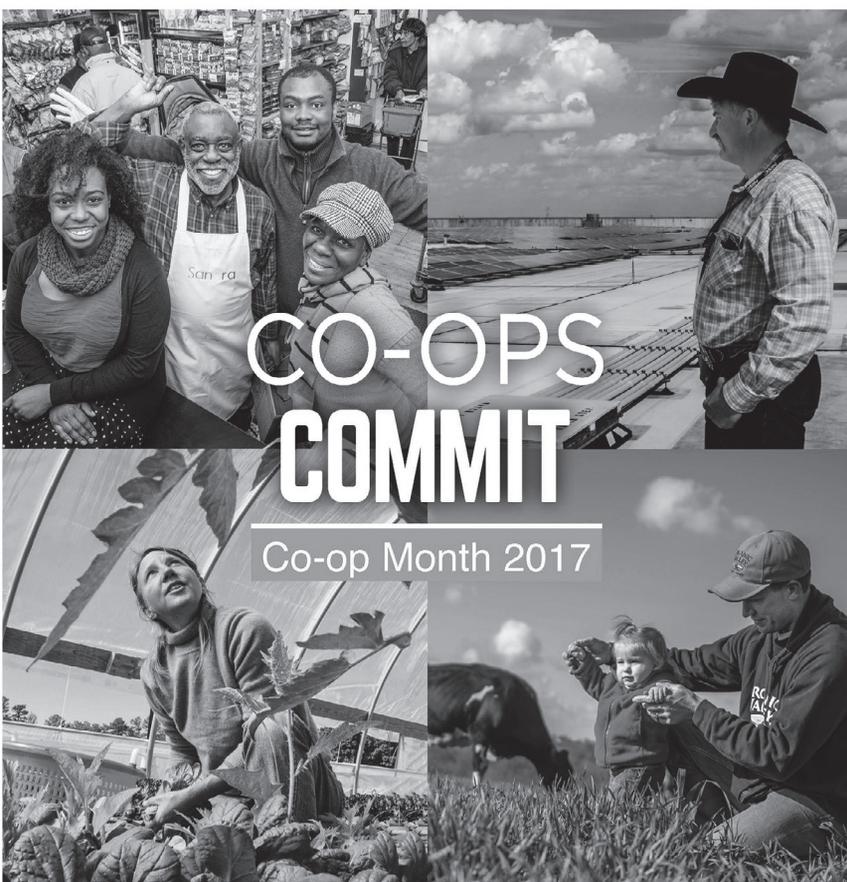
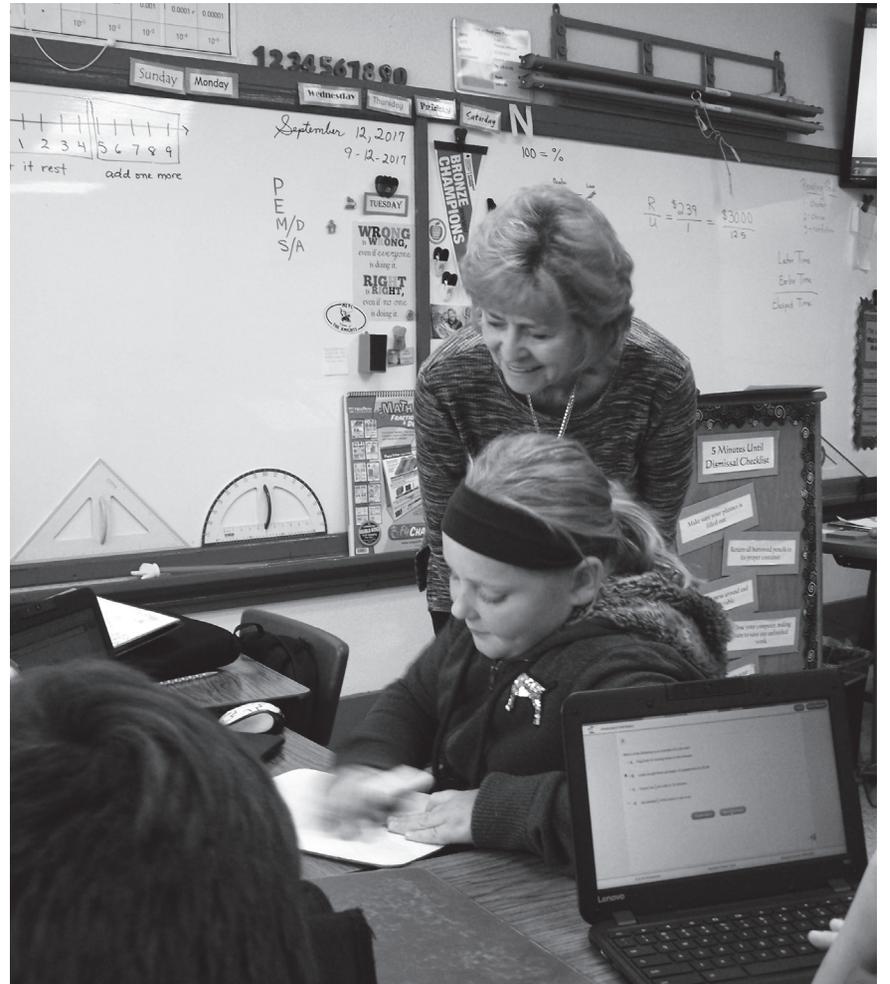
October 2017

