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Electronews

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CEO MESSAGE

Summer Reliability

Summer did not officially arrive until June 21, but Mother Nature doesn't adhere to the calendar in Kansas. We have already seen a wide range of temperatures, with some areas of the state reaching or nearing 100 degrees as early as May.

High temperatures increase electric demand when electric consumers crank up air conditioners to stay cool. In recent reports, the North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) said these high temperatures, combined with other conditions, could lead to an unstable electric supply during peak summer conditions. Other conditions include widespread droughts, which increase electricity demand for irrigation; the growing possibilities of extreme weather

events; naturally diminished wind energy output during hot days; and rail shipping interruptions and export issues for coal deliveries to power plants.

The reports by NERC and FERC indicate that the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), the regional grid operator that manages the transmission grid in 14 states including Kansas, is included in the areas of elevated risk for summer reliability issues.

While the recent reports by NERC and FERC were not optimistic news for electric utilities — like Victory Electric



Shane Laws

Continued on page 12H ▶

A train carries coal to power the Holcomb Station coal plant.



CINDY HERTEL, SUNFLOWER ELECTRIC

CONGRATULATIONS!

2022 victory electric
**YOUTH
TOUR**



ERIKA FRY
Spearville



ALLERIS GRANADOS
Fowler



JASPER KREGER
Spearville



EMMA TREJO
Dodge City

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

Learning Awaits at Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

Since the late 1970s, students have been selected to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp (CYLC). While students have been unable to attend camp for the past two years, students are eager to return to the fun. This year, nearly 80 students will attend CYLC from Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Wyoming.

This Year's Campers

ERIKA FRY, a high school senior from Spearville High School; **ALLERIS GRANADOS**, a senior from South Gray High School; **EMMA TREJO**, a senior from Dodge City High School; and **JASPER KREGER**, a senior from Spearville High School; will represent Victory Electric to at CYLC near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, from July 15-22, 2022.

About CYLC

During CYLC, students will get the opportunity to view a high-voltage display, learn about electric safety,

attend leadership seminars, tour a solar farm, and view a Hawk Quest presentation. In addition to the core of CYLC, students will visit downtown Steamboat Springs, go white water rafting, and participate in fun camp activities including a volleyball tournament, a talent show and a dance.

The four winners were chosen based on their involvement, experience and leadership potential which they demonstrated through a résumé application and an interview with a panel of judges. Victory Electric sponsors two to four students each year. For more information on how to attend/send students to camp, contact Chanda Schulte at Victory Electric or visit our website, www.victoryelectric.net/youth-tour-cooperative-leadership-camp.

This is the 45th year that Kansas has participated in camp, sending its first campers to what was then called the Energy Seminar in 1977.

We are delighted to return to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp this year. Engaging with our student leaders ties back to our Cooperative Principles: Concern for Community, and Education, Training and Information.

“We are delighted to return to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp this year,” said Vice President of Communications Chanda Schulte. “Engaging with our student leaders ties back to our Cooperative Principles: Concern for Community, and Education, Training and Information.”

For more information about this camp and other youth programs, contact Chanda Schulte at Victory Electric.

Welcome to Victory!

Ryan Stephenson, Lineman

Victory Electric is excited to welcome **RYAN STEPHENSON!** Stephenson joins Victory as a 20-year lineman from J&J Powerline. Stephenson is a Spearville/Dodge City native, graduating from Spearville High School in 2000, and then attending the lineman program at Pratt Community College.

Stephenson started his career in Wellington and later moved to Sharon where he and his family have spent the last eight years.

"I am excited to be back home and close to family," Stephenson said. "I look forward to being a part of the Victory team."

Stephenson is no stranger to Victory Electric; he spent the summer of 2001 as an intern with the line crews. "We are excited to have Ryan join our team, his experience will be a huge asset," said Ryan Miller, vice president of operations. "We always enjoy having hometown people come back and join our team, but when they have the experience and the desire to be here and stay long term it makes them that much more valuable, and that is what Ryan is bringing to Victory."

Stephenson and his wife, Briana, have two sons, Levi, 12, and Garrett, 4. In their free time, they enjoy riding four-wheelers, side by sides, and trail riding. They also enjoy the occasional fishing adventure. Welcome to Victory, Ryan, we are glad you are here!

