

## THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# electronews



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### FROM THE MANAGER

## Your Role in Co-op Nation: There is a Reason We Say Member, Not Customer

Victory Electric is connected to a network of cooperatives. You might be thinking, Really? How does that work?

Victory Electric is a member of Kansas Electric Cooperatives. We do this to keep in close contact with our 'sister' utilities and to stay up to date on how to best serve you. They are there to assist with local training, legislative issues affecting us in Topeka, and when we have a severe outage, we can call on them to assist in getting your electricity back on as soon as possible. This is one of the ways we live up to our seven cooperative principles, which includes "cooperation among cooperatives."

Victory Electric is also a member of Sunflower Electric Power Corporation and Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (KEPCo). These organizations produce the power we buy at the wholesale level and enable us to provide safe, reliable and efficient power to you at the lowest possible cost. We hold a seat on both of the mentioned organization's board of directors to represent your interests.

But wait--there's more! Victory Electric is also a member of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) that unites electric cooperatives in the 47 states they serve. NRECA provides important

benefits such as representing our interests with federal lawmakers and the Administration (the executive branch of our government). NRECA also provides health and retirement benefits to our employees, as well as training for board members and employees.

NRECA is a member of both the National Cooperative Business Association and the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), which is made up of a wide range of cooperative businesses including those in agriculture, banking, health care, housing, purchasing and many others in more than 80 countries. Many of these businesses represent some of the best known global brands in the world.

In 2013, the ICA released the "Blueprint for a Cooperative Decade" designed to promote the cooperative business model as the best way to meet both the economic and social needs of individuals and communities.

The report (which is available for free at [www.ica.coop](http://www.ica.coop)) describes the five key areas that all co-ops emphasize:

- ▶ Participation (member engagement)

*Continued on page 16-D ▶*



Shane Laws

*While technology and reliability have improved, we still need you to be involved.*

# Meis, Sanchez & Williamson Attended

**MACKENZY MEIS**, Cimarron; **ANDREA SANCHEZ**, Dodge City; and **CAMRYN WILLIAMSON**, Dodge City; toured the nation's capitol with 35 other students from across Kansas for the 54th Annual "Government in Action" Youth Tour, June 12-19.

Kansas is one of the 42 states to send a youth delegation to the annual rural electric cooperative youth tour this year.

The Youth Tour was inspired by Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson when he declared at a national electric cooperative meeting in 1957, "If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents."

The trip, sponsored by Kansas' electric cooperatives, began in Topeka with several guest speakers at the kick-off banquet. Before leaving Kansas the students visited Kaw Valley Electric where they learned about how electric cooperatives work and rode in a bucket truck. They also toured the Kansas State Capitol and Brown vs. Board of Education historic site.

Despite flight delays and cancellations upon departure, the youth were still able to tour the Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Smithsonian museums, Mt. Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, several memorials, along with seeing the Disney's *The Lion King* at the Kennedy Center. The delegates also attended the NRECA Youth Day, which celebrated the 50th anniversary of NRECA coordinating the Youth Tour trip.

"KEC promotes this trip as a trip of a lifetime and that certainly isn't an exaggeration by any means," said Shawn Powelson from Wheatland Electric, who chaperoned the trip. "Despite a challenging start to the trip, the overall experience is one I will not soon forget. Kansas and its electric co-ops were represented well. I can't imagine a better investment than in these young people, the future



From left: MacKenzy Meis, Andrea Sanchez, and Camryn Williamson stand in front of the U.S. Capitol before meeting with Senators Jerry Moran and Pat Roberts.

leaders of Kansas and our country."

Many of the students expressed how this trip has changed their view on the world. Meis, Sanchez, and Williamson were selected from a group of high school applicants by Victory Electric. To win the trip, students were asked to submit a resume and interview with a panel of judges. Victory Electric sponsors the trip each year. For more information, contact Jerri Imgarten at 620-371-7730.