Visit us on the Web - www.sacosage.com

Mary Smith

Mary Smith retired from Sac Osage Electric Cooperative June 1st with over 18 dedicated years of service. She retired as Consumer Service Assistant for the Cooperative after working her way up to that position. She was an outstanding employee and the type of person who took great care in her work. Mary worked hard, had fun on the job, and always tried to be a Good Samaritan. She showed genuine concern for the people of her community on and off the job.

Her commitment to the community shows in her post-retirement pursuits. After retiring from the cooperative, Mary accepted a position with Northeast Vernon County School as a Para Professional for the elementary students. She has a special place in her heart for kids, and she thought this would be a perfect place to spend her time after retirement. Along with working as a Para Professional, she will enjoy spending time with her family and four grand kids. Her many years of experience will be greatly missed by the Cooperative, but we are glad to see her with the time to enjoy life and do the things she truly loves.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

In winter months, ceiling fans should slowly rotate in a clockwise direction. Now is the time to change the direction and to set the speed so that the fan slowly pulls air upward, pushing warm air down to the walls and back to the floor. Fans can help lower bills, but only if they are used properly.

October 2017

Bride of the Sun

October's flower, the daisylike marigold, has been called "Mary's gold" and "bride of the Sun." Its yellow, rust and gold colors echo fall's natural hues. Although it can tolerate cool temperatures, it won't stand for freezing. The malodorous



annual is useful in borders to repel pests. Marigolds were once a source for toothache remedies. Today their cousin, calendula, is used in skin creams. A dream of marigolds indicates happiness in marriage, prosperity and success.

Linking up

Oct. 26 marks the anniversary of the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825. The 363-mile-long canal created an important water route from Lake Erie to the Atlantic Ocean, but convincing Congress to authorize funding for the project was a long and difficult process. The canal's champion, DeWitt Clinton of New York, originally approached Congress in 1810. His plan was rejected, but in 1815, this time as mayor of New York City, he tried again, and funding was finally approved in 1816. Construction began on July 4, 1817.



Where the proof is



In England, October was the start of pudding season, as the beef and suet Christmas puddings were begun. One London establishment, Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese Inn, gave new dimensions and an old interpretation to this culinary stew, making a 50- to 80-pound pudding filled with steak, gravy, wild larks, mushrooms and spices. It was cooked for 16 hours. If it sounds more like a pastry gone wild, you only can blame the inclusion of ye olde ale in the kitchen and other alcohol used for soaking the pudding.

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

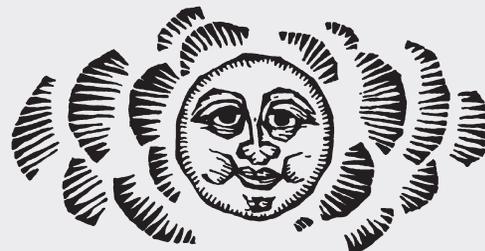
Recipe for Irish Potato Biscuits



6 to 8 potatoes, peeled and diced
1 cup milk or cream
1 tablespoon melted butter
Salt, to taste
1/2 cup flour (approximately)

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Boil and mash the potatoes until smooth. Add the milk, butter and salt. Add just enough flour to make a soft dough, then lay it on a floured board and roll out quickly and lightly to one-half-inch thick. Cut into rounds and place on a lightly greased cookie sheet. Bake about 10 minutes or until just crisp on the outside. Butter and eat before they fall. Makes 12 to 18 biscuits.

THE OLD FARMER'S



WEATHER PROVERBS

If the chickens are snug in their coop during a rainstorm, the rain will soon be over.

If October brings heavy frosts and winds, then will January and February be mild.

When squirrels bury nuts early, it will be a hard winter.

If the hare wears a thick coat in October, lay in a good store of fuel.

When snow falls in the mud, it remains all winter.

Corn is as comfortable under the snow as an old man is under his fur cloak.

