



March 2012

RURAL  
MISSOURI

# Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

# News

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## Copper Theft

### *Gain a Buck, Lose a Life – Impacts from illegal activity are far-reaching*

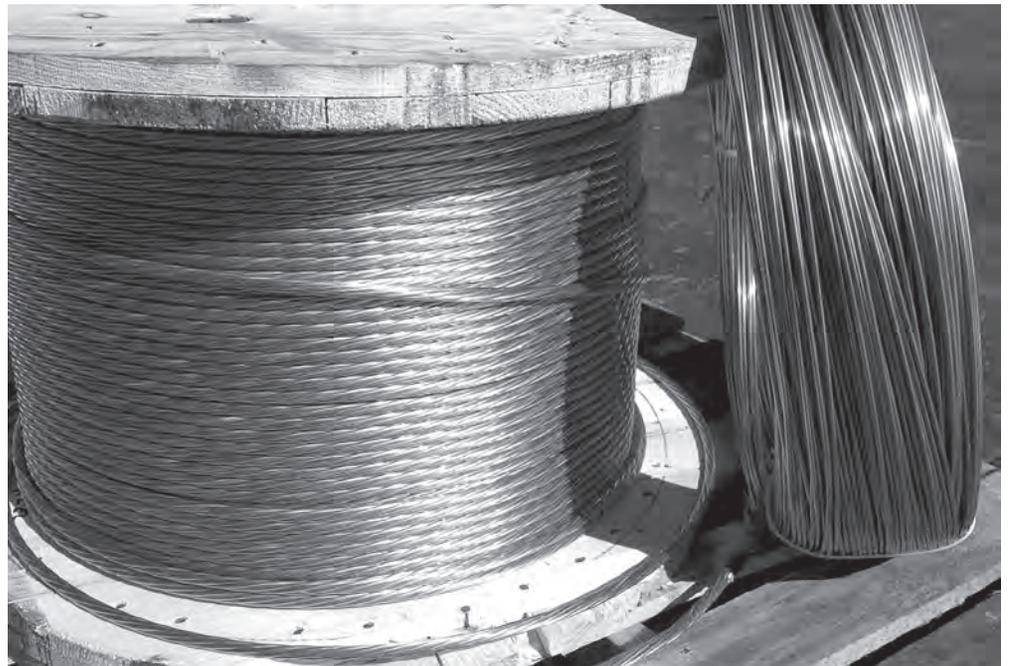
Copper theft has reached an epidemic level in the United States and internationally, creating immense global havoc. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the theft of copper costs the national economy around \$1-billion per year. Copper theft has disrupted the flow of electricity, created electrical hazards, slowed construction projects, and knocked out irrigation networks across the United States.

When thieves cut locks or chain link fencing surrounding a Sac Osage Electric substation, they leave a highly dangerous area exposed for inquisitive children and animals. Deaths and damages related to copper theft are completely unnecessary and could happen anywhere.

“Stealing material from an electric substation or utility pole can cause not only serious injuries and death, but extensive outages, fires, and explosions – consequences that impact innocent people,” said Rodger Culbertson, Line Superintendent. “The minimum damage that can occur is an outage, which may affect thousands of individuals.”

People must be aware of this kind of theft and that tampering with electric power facilities can result in extremely dangerous situations. Copper theft is not harmless. Dealing with any metal and electricity is a dangerous combination, especially when it is done without permission or training. Copper theft places the thief and others in danger.

“People who think stealing electric wire is a quick way to



earn some easy money should think again,” said Rodger. “The value of metal is not worth losing a life.” The cost of replacing existing copper wire and materials that are stolen by thieves is an added expense Cooperatives’ are facing. Always alert Sac Osage Electric or local law enforcement when you see or suspect suspicious activity.

## **NEW PHONE NUMBER**



**There is unprecedented credit/debit card fraud being committed nationwide. To protect our member’s financial information, including credit/debit cards, Sac Osage Electric has established an off-site payment gateway.**

**All account inquiries or payments must be routed through this payment gateway by calling toll-free**

**1-866-999-4573.**

## Spring fever?

**F**ever-lurk, neither play nor work," warns one old fable. In Old French, fever-lurden or fever-lurgan meant a fit of idleness. With the vernal equinox commencing on March 20, perhaps it is time for a spring tonic of cleansing greens to purge your winter-dulled system of its steady diet of winter



squashes, potatoes and cabbage. If the dandelions are not up yet, consider the early cresses, high in iron, or some sheep sorrel or lamb's quarters. Many herbalists make teas of the roots and aerial parts of the burdock plant. Like dandelions, most of these spring tonic greens are high in vitamins and minerals.

