



RURAL
MISSOURI

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

News

P.O. Box 111, 4815 E HWY 54
El Dorado Springs, MO 64744
Telephone: 800-876-2701

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Visit us on the Web - www.sacosage.com

Maslen & Culbertson Retires after 42 Years of Service



There's always a smile on her face and a laugh after she speaks. Nahwana Maslen retired from Sac Osage Electric Cooperative January 5th with over 42 dedicated years of service. She retired as Accounting Clerk for the cooperative after work her way up to that position. She was an outstanding employee and the type of person who took great care in her work. There was a lot of work and a lot of learning and she became a fount of knowledge for her fellow employees.

Nahwana did more than work hard and have a little fun on the job; she also tried to be a Good Samaritan. She believed in the Cooperative Principal of "Concern for Community," and volunteered with the area Iron Car Club.

During her retirement she is going to enjoy spending time with her family along with traveling to different states visiting family and site seeing. 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 away from work and do the things she truly loves.



Rodger Culbertson, Line Superintendent for Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, has retired after 42 years. He began working as a tree trimmer on the brush crew and ended his career in the highest operation management position in the cooperative. After his hard work, dedication, and knowledge he was promoted to Line Superintendent in 2011. He has survived everything Mother Nature has thrown at him, working long days and at times through the night. There were ice storms, heavy snow, tornadoes, and the one thing he worried most about was the safety of the lineman out there working to restore the members' power during those storms. He also has survived the ups and downs of climbing poles-bad backs, bad knees, strained neck and shoulders and toughened hands.

There was a lot of work and a lot of learning that went on at the Cooperative over the years along with having fun with his co-workers. "They could work hard and still have fun doing it," Rodger said. He enjoyed his work enough to do it long after most of us had called it a day. He was dedicated, an excellent worker and the type of guy who took care of the system and the members.

During his retirement he is going to enjoy spending time with his three grand kids, family, fishing and taking care of his cattle. His many years of experience will be greatly missed by the Cooperative, but we are glad to see him with the time to enjoy life at a slower pace and do the things he truly loves.

FOR SALE



Sac Osage is selling our trolley. It is an Apache 24 ft. Trolley Wagon. We will be taking sealed bids until February 18th in our El Dorado Springs office. A decision will be made at that time as to whether any of the bids are acceptable.

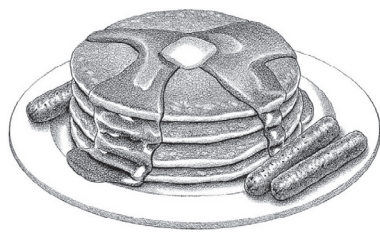
Rain or shine?

Made of wood or whalebone stays and covered with alpaca or oiled canvas, the early umbrella was called a "Hanway" by Englishmen, in honor of Jonas Hanway (1712–1786) who made them popular in Great Britain. The word "umbrella" comes from the



Latin umbra for shade or shadow, because they were originally used as parasols. When Hanway, a writer and traveler in Persia, first began toting an umbrella in 1750 London, he was publicly ridiculed. By the time Hanway died in 1786, virtually all "proper" British gentlemen carried an umbrella.

Shrove Tuesday



Feb. 16 is Shrove Tuesday. It is also known as Mardi Gras, French for "Fat Tuesday." In Germany, it is Fastnacht, the "eve of the fast." In many countries, pancakes are traditional fare on Shrove Tuesday. The pancake custom started partly because the next day is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. Thrifty housewives prepared themselves for the Lenten period by using up all of the eggs and fat that would be forbidden during the next few weeks. Pancakes were just the food for doing this.

A day for the birds

Most of us associate Valentine's Day with romance, but some old-timers used it as a gauge of their goose's productivity: "On Valentine's Day will a good goose lay; if she be a good goose, her dame well to pay, she will lay two eggs before Valentine's



Day." Another old belief was that "on St. Valentine's Day, all the birds of the air in couples do join." Poet Geoffrey Chaucer wrote: "For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne's day/Whan every foul cometh ther to choose his mate." Doves became a symbol of Valentine's Day in part because they mate for life.