Adriana Tipton, Communications Coordinator

Victory Electric welcomes **ADRIANA TIPTON** as our new communications coordinator. Tipton is a Fowler native who



Shane Laws



Adriana Tipton

is returning to the area after almost a decade and a half. Tipton graduated from Fowler High School in 2007. She graduated from Dodge City Community College in 2008 with an associate of arts degree in general studies. She also has a bachelor of fine arts degree with a minor in business from Columbus State University in Georgia.

"During art school, I was always curious about digital art and how it's different from the more traditional art forms I studied in my art history classes," Tipton said. "So, I took a couple of design classes through the Academy of Art online, worked hard to learn the new software, and started working with a couple clients soon after."

"Adriana has a unique skill set that we are excited to add to our team, her experience will be a great addition to the communication department," said Chanda Schulte, vice president of communications. "I am excited to see how we can grow the department, and Adriana will be a key component to our growth."

Following a year-long social media marketing internship in Colorado Springs, she continued freelancing. It was with the freedom of remote work she decided to move home to be near family. "I was excited and surprised to see an opportunity in my career field here locally! I definitely look forward to being part of the team at Victory," Tipton said.

In her free time, Tipton enjoys getting creative, traveling, reading and hiking. Tipton has a 9-year-old son named Trevin; they can usually be found at the movies or creating a fun new dish in the kitchen. Welcome to Victory Electric Adriana!

Summer Interns Get Cooperative Experience

Victory is excited to have three interns join our team for the summer! **STONE WILSON, DAYTON DENTON** and **KISA UNRUH** will have the opportunity to experience the cooperative world this summer and learn what being a co-op member and employee entails.

Wilson, a recent graduate of Dodge City High School, will be attending Dodge City Community College this fall. He plans to study business and play football. He will be interning in the operations department. In his free time, he likes going to the football field and getting extra practice in.

Denton will also be joining the operations department. Denton is from Jetmore. He attended Pratt Community College where he studied electrical and power transmission. In his free time, he enjoys hunting and fishing.

Unruh is interning in the communications department. She is a Dodge City native and a member of the Bethany College women's basketball team, where she will be a sophomore this fall. She loves playing with her dogs and enjoying time with her family.

We wish to welcome all of our interns, and we hope that you have a great summer. We are glad you have joined the Victory team!



Victory is proud to have three interns joining our team this summer. From left: Stone Wilson, Kisa Unruh and Dayton Denton.

SMART

Energy Usage

Take Control of Your Energy Usage

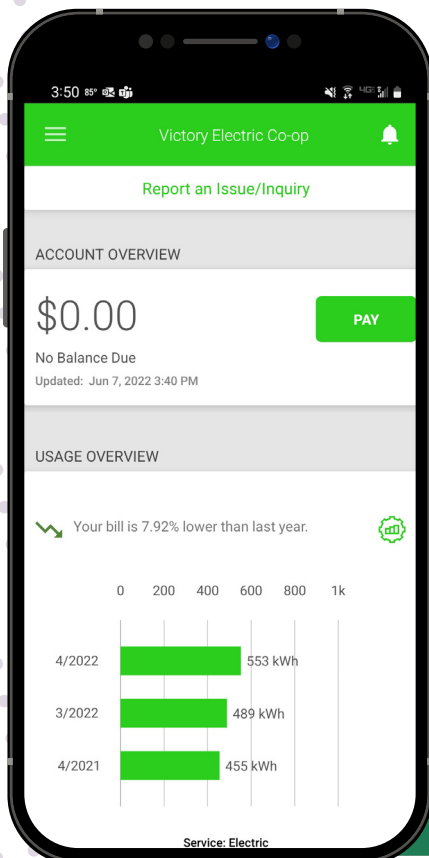
With SmartHub — an online and mobile account manager — you can view your electrical energy usage on a monthly, daily or hourly interval. You can also compare your electrical usage, charges and weather temperature variations of any two months, side by side, to note seasonal or behavioral changes in your energy usage.

By using energy markers, you can track your household energy use over dates where changes occurred, such as implementation of a programmable thermostat, installation of a large new appliance, or when you have guests stay in your home. This is a great feature to help explain energy usage on your bill and can also assist you

in helping to make informed decisions about your energy use.