## Love in springtime

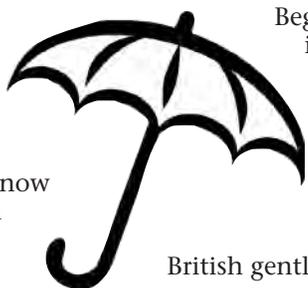
**T**he vernal equinox occurs on March 20. In honor of spring, we offer some folklore tips on how to attract and keep the attentions of your beloved. Eat tomatoes, potatoes, hot spices, oysters and octopus. Or, put marigolds in your



wedding bouquet. Keep in mind, however, that romance can be hazardous. New World settlers banned public acts of affection. When a sea captain returned to Boston after three years at sea, he kissed his wife in public and was sent to the stocks for "lewd and unseemly behavior."

## What's up with

**U**mbrellas were first used in ancient Mesopotamia as sunshades. However, in the first century A.D., Roman women began oiling their paper sunshades to provide rain protection, and the umbrella, as we know it, was born. It was not until the 18th century, however, that umbrellas became acceptable for men.



**B**eginning in 1750, Jonas Hanway always carried an umbrella around London, rain or shine. He initially was publicly humiliated and ridiculed, but gradually the stigma faded and the idea took hold. When Hanway died in 1786, all proper British gentlemen were carrying umbrellas.

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



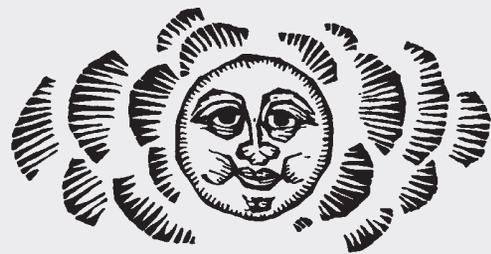
### Recipe for Lemon Lace Cookies

1 cup (2 sticks) butter  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 cup flour  
1-1/2 cups rolled oats  
1/2 tablespoon lemon juice  
1/2 tablespoon grated lemon peel  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract  
Powdered sugar, to dust



**C**ream the butter and sugar. Add the remaining ingredients, except for the powdered sugar, and mix. Cover and chill for at least 30 minutes. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Drop rounded teaspoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheets, then press flat with the bottom of a glass dipped in the powdered sugar. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes. When cool, sprinkle with additional powdered sugar. Makes about 2 dozen cookies.

## THE OLD FARMER'S



# WEATHER PROVERBS

**When the wind veers against the sun, trust it not, for back 'twill run.**

**When sheep collect and huddle, tomorrow will become a puddle.**

**If the wind is northeast at the vernal equinox, it will be a good season for wheat and a poor one for corn.**

**Dust in March brings grass and foliage.**

**The moon, her face if red be, of water speaks she.**

**Rheumatic pains indicate bad weather.**

**In March much snow, to plants and trees much woe.**



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

# The 'poor man's sunroom'

*Bay and bow windows are an attractive, less expensive way to create a sunny spot*

**Dear Jim: I have an old picture window that I want to replace with a bay or bow window. My budget is tight. Which type is best and most efficient? Should I buy an entire unit or assemble one from individual windows? — Ed H.**



by Jim Dullely

**D**ear Ed: Those old, large single-pane picture windows that were common in houses many years ago are extremely inefficient. Not only is there a huge heat loss (and gain, in summer) through the glass itself, but there likely is no insulation around the window inside the walls. If such a window faces south or west, you can count on your drapes, furniture and carpeting near it to be badly faded.

A bow or bay window is sometimes called the "poor man's sunroom." These windows can actually provide some of the benefits of a sunroom at a lower cost. These include benefits such as making your room appear larger, providing a seating area below the window and creating an ideal location for plants. But even though it costs considerably less than adding a small sunroom, installing an efficient bow or bay window is by no means an inexpensive home-improvement project.

No matter what type of new window design you install in place of the old picture window, it will be more efficient and can reduce your utility bills. This savings can help to pay back some of the initial costs, but it will take many years to pay back the entire amount. By including your utility bill savings with the increase in your home's resale value, you should be able to recover most of the cost in a reasonable time period.

The basic difference between a bow and a bay window is a bow window is made of four or more narrow window panels, often of the same width. Five windows is the most common configuration. Using more window panels creates a more circular appearance, which many people find attractive.

Often, only the two end windows will open, but you can order them so that they all open. There should be adequate natural ventilation from having only the end panels operable.

Bay windows are made from just three window panels. The two angled side panels usually can be opened and are angled at either 30 or 45 degrees. The fixed center window is similar to a smaller picture window with an unobstructed view of the outdoors. A 45-degree bay window extends farther than a 30-degree window from the house wall and provides more space for plants or a bench seat. It creates more of a mini-sunroom feel.

There is not a significant difference in the energy efficiency or durability of

a bow or bay window. A bay window may be slightly more efficient because there are fewer joints and seams to be sealed between the window panels.