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

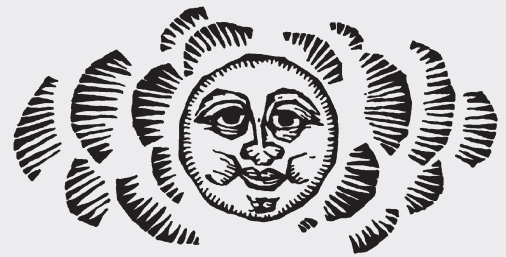
Recipe for Apple Meat Loaf



1 large onion, finely chopped
1 tablespoon butter
2–1/2 pounds ground beef
1–1/2 cups bread crumbs
2 cups apples, peeled and chopped
3 eggs, beaten
1 tablespoon chopped parsley
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon allspice
1 tablespoon prepared mustard
1/4 cup catsup

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Sauté the onion in butter, then combine with all of the ingredients and form into a loaf. Put the loaf into a greased 10x14-inch pan and bake for 1 hour. Let sit 15 minutes before serving. Makes 8 servings.

THE OLD FARMER'S



WEATHER PROVERBS

Stick to your winter flannels till your winter flannels stick to you.

Violent north winds in February herald a fertile year.

If the bees get out in February, the next day will be windy and rainy.

The full moon brings long cold snaps; a pale full moon brings rain.

If February give much snow, a fine summer it doth foreshow.

If you walk on snow, you cannot hide your footprints.

Thunder in February frightens the maple syrup back into the ground.

Smartphone apps can be powerful tools for understanding your energy use.

Smartphone energy apps

Do you have questions about energy use in your home? Well, there's an app for that.

Dear Pat: I'm interested in smartphone apps that will help track my energy use and provide tips for how to reduce it. Do you have any suggestions? — Peggy

Dear Peggy: There are several smartphone apps that can help you determine how energy is currently used in your home. Energy-use apps can also provide information that helps you choose efficiency upgrades that make the most sense for your home.

Here are a few types of smartphone apps you could consider downloading:

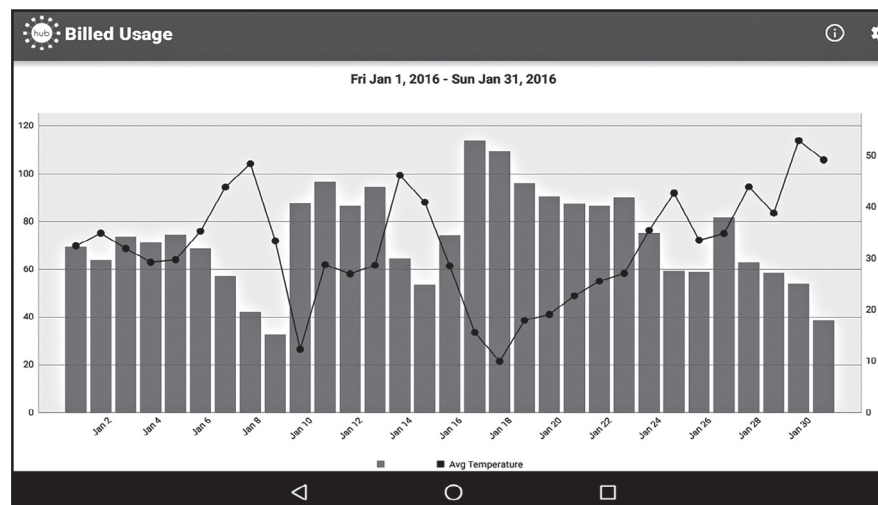
Your electric cooperative's app: Many electric co-ops offer smartphone apps that allow you to view recent bills and set high-use alerts. Many of these apps will also let you pay your bill through the app, read about any co-op efficiency programs or incentives, compare your energy use to similar homes and learn how the weather may have impacted your energy bill. Visit your co-op's website to find out if they offer a smartphone app.

Smart thermostat apps: There are a number of smart thermostats on the market from companies like Alarm.com, ecobee, Honeywell and Nest. Smart thermostats can optimize your home's heating and cooling based on your family's habits and the weather. If you have one of these smart thermostats, take advantage of the corresponding smartphone app that can give you detailed information about your home's heating and cooling use.

Energy disaggregation device apps: There are some devices and corresponding smartphone apps from companies such as Bidgely and PlotWatt that analyze electric signals to determine how much electricity appliances are using in your home. With these devices and apps, you can see the energy use of a particular appliance over time. An unexplained jump in energy use could pinpoint a problem.

Apps with energy saving tips: Some apps provide personalized energy tips based on your location, home characteristics and other information that you provide. One example is Touchstone Energy's "Together We Save" app, which provides energy saving tips for the home, as well as energy use calculators.