Ductless heat pumps

Heat and cool your home without blowing your budget



A large or small blower can be installed depending on the size of the room

Photo courtesy NW Energy Efficiency Alliance

Dear Pat: My husband and I are tired of paying such high electric bills during the winter. We think our winter bills are high because of our baseboard heaters, and our summer bills are high because of our window AC units. Our neighbor just installed a ductless heat pump system in their home. Do you think that would work for us? — Karen

Dear Karen: Mini-split ductless heat pumps are becoming more popular for good reason. They can heat efficiently when winter temperatures drop below the freezing point, and they are an economical and energy efficient replacement for window AC units.

Ductless heat pumps are often installed as the primary heating source and paired with a backup system that kicks in when outside temperatures are extremely cold.

Baseboard heaters are an electric resistance system, and use much more energy than a heat pump, which is just moving heat in or out of the home. If you make this change, you should reduce your heating costs considerably. Heat pumps work harder as the outside air temperature drops, but combining the heat pump with a backup heating system solves that problem.

I recently spoke with Joe Hull, an Energy Services Advisor with Midstate Electric Cooperative in Oregon. Members there have found that ductless systems with a backup heating system can work effectively to as low as -28 Fahrenheit.

Ductless heat pump systems could be an ideal solution if your home doesn't have a duct system. If your existing ductwork is in poor condition, installing a ductless heat pump may be more practical or less expensive than repairing, sealing and insulating ducts.

A ductless heat pump has two main components: the outdoor compressor and the indoor air handler. Coolant and electrical lines run through a conduit from the compressor outside the home through the wall to the inside air handler(s).

A ductless heat pumps can be configured in different ways. A common approach that could deliver the most value is to pro-

vide heating and cooling to one large zone in the home by using a single compressor and a single air handler. Or you could use one compressor to power as many as four inside air handlers, each with its own thermostat. A home could even have more than one outside compressor.

Scott Mayfield, an expert from Kootenai Electric Cooperative in Idaho, said installing a ductless system in his home had benefits beyond cost savings. "With baseboard heaters, the heat used to rise along the walls, but with the new ductless system, it flows throughout the rooms evenly. It would have been worth switching to ductless for the comfort alone."

In some parts of the country, ductless mini-splits are becoming more popular in new home construction as well. In fact, a friend of mine in Hood River, Oregon had a ductless system installed in her new home.

Ductless heat pumps are often a great solution, but as you explore this option it would be wise to consider:

- What are the other investments you could make to reduce your energy costs or improve comfort? Is the ductless heat pump the best option? A thorough energy audit of your home will help answer these questions.
- Are rebates offered by your electric co-op?
- What is the best size and efficiency level for a ductless heat pump in your situation?
- Are there qualified contractors in your area with experience installing ductless heat pumps?

Take time to contact your local electric cooperative for a list of recommended contractors, and visit www.energystar.gov for tips on hiring contractors.

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information on heat pumps, please visit www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.



Make Time for Safety This Harvest Season

Harvest season often means putting in long hours, which can make it difficult to stay alert and on the lookout for potential hazards. Safe Electricity provides safety tips to help farmers make this harvest season a safe one.

Be prepared for potential emergencies before the rush of harvest season begins. Be sure that you can see well in work areas. Consider adding extra lighting around grain bins and augers.

Take the time to look up and look out for electrical lines. Always be aware of where they are in relation to your equipment. Keep a minimum of 10 feet away from all electrical equipment, and lower extensions before moving equipment. If you see a power line that is sagging or low, contact your utility. Also keep an eye out for guy wires. While these wires are not energized, they can bring down live lines.

In equipment with auto-guidance systems, less focus is needed on steering, which may lead some drivers to think that they do not need to be as aware of navigation issues. Yet, even while using a GPS with auto-steering, farm workers need to keep safety in mind and stay focused on their surroundings. Recognize when you need to take breaks so that you can be active and engaged in the farm work.

Additional electrical safety tips include:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Look up and use care when moving any equipment such as extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads to prevent contact with overhead lines. Grain augers should always be

positioned horizontally before being moved.

- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.

If the machinery you are operating does make contact with a power line, stay on the equipment. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

Only on the rare occasion that the machinery catches fire should you leave the vehicle after contact is made. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and machinery at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area. Never touch anything that is in contact with a power line.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Office Parking Lot Repair

Beginning the evening of Monday, November 20, Sac Osage Electric Cooperative will begin replacing asphalt on its office parking lot. Those wishing to use the drive-thru or the parking area on the south side of the building may be inconvenienced beginning Monday evening and throughout the day on Tuesday as well as on Wednesday morning due to the repairs being made.

The entire drive and parking lot will be closed for repairs starting at noon on Wednesday, November 22 through 7:00 AM Monday, November 27 at which time access to the entire facility will be completely blocked off.

We appreciate the member's cooperation that week as repairs are being done. For those wishing to simply make a payment, please consider paying earlier or using our toll-free payment line at 866-999-4573, our SmartHub payment option, or online payment at sacosage.com.