Also, wherever there is framing material and supporting lumber in the wall, there is less room for insulation. Some of the new designs of insulated window glass are more efficient than the existing older house walls.

As with any replacement window style, the glass is the heart of the window. Select the most energy-efficient glass your budget will allow, even if it forces you to cut back on the styling or trim options.

At a minimum, select double-pane glass with a low-emissivity, or "Low-E," coating and inert gas in the gap between the panes. Make sure to select the proper glass for your area because the location of the Low-E coating can vary depending upon your climate. All the new glass types will reduce fading.

Because a bow or bay window protrudes from the wall, it is ideal for natural ventilation during summer to reduce your air-conditioning costs. Casement windows are typically best for standard flat windows because they catch breezes and direct them indoors. With the protrusion of a bow or bay window, double-hung end windows also can be effective for good ventilation.

In addition to high-quality glass, look for a

bow or bay window that has insulation, often foam, in the seat board and the top. This saves energy and improves your comfort near the window. Your plants also will appreciate the insulation in the wintertime.

Unless you are very handy with tools, it is generally better to purchase an entire unit designed as a bow or bay window. This will cost a little more than assembling one from individual windows, but it will likely be stronger and more airtight. Some models use quite sophisticated designs to support the bow or bay window because it is cantilevered out from the wall.

The following companies offer bow and bay windows:

- Quaker Windows & Doors, 573-744-5211, [www.quakerwindows.com](http://www.quakerwindows.com);
- Champion Windows, 800-875-5575, [www.championwindow.com](http://www.championwindow.com);
- Peachtree Doors & Windows, 800-732-2499, [www.peachtreedor.com](http://www.peachtreedor.com);
- Thermal Industries Inc., 800-245-1540, [www.thermalindustries.com](http://www.thermalindustries.com); and
- Weather Shield Windows & Doors, 800-222-2995, [www.weathershield.com](http://www.weathershield.com).

*Have a question for Jim? Write to: James Dullely, Rural Missouri, 6906 Royalgreen Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit [www.dullely.com](http://www.dullely.com).*



photo courtesy of Weather Shield Windows & Doors

A bow window with casement sections creates a curved appearance. The five-window configuration is most common.



## Manager's Column —



Tom Killebrew  
Manager

Cooper theft is becoming a more common place every month. The public usually does not hear much about it, unless there is an associated tragedy or property damage occurrence. As of press time today the Kansas City Star reported that a person stealing copper back in September, 2011 from a Kansas Rural Electric Cooperative is now facing serious consequences and fines. The story follows:

### Copper thief pleads guilty to damaging utility

A copper thief is looking at a possible 20 years in prison for pulling down power poles to get at the wiring. His action also caused a southeastern Kansas radio station to go off the air for several hours.

He was finally stopped by an armed property owner who caught him trying to steal a copper coupling from his propane tank, prosecutors say.

Jeffrey L. Blake, 39, pleaded guilty on Monday to one count of damaging an energy facility. A second charge of obstructing the national Emergency Alert System by putting the radio station out of commission was dropped.

Blake, of Scammon, Kan., in Cherokee County, stole copper wire on Sept. 7 by pulling down an electrical pole belonging to the Heartland Rural Electric Company. That caused a second pole also to fall. And that affected radio station KKOW in Pittsburg, Kan., whose transmission tower was at the site.

Prosecutors say Blake was later arrested when officers found him behind held at gunpoint by an owner who discovered Blake on his property. The propane coupling and copper wire were found in the bed of Blake's truck.

Sentencing is April 30. Blake also could be fined up to \$250,000.

Read more here: <http://www.kansascity.com/2012/02/13/3427390/copper-thief-pleads-guilty-to.html#storylink=cpy>

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative has not been immune to such thievery. We want our members to be aware of any suspicious activity they may observe. However, we do not encourage you to take any action that may endanger your wellbeing. Notify Sac Osage Electric Cooperative or the local county Sheriff.

## Youth Tour Deadline —

There is still time if you are a high school junior to enter the 2012 Youth Tour Program.

It is a chance to take a "trip of a lifetime" to our nation's capital this summer. **"If chosen as a Youth Tour delegate you will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to experience and learn about America's rich history. What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of and what would you have contributed?"** is the question you will need to answer as you enter the essay contest for an opportunity to travel along with approximately 80 other students from across Missouri to Washington D.C. in June. Deadline for entering is Friday, March 30th. For more information you may visit our website [www.sacosage.com](http://www.sacosage.com) or call Janna Dody or Aaron Ash at 417-876-2721.



**Spring forward  
Daylight Savings  
time begins  
Sunday, March 11th**

### Statement of Non Discrimination

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Thomas R. Killebrew, General Manager of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, Inc. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.