The 2014 Kansas-Hawaii delegation included 35 students which had the opportunity to see memorials including the White House on their trip to Washington, D.C. for the "Government in Action" Youth Tour.

# End Washington, D.C., Youth Tour

## MacKenzy Meis



Sanchez will cherish the Youth Tour trip for years to come.

## Andrea Sanchez

Words could not adequately describe the amazing opportunities offered by youth tour!

Youth tour was a well-rounded trip which presented time for learning, time for reflection, and time for fun.

The historical monuments and places we visited presented excellent opportunities to learn more about the history of our country. Our tour guide and our directors did an excellent job of filling us in with information at each site. By visiting these places,

Sanchez will cherish the Youth Tour trip for years to come.

we viewed first-hand the importance of the government. The performance by the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corp and Silent Drill Team at the Iwo Jima Memorial was the best part of the trip for me. The precision with which they did their drill left me in complete awe! It gave me a greater sense of appreciation for all those who have served. This was a serious yet thoroughly enjoyable stop.

Fun was incorporated into everything on the trip. Bus rides from location to location were never dull. Mealtime, which took place at delicious locations, was a great opportunity to bond with the other delegates. Even bedtime had its perks, as we got to spend time with our roommates and share the highlights of the day. Despite the downfalls of the trip--specifically the delay for our flight to D.C.--the group managed to have a good time.

This trip would not have been possible without the support of electric cooperatives, cooperative members, youth tour coordinators, chaperones, and others--thank you! The time and effort put forth by these people was not in vain for this is a trip I will always cherish!



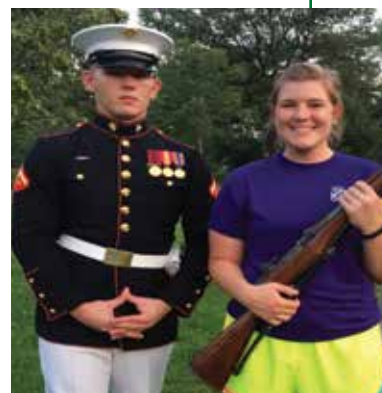
## Camryn Williamson

I'd like to thank all of you for granting me the amazing opportunity to meet so many wonderful people and gain knowledge of cooperatives, our country, and the power of single voices coming together as one.

After a full day of ice-breakers at the airport, seven hours to be exact, we were still in Kansas. However, our sponsors were not about to let us lose hope. They made quick plans for us to enjoy the next day at Worlds Of Fun. What may seem like a bump in the road was actually great bonding time.

Once in Washington D.C. our itinerary was even more packed than before! Our sponsors worked extremely hard to reschedule the events we missed. We toured a few Smithsonian museums, the Lincoln, World War II, Vietnam, FDR, and Pentagon memorials, and even made it to the Holocaust museum. Two of my favorite memories include watching the Marine Drum & Bugle Corps & Silent Drill Team performance, and experiencing the spectacular Broadway Musical *The Lion King*.

Not only did I have the chance to meet Senator Jerry Moran, Senator Pat Roberts, and Congressman Tim Huelskamp, I also had the chance to make life-long friends from across the State of Kansas as well as Hawaii. This was definitely a trip of a lifetime!



Williamson enjoys the Marines at Iwo Jima.



## Visit our Website & Join us on Facebook



Visit our website at [www.victoryelectric.net](http://www.victoryelectric.net). On our website, you will find a calendar of events, frequently asked

questions, bill pay, and energy calculators—just to name a few tools!

You can also become a fan of Victory Electric on Facebook at [facebook.com/VictoryElectric](https://www.facebook.com/VictoryElectric) or by searching for The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc. Check our page for updates, outage information, and energy efficiency tips. Facebook is a great way to stay in touch.

## Happy Labor Day



Happy Labor Day from all of us at Victory Electric. Our office will be closed, Monday, September 1. We hope you have a safe and happy holiday.

