



RURAL  
MISSOURI

Find us on  
Facebook

# Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

# News

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

November 2017

Visit us on the Web - [www.sacosage.com](http://www.sacosage.com)

## Hurricane Relief

When it comes to electric utilities, it's not uncommon for electric cooperatives to help each other in times of crisis. In fact, "Cooperation among Cooperatives" is one of the basic tenets under which all cooperative business operates. Sac Osage Electric Cooperative was quick to act when assistance was requested after Hurricane Irma slammed into Florida. Four linemen, Randy Fletcher, Brian Fugate, Ronnie Simmons and Josh Heiserman, and two trucks from Sac Osage Electric's office rolled out on Tuesday, September 12th and headed to the rural area Sumterville, Florida to assist Sumter Electric Cooperative (SECO) Energy in the restoration efforts. SECO Energy sustained extensive damage as Hurricane Irma swept ashore in Central Florida as it devastated those systems in its path, snapping poles and leaving power lines on the ground. Hurricane Irma, the aptly named "war of goddess", arrived with an arsenal of hurricane force winds. She traveled directly through SECO's service territory as a Category 3 hurricane. Over half of their system was damaged by the hurricane force winds. SECO Energy is the third largest electric cooperative in Florida in terms of number of meters and currently serves 200,000 members and businesses. Sac Osage Electric is proud of the crew for their willingness to help out with the recovery. We are grateful to these employees who were willing to travel away from home and help those in need.



Sac Osage Electric Cooperative will be open Friday, November 10th for Veterans Day and closed on Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

## Longer nights on the way



Daylight saving time ends on Sunday, November 5th. That means long nights and extra hours of darkness. Don't forget to fall back an hour on Sunday, November 5th.



## No plugged nickel

Nov. 4 marks the birthday of sculptor James Earle Fraser, who was born in 1876. His designs of the Indian head and buffalo graced our nickels from 1913 to 1938. Many of these nickels still can be found in circulation today. The buffalo depicted on the nickels was a model taken from Black Diamond, a bison in New York's Central Park Zoo. In 1938, the Thomas Jefferson and Monticello nickel, by Felix Schlag, replaced Fraser's design. Jefferson's image was the third of a U.S. president used for coinage.



## The north wind doth blow

If it was unseasonably cold at Halloween, then weather lore predicts a period of unseasonably warm weather, or Indian summer, from around St. Martin's (Nov. 11) until about Nov. 20. Use the good weather for those last-minute winter preparations. Have



you had your chimney cleaned? Your furnace air ducts and filters checked? Is your firewood split? If you're left with a few huge unsplitables, put aside the splitting wedge and think toward Christmas: Everyone needs a yule log of exemplary proportions.

## High time?



Let your clocks "fall back." Daylight saving time ends Nov. 5. 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.

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

### Recipe for Pumpkin cookies

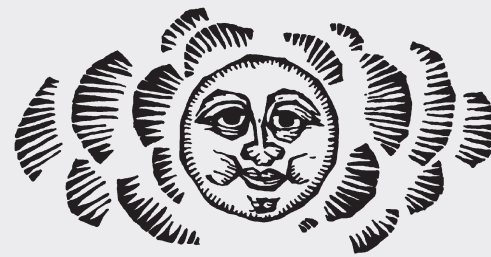
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter  
1-1/4 cups brown sugar  
2 eggs, beaten  
1-1/2 cups pumpkin,  
canned or cooked  
1-1/2 cups flour



1 tablespoon baking  
powder  
1/4 teaspoon ginger  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 cup walnuts, chopped

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Cream softened butter and sugar, then mix in eggs and pumpkin. Mix dry ingredients in sifter, then sift into pumpkin mixture. Stir and add nuts. Drop by spoonfuls onto baking sheet. Bake for 15 minutes or until lightly browned. Makes about 5 dozen cookies.

## THE OLD FARMER'S



# WEATHER PROVERBS

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

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

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

**Thunder in November,  
a fertile year to come.**

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

**Anvil-shaped clouds  
bring on a gale.**

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




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

# Switch it up!

*Keeping your home's lighting both stylish and efficient*

**HOW MUCH DO THOSE "CHEAP" BULBS REALLY COST?**

*Source: energy.gov and Collaborative Efficiency*

Bulb type	Watts 60 watt equivalent	Lifespan in Hours	Annual Energy Cost*
LED 	12	50,000	\$1
CFL 	15	9,000	\$1.20
HALOGEN 	43	1,000	\$4.80

*\*Based on two hours per day of use, and an electricity rate of 11 cents per kilowatt-hour*

**Dear Pat: After 20 years with the same lighting in our home, it's time for a change. I've done some research and there are so many types of light fixtures and bulbs it's making my head spin! How can I select something practical, affordable and efficient? — Heidi**

Dear Heidi: This is an excellent question because we often take lighting for granted. We choose fixtures and bulbs without thinking through some of the more important issues, such as specific lighting needs of the room, how fixtures work together and how to save money on energy bills.

Saving energy starts with choosing the correct bulb. Efficiency standards for incandescent bulbs between 40 and 100 watts, which came into effect in 2012, led to the halogen bulb (also known as energy-efficient incandescent). These bulbs are at least 25 percent more efficient than the old incandescents. The other two common types of bulbs — compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and light-emitting diodes (LEDs) — are even more efficient.