Additional apps that can help you track and understand your energy use are becoming available each day. Read reviews from other users to learn which apps have been most beneficial. Keep in mind that while these apps can give you an idea of how much energy you are using, which areas of your home are using the most energy and tips for reducing your use it's up to you to evaluate the information the app provides. One thing to remember is that apps often only look at single fuel use, so if you have an all-electric home, the app could be quite conclusive — but if you have appliances fueled by natural gas or propane, the information will be less thorough.



Many electric co-ops offer the SmartHub app, which allows you to analyze energy use in comparison to weather trends. photo courtesy of SmartHub

With trend data from an energy app, you should be able to pinpoint large energy uses in your home. For example, if heating and cooling are significant draws on your energy bills, investing in weatherization measures or upgrading your system to a more efficient one could have a big impact on your bill. Apps that give you access to real-time information can be a powerful diagnostic tool to help you evaluate the impact of an energy-efficiency measure.

A good practice is to sit down regularly to look at trends and changes to your energy bills. Has your energy use increased in the last month? Was the weather significantly colder or warmer? Was your family at home more often because of a holiday? Does your co-op have time-of-use rates, and if so, do you make any adjustments to your energy use to account for those different rates — for example, running a clothes dryer overnight instead of when you get home from work?

If your energy bill is increasing and you are not sure why, or you want more ideas for how to reduce your energy bills, your electric co-op is a great resource. Your co-op's energy advisor may be able to sit down with you and analyze your bill, talk about your home's characteristics and your family's habits, and provide tips for how to reduce your energy use.

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Amy Wheelless of Collaborative Efficiency. For more ideas on efficiency apps and how to save energy, please visit: www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.



It's Youth Tour Time...Picture Yourself Here!

WIN an all-expense-paid week in Washington D.C. this summer. Local winners will join about 80 Missouri high school students and will unite with a thousand other students from across the nation for a whirlwind tour of our nation's capitol and an opportunity to learn more about how government works. You will visit Capitol Hill, the Smithsonian, Arlington National Cemetery, the Vietnam Wall and other war memorials, including many other sites such as the Jefferson and the Lincoln Memorial, just to name a few.

The purpose of the tour is to provide an opportunity for outstanding youth to better understand the value of rural electrification and to become more familiar with the historical and political environment of the nation's capitol. This is achieved through visits to monuments, government buildings and cooperative organizations. Also, the opportunity to visit elected officials allows youth to better understand how the federal government works.

The other winner will visit Jefferson City for an award winning Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience (CYCLE) trip with lots of fun and an opportunity to learn more about our government, co-ops, and develop their own leadership skills.

If you know a high school junior, please encourage them to participate. It's their world to discover. It is an opportunity to see the process of government up close and personal. With the support of Sac Osage Electric members, it truly is an opportunity of a lifetime for these students and a chance to open more windows of opportunity for their future.



TRIP DATES:

Washington, D.C. Youth Tour:
June 9-15, 2017

Jefferson City, MO CYCLE:
July 12-14, 2017

To participate, high school juniors must fill out an application. The schools in the following counties in our service area can participate in the contest: Cedar, Barton, Benton, Dade, Henry, Hickory, Polk, St. Clair and Vernon counties.

Applying is simple.

Visit our website www.sacosage.com and print out application. Complete and return to Sac Osage Electric.

Rebates Plan Continues in 2017

No changes have been made to the existing rebate program for this year.

Sac Osage Electric rebates for the following:

- Dual-Fuel Air-Source Heat Pump Rebate (16.5 SEER minimum and must have a gas back up)
 - \$300/ton - new install or replacement unit
- Ground-Source Heat Pump Rebate (19.1 EER minimum)
 - \$750/ton - new install
 - \$300/ton - replacement unit

IMPORTANT - Completed application AND invoice/receipt must be submitted within 90 days of purchase.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

What is your thermostat set at? If it is higher than 68 degrees, you may be needlessly adding to your energy bills. Often a better way to stay warm in the winter is to put on a sweater, a hat or warm socks. Before you crank up your thermostat, add a layer. If that doesn't help, you may need to add insulation or work to plug gaps that are letting in cold air.

SAFETY FIRST!

If you come upon a downed power line, stay away, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or the electric utility. Never drive over a downed line. If you are in a car that has come into contact with a downed power line, stay in your vehicle. If you must leave your car, only in case of fire, jump free and hop away from it with both feet together.