## CFL Charlie Says "Come Get Your Free CFL!"



**This month's lucky winners are...** Kaltum Abrullahi, Roberta D. Darcy, Dale Housman, Louise Lau, and Kevin Self

Come by Victory Electric Cooperative to get your free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL). Every month Victory Electric will be giving members free CFL light bulbs. Congratulations to this month's winners!

# Your Role in Co-ops Continued

*Continued from page 16-A* ▶

- ▶ Sustainability (how we help our communities prosper)
- ▶ Identity (making sure people understand and showcase the cooperative business model)
- ▶ Legal Framework (making sure laws and regulations help, not harm our ability to operate for your benefit)
- ▶ Capital (ensure we have the money we need to finance our operations)

Members at Victory Electric have a role to play in all of these areas, but it is member engagement that is critically important. We strive to have members actively participate in our governance through voting or running for our board of trustees.

Back in the early days Victory Electric, never could have existed without the active participation of all of our members. While technology

and reliability have improved, we still need you to be involved. In many ways, it is more important than ever that you feel like you belong to our co-op.

Margaret Mead the cultural anthropologist once said, "Never doubt the ability of a small group of people to change the world, indeed it is the only thing that ever has." Victory Electric is connected to a world full of people who believe in the cooperative principles and values, and we need you to be connected to us by more than just the electric line. So, get involved. Come to our annual meeting in April and make your voice heard. Together, we can make Co-op Nation stronger than ever.

**Shane Laws**

# Working on the LINE

Linemen often work in difficult situations and tight locations. In these photos taken by crew chief, Mikey Goddard, crews were working on a busy, narrow street and around vehicles.



# Transformers: Directing Traffic on the Electric Highway

Sending power to your home is a lot like driving to a neighboring state. You wouldn't consider taking a two-lane secondary road to travel to a city hundreds of miles away, would you? Of course not: You would find the nearest interstate so you could drive faster and arrive at your destination in less time.

Just like you, your electricity has an interstate that allows it to travel long distances, and a secondary system that winds through back roads and neighborhoods to direct it to its final destination, your home.

Transmission lines carry from 161,000 to 23,000 volts of electricity into the local distribution substation. They are located on structures ranging from large metal towers more than 100 feet tall to a single pole standing 70 to 90 feet tall.

Just like a car leaving the interstate, the electricity leaving the substation has to slow down when it enters the distribution lines serving Victory Electric's service area. Transformers in the substation provide the braking system for lowering the voltage of the electricity so it can continue safely to your home.

So, how does it work? Higher voltage electricity passes through a system of coiled wires located in the substation transformer. The electricity enters a primary side of the transformer, which has metal coil windings surrounding that side of the transformer, and then passes to a secondary side, which has fewer coil windings. Travelling through the reduced number of windings lowers the voltage as it leaves the secondary side and continues along the distribution lines.

The electricity moving along Victory Electric's distribution lines are cruising between 7,200 volts to 12,470 volts, depending on whether or not they are travelling along a single-phase, two-phase or three-phase line. Consider these lines the secondary roads of the electric system. They make the journey through the local co-op's service area.