Energystar.gov estimates that you can save \$75 a year by replacing the five most-used incandescent bulbs or light fixtures with energy-efficient LED or CFL lighting. Of the three types, LEDs tend to save more money over the long run, and LED prices have decreased in recent years. The downside of CFLs is that they contain a small amount of toxic mercury that can be released into your home if one breaks.

When you're considering which type of bulb to buy, think about both watts and lumens. Watts indicate how much energy (and therefore, money) is used to produce light. Lumens indicate how much light the bulb produces. A handy comparison is that an 800-lumen bulb is about equal to the amount of light from a traditional 60-watt incandescent bulb. Lumennow.org offers an excellent guide to understanding bulbs.

Bulbs also give off different colors of light, known as color temperature. If a bulb burns out — or in the case of an LED, as it

dims over time — it can be challenging to find a replacement that matches other lights in the room. If the variation bothers you, you may want to purchase and install bulbs of the same brand and wattage for the entire room or area at the same time.

Installing dimmers instead of on/off light switches is a good way to save energy while giving you greater control of the amount of light in the room. Not all bulbs are dimmable, so be sure to check the label on the bulb. It's worth considering whether you have the right number and the right location for light switches. We recommend hiring a licensed electrician if you decide to install new lighting and switches.

As far as fixtures go, different types of fixtures have different functions. Ambient lights such as sconces and glass-covered fixtures provide gentler overall lighting, while directional fixtures such as pendants, desk lamps and track lighting provide task lighting that focuses on areas where work is done. Not all bulbs can be used in an enclosed fixture or used outdoors.

As you choose a fixture, make sure it can provide the correct level of brightness, with an appropriate size and number of bulbs. It can be disappointing to install a ceiling light with the style you love, only to realize it doesn't provide enough light for the room; or the opposite, that your room is flooded with too much light, which also wastes energy and money. It's also not a good idea to mix bulb types in a fixture, as the excess heat from an incandescent or a halogen light can diminish the performance of an LED.

The Lighting Research Center website ([www.lrc.rpi.edu](http://www.lrc.rpi.edu)) provides a resource page with sample lighting layouts for every room in the home.

With a little planning, you can have a well-lit energy efficient home you'll enjoy for years to come.

*This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information on efficient lighting, please visit [www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips](http://www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips).*





## Teaching Children the Importance of Electrical Safety

### WHAT YOU CAN DO AT HOME

One of a parent's highest priorities is to protect their children. A good place to begin is by teaching them about safety around electricity in your own home as well in outdoor spaces. It's best to start teaching kids at an early age about electrical safety.

It is important to teach children that water and electricity do not mix — ever! Children should never play with or use electrical equipment around water. Make sure ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) are installed anywhere electricity and water could meet in order to help prevent shocks. GFCIs detect and help prevent dangerous situations where an electric shock could occur. Adults should also inform kids that the only objects that go into outlets are electric plugs. Sticking other items in an electric socket can lead to an electric shock or death. As a parent, you can help prevent this by having tamper resistant outlets (TROs) installed. A TRO has a shutter system that only accepts electric plugs. Another option is to use simple outlet plugs; however, remember these can sometimes be easily removed.

Tell children that electric cords should be left alone. A curious child may put a cord into his or her mouth and could potentially suffer an electric burn. Additionally, kids should be taught to never pull a plug out of the socket by the cord. This could damage the cord. It is a good idea to leave cords out of sight so children are not tempted to play with them.

Emphasize that electronics and their accessories have to be handled with care. Also advise kids to never stick fingers or objects into toasters or any other electrical appliance. Encourage younger children to ask for help when they want to use an electronic device. When it comes to outside play, make sure children know to stay away from electric poles and guy wires as well as any padmounted transformer. While they may look fun to play around, children need to know these green boxes are not toys to be played on or around.

Parents can also teach their children to be mindful of where overhead power lines are located. It's never a good idea to fly a kite near overhead lines, and children should also avoid climbing trees near overhead power lines.

Include utility emergency numbers with other posted emergency phone numbers and instruct children how to call for help if there is an emergency. Electrical safety is important for children and adults alike. Take the time to refresh yourself on electrical safety and then share those tips with your loved ones.

### HOW SAC OSAGE ELECTRIC CAN HELP

If you're interested in having a safety presentation for your group or classroom, SOEC can put together a program catered to your group's age and needs. This is a service SOEC provides in order to remind our youngest members about the importance of electrical safety. Contact Aaron Ash or Janna Dody at 417-876-2721 to schedule your safety demonstration. For more information on keeping your children safe around electricity visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

Children are naturally curious about the world around them.

However, curiosity can lead to trouble if we don't take an active role in educating them about potential dangers. Let's work together in teaching children the importance of electrical safety.



## Bill Changes Coming

In recent months we have mentioned in Rural Missouri articles that Sac Osage Electric is investigating options that would allow us to bill our members more fairly. Our goal is to incorporate new technology that will allow us to restructure our bills using peak hourly usage data in addition to total monthly kWh's.

Sac Osage Electric has recently received a commitment from our software provider that this capability will be available to us by the first of December. Initially, our goal is to print the peak hourly usage on the bill for informational purposes only. This will allow you time to become familiar with your peak hourly usage.

When the new billing structure is implemented sometime next year, those members whose kWh usage is steady throughout the month may see their bills actually decrease, while members who consume electricity more sporadically may see an increase in their bill.

As information regarding the new billing structure is known, we will keep you informed. We desire to reward members who consume electricity in a steady fashion, while sending a pricing signal to those members whose usage patterns worsen our system load factor.

## 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](http://sacosage.com).