Additional benefits from your SmartHub account:

- ▶ Report outages.
- ▶ 24-hour access to your electric account(s).
- ▶ View monthly, daily or hourly energy usage, displayed in easy-to-read graphs.
- ▶ View current, as well as historical, billing information and payment history.
- ▶ Sign up for email or text notifications when a new electric bill is generated.
- ▶ Pay electronically by credit card (Visa or MasterCard) or by electronic check transaction.
- ▶ Enroll in paperless billing.



iOS



Android



Scan to download the app!



smart hub

Sign up online by
visiting the website at
<https://www.victoryelectric.net/pay-online-smarthub>.

Smart Communication

SmartHub gives you the ability to take control of your notifications! You can report outages and send account inquiries on the go. Be in the know with notifications for service work, news promotions, weather events, planned outages, and more all online and in the palm of your hand. SmartHub lets you decide how you want to be informed about your bill, be notified either by email or text message on your smartphone. There is even an option to set a threshold to be notified when you are using more electricity than you planned to help stay on top of your energy costs.

- ▶ **SMARTHUB FEED** — The main notifications page allows you to view your notifications for the past three months. Select which notifications are displayed by toggling the buttons for the desired social network feeds.
- ▶ **MANAGE CONTACTS** — Use this page to manage your contacts. Once you have contacts setup, you may use those contacts to sign up for notifications about your billing account. There are buttons to add email contact or add phone contact. You will be able to activate, edit, or delete any contacts on file that you have created or verified and will be used for notifications. Additional contacts on file section are contacts that we have in our system that have not been verified.
- ▶ **MANAGE NOTIFICATIONS** — Use this page to sign up for notifications about activity on your billing account. You'll use the contacts that were set up on the Manage Contacts screen. You'll have the option to modify account notifications in five categories: billing, miscellaneous, on demand, service and usage. Click the drop-down arrow to the left of each heading to expand all the notification options available.



Manage Your
Account



Monitor Usage
24-7



View and Pay
Your Bill



Report Service
Issues



Receive Important
Updates

10 Easy Ways to Save

Habits you can tweak to save energy

1. Use cold water to wash your clothes.
2. Unplug battery chargers when not in use.
3. Skip the heat-dry setting on your dishwasher.
4. Unplug appliances and electronics not in use.
5. Run full loads of laundry instead of several smaller ones.
6. When drying clothes, include a dry towel for the first 20 minutes.
7. Keep your refrigerator at 35-38 F and your freezer at 0 F.
8. Reduce the setting on your water heater.
9. Use smart power strips that shut off power to items not in use.
10. When buying new appliances, consider Energy Star versions.



Beat the Peak This Summer

As temperatures begin to spike, there are steps you can take to save money on energy bills this summer.

According to the Department of Energy, a typical home uses a whopping 48% of energy expenditures just on the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system. Although a majority of that figure is spent on heating, Americans still spend \$29 billion every year to power their air conditioners.

Aside from replacing your central air conditioner with a newer high-efficiency model, there are some things you can do to increase efficiency and reduce your energy bills.

Besides weather stripping and caulking around windows and doors in your home (always a good idea regardless of the time of year), consider the following:

- ▶ Close curtains, blinds, and shades during the hottest part of the day. Not only is about one-third of a home's energy lost around windows, but about 76% of sunlight that falls on standard double-pane windows enters the home to become heat, according to www.energy.gov.
- ▶ If you don't already have one, install a programmable or smart thermostat. According to www.energy.gov, you can save up to 10% a year on heating and cooling by adjusting your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for 8 hours a day.
- ▶ Clean the filter and get your unit inspected by a HVAC professional.

- ▶ Consider changes to your landscaping. Greenery that includes shade trees and plants that insulate the foundation can reduce energy costs.

- ▶ Ventilate the attic and check insulation. Adequately sized vents and an attic fan can help prevent hot air from building up. If your attic has less than 6 to 8 inches of insulation, consider adding more. By addressing air leaks around your home and adding insulation, homeowners can save around 10% annually on energy bills, according to www.energystar.gov.

- ▶ Get a pre-season checkup by a professional HVAC technician, which could help your air conditioner run more efficiently.

- ▶ Make sure your outdoor condenser unit is clean and free from debris. Ideally, the unit should be in the shade.

- ▶ Use your clothes dryer and oven during the cooler parts of the day.

- ▶ Consider a professional energy audit to reveal where your home is inefficient, including air leaks and exposed duct work.