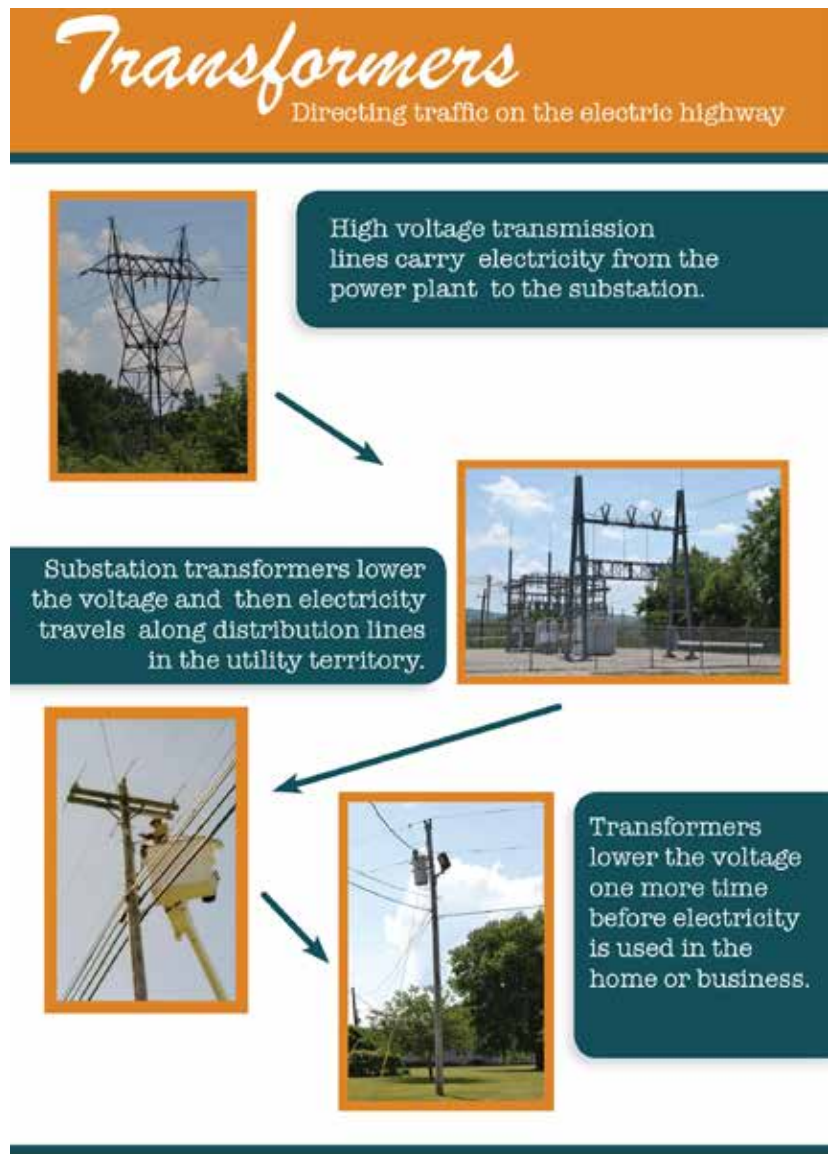
Distribution lines carry the electricity shorter distances than transmission lines. They transport electricity to the businesses, schools and homes served by Victory Electric. These are the lines you see line crews repairing after a storm.

Your electricity has one more stop before making its way into your home. Just as you slow down to pull into your final destination, the voltage is lowered one more time. It takes a

turn off the distribution line and into another transformer that's located outside your home.

This transformer may be a canister hanging on a pole or a box in your yard if you have underground electric service. Like the substation transformer, the electricity passes through a primary side with more coil windings to a secondary side with fewer coils. The voltage leaving the secondary side is generally between 120 and 240 volts.

After the electric current leaves the transformer, it makes its way through a service line, into the meter base and to its final destination – your home, where it powers the appliances and electronics of our modern world. As you can see, the electric highway plays a key role in powering our lives and delivering safe and reliable electricity to you.



## Insurance Coverage is Members' Responsibility

We are often asked by members who have had damage or loss during a power outage if their loss is somehow covered by Victory Electric's insurance, but unfortunately we have no way of insuring our members from the effects of outages which are beyond our control.

Although we try to provide the most reliable service possible and have an excellent record of reliability, some outages must be expected. Weather, vehicle accidents, birds, animals, falling trees, and a variety of other causes will continue to create outages and inconveniences.

These outages are not only expensive and inconvenient for you, but they are also extremely expensive for your cooperative to repair. This leaves you with the burden of insuring yourself for these occurrences which are caused by nature or otherwise. You should consider having adequate insurance to cover such incidents.

There are many things you can do to help eliminate potential problems. It is absolutely essential to have proper protection on electric motors, an alarm system to notify you of an outage, and possibly a standby generator.

We intend to keep doing our best to prevent service interruptions, but we urge you to consider having proper insurance protection for those occasions when the unexpected happens.

## Reminder: Bill Payment Changes Starts this Month

Remember, Victory Electric will no longer be accepting payments at Mr. Payroll. Starting August 28, bills will need to be paid either in our office, online at [www.victoryelectric.net](http://www.victoryelectric.net),

via mail, or at one of our drop boxes. Drop boxes are located at Victory Electric at 3230 N. 14th and City of Dodge City at 806 N. 2nd Ave.



## Billing Cycles to Change:

Members should prepare to have a different payment deadline

Utilities generate bills based on what is called "billing cycles." Billing cycles are determined by monthly meter reads, which are done by meter readers that walk from house to house, documenting the electrical usage data. Meters are grouped into clumps called routes. These routes are usually determined by location and are important because a meter reader can only collect so many readings in one day; therefore, routes create a feasible collection schedule for meter readers. The collection of routes for a specific period is called a cycle, which determines your billing cycle.

Because of how cycles were created and meters are read, each billing cycle may have a different number of days each time. For example, billing cycles can range from 27 to 35 days in length.

This means your bills are not always issued for the same length of time, which can lead to a fluctuation of amounts due for each cycle.

Even with the introduction of automated metering systems, we have retained the billing cycle approach because our systems were built around it. Now that our systems have evolved, we are continually finding ways to make the billing cycle better reflect our capabilities, as well as attempting to reduce the cost of producing the bill each month and reduce line loss. In this effort, we hope to maintain low costs so that you continue to enjoy some of the lowest rates in Kansas.

Currently, we have four billing

cycles spread throughout a month, and the plan is to reduce the number of billing cycles in an attempt to keep the reading, billing, and payment due date all within a one month period. Presently, some payment due dates stretch into the month following when the meters were read and billed. Members still have a full 20 days to pay, but the deadline of the payment occurs earlier in the month. We realize this may be an inconvenience for some members, so in an effort to reduce the effect on members, we

will be moving the deadlines up on a gradual basis, by a couple days a month. We hope this will allow members time to adjust their budgets. Members can expect their payment due dates to be one to two weeks earlier by the end of the year.



Take notice of your bill. Billing cycles have changed and your payment due date might have changed as well.

Members who are having difficulty paying their bills can contact our office at 620-227-2139 for a payment arrangement or assistance from social organizations established for this purpose. As a cooperative, we try to be sympathetic when a member is experiencing hard times, but that must be tempered by our responsibility to protect the other members from uncollected expenses.

Electricity is not a right, but a responsibility. You can make sure your lights stay on by working with us, by reducing other expenses, and by using your electricity wisely. Our website offers a wealth of ideas for ways to conserve energy and save money at [www.victoryelectric.net](http://www.victoryelectric.net).



# Dirigiendo el Tráfico en la Autopista Eléctrica



Transformers dirigiendo el tráfico de la eléctrica.

El envío de energía a su casa se parece mucho a conducir a un estado vecino. Usted no considerara la adopción de una carretera secundaria de dos carriles que viajar a una ciudad a cientos de kilómetros de distancia, ¿verdad? Por supuesto que no: Usted encontraría la interestatal más cercana por lo que podría conducir más rápido y llegar a su destino

en menos tiempo.

Al igual que usted, su electricidad tiene un interestatal que le permite recorrer largas distancias, y un sistema secundario que serpentea a través de carreteras y vecindarios para dirigirlo a su destino final, su casa.

Las líneas de transmisión que proporcionan energía de una planta de energía a las subestaciones son los que se mueven rápidamente carreteras interestatales de la industria eléctrica. Estas líneas llevan desde 161.000 a 23.000 voltios de electricidad a la subestación de distribución local. Están ubicados en las estructuras que van desde grandes torres metálicas de más de 100 metros de altura a un solo polo de pie de 70 a 90 pies en el aire.