Increased summer electric demand not only affects your monthly budget but it can also seriously strain your home's electrical system, which can create dangerous shock and fire hazards. Flickering, dimming lights, or frequent circuit breaker trips are signs of an overloaded electrical system or faulty wiring that should be checked immediately by a qualified electrician.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

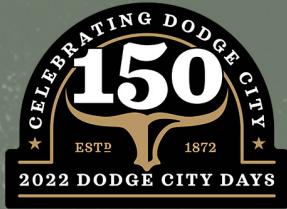
The combined use of large appliances like dishwashers, clothes dryers and washing machines account for the largest percentage of electricity use in the average U.S. home. Take small steps to save energy. Only run full loads in the dishwasher, and thoroughly scrape food from dishes before loading. Dry towels and heavier cottons separate from lighter-weight clothing, and clean the lint screen after every use. Wash clothing in cold water to save energy used to heat water.

SOURCE: ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION AND DEPT. OF ENERGY



DODGE CITY DAYS 2022

JULY 28TH - AUGUST 7TH




This year's 62nd Dodge City Days festival is celebrating the anniversary of the City of Dodge City and the people that have called it home for the last 150 years. Since 1872, we have continued to build on the legacy of our founders.

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WWW.DODGECITYDAYS.ORG

Summer Reliability Continued from page 12A ▶

and our wholesale power and transmission supplier Sunflower Electric Power Corp. — meeting electricity demand is always at the forefront of operational and financial strategies. Sunflower continually evaluates anticipated electric demand and takes strategic steps to meet the typical energy demand of electricity consumers served by its six-member distribution cooperatives and the energy demand in energy-peaking situations, such as very hot summer days.

The recent reports underscore the importance of Sunflower's balanced generation resource portfolio and calculated operating strategies. Sunflower's fuel-diverse generation fleet — which includes coal and natural gas units, as well as energy contracts for wind, solar and hydro — serves as a hedge against rising prices of a particular fuel resource. For example, the price of coal is very stable compared to the volatility of natural gas pricing and is an effective hedge against the price of market energy, which is usually correlated to the price of natural gas. The coal-based Holcomb Station remained a reliable and cost-effective generation source during Winter Storm Uri in 2021.

Coal deliveries have been impacted by railroad staffing issues and Sunflower is re-evaluating how to deploy Holcomb Station to capitalize on its benefits during summer peak conditions. Sunflower proactively purchased more market energy products to guard against possible exceptionally high prices this summer and continue its mission of providing reliable energy to its member-owners at the lowest possible price.

“There are a lot of variables intrinsic to supplying reliable energy as economically as possible, but we are analyzing future scenarios to best prepare for possible unusual sum-

mer conditions,” said Corey Linville, Sunflower's vice president of power supply and delivery. “We believe we have a strong operating and financial hedging plan in place to help guard against electric interruptions and high cost spikes.”

The SPP is also modifying its strategies to fortify the electric grid during extreme conditions. The SPP requires its member utilities to have fuel resources that equate to 12% more than their annual peak load requirements, but Winter Storm Uri revealed potential issues with available capacity during such events. Some of these issues are associated with forced outages, as well as electric generating resources that have fuel supply issues, such as natural gas, during these times. The lack of availability of energy from renewable resources is also an issue. The summer of 2021 experienced several periods when the reliability margin (difference between available capacity and load plus contingency reserve requirements) in SPP dropped below 20%.

It will take several years to fully implement SPP's new supply adequacy rules and for load serving entities to firm up existing capacity and procure any needed new capacity to comply with the new rules. In the meantime, SPP will, at times, continue to operate with a relatively low-reliability margin.

“The electric industry is ever evolving,” said Stuart Lowry, Sunflower's president and CEO. “The regional energy market brings many benefits but also many new challenges, including the risk of generation resource and operational decisions made by other utilities. Our members and those they serve can have confidence that we will analyze and respond to these risks with their best interests in mind.”

THANKS, SHANE

LIGHTNING DATA REVEALS

- Two-thirds of lightning deaths occurred during outdoor activities.
- Golfing accounted for 27% of these sports-related casualties.
- Of these deaths, 14% happened during a sports activity on land (non-water related).

FORE!

“JUST ONE MORE HOLE” is what you might be thinking when you hear thunder or see lightning while out on the course. However, ignoring the signs of a storm could cost you your life or cause serious injury.

Finishing a golf match is not worth getting struck by lightning.

Lightning often strikes in the absence of heavy rain and may happen 10 miles away from rainfall or the heart of a storm.

Know when to call it.

SOURCE: NATIONAL LIGHTNING SAFETY COUNCIL STATISTICS 2006-2020