Y al igual que un coche dejando a la interestatal, la electricidad dejando la subestación tiene que reducir la velocidad al entrar en las líneas de distribución que sirven el área de servicio de Victory Electric. Transformadores en la subestación proporcionan el sistema de frenado para la reducción de la tensión de la electricidad por lo que puede continuar de forma segura a lo largo de su recorrido.

Así que, ¿cómo funciona? Superior electricidad de voltaje pasa a través de un sistema de cables en espiral situados en el transformador de subestación. La electricidad entra en un lado primario del transformador, que tiene devanados de la bobina de metal que rodean ese lado del transformador, y luego pasa a un lado secundario, que tiene un menor número de espiras de la bobina. Viajar a través de la reducción del número

de arrollamientos disminuye la tensión a medida que abandona el lado secundario y continúa el viaje a lo largo de las líneas de distribución.

La electricidad se mueve a lo largo de las líneas de distribución de Victory Electric se circula entre 7.200 voltios a 12.470 voltios, dependiendo de si están o no están viajando a lo largo de una sola fase, dos fases o una línea trifásica. Tenga en cuenta estas líneas de las carreteras secundarias de la instalación eléctrica. Ellos hacen que viaje a través del área de servicio de la cooperativa local.

Las líneas de distribución de electricidad llevan las distancias más cortas que las líneas de transmisión. Transportan la electricidad a las empresas, escuelas y hogares atendidos por su co-op. Estas son las líneas donde se ven los equipos de la Victory Electric reparando después de una tormenta.

La electricidad tiene una parada más antes de hacer su camino a su casa. Despacio para tirar en su destino final, la tensión disminuye una vez más. Toma un giro de la línea de distribución y en el otro transformador que se encuentra fuera de su hogar.

Este transformador puede ser un recipiente colgado en un poste o una caja en su patio si tienes servicio eléctrico subterráneo. Como el transformador de la subestación, la electricidad pasa por un lado primario con más bobinas de la bobina a un lado secundario con menos bobinas. La tensión dejando el lado secundario está generalmente entre 120 y 240 voltios.

La mayoría de los transformadores dan solo servicio único a un hogar o negocio, pero en algunas subdivisiones dos casas pueden compartir un solo transformador. Estos transformadores están protegidos por fusibles que se desconexión de la línea eléctrica si hay una avería causada por la subida actual o sobrecargas.

Después que la corriente eléctrica deja el transformador, hace su camino a través de una línea de servicio, en la base del medidor y hasta su destino final – tu casa, donde acciona los electrodomésticos de nuestro mundo moderno. Como puede ver, la autopista eléctrica desempeña un papel clave en alimentar nuestras vidas y la entrega de electricidad segura, confiable y asequible para usted.

## Visite Sitio Web y Únase a Nosotros en Facebook

Visite nuestro sitio web [www.victoryelectric.net](http://www.victoryelectric.net). En nuestro sitio Web, usted encontrará un calendario de eventos, con frecuencia pregunta, pago de factura y energía calculadora sólo por nombrar algunas herramientas!

También puede ser una fan de Victory Electric en Facebook buscando Victory Electric Cooperativa Assn, Inc. Consulte nuestra página en Facebook para actualizaciones, información de interrupción y consejos de eficiencia de energía. Facebook es una excelente forma de mantenerse en contacto con nuestros miembros.



COMMUNITY FEATURE

# Dodge City Community College Looks to the Future

Dodge City Community College just finished another successful year with nationally recognized faculty, state honored students and conference leading athletic teams. Faculty, staff, students and the community are looking forward to another record breaking year on campus.

The proposed merger with Fort Hays State University has added a new dimension by helping the college identify the strengths and advantages of the community college. DC3 continues to focus on their mission of providing a quality education at an affordable cost for students in southwest Kansas.

The merger proposal has brought on the creation of several focus groups to study the college's instruction guidelines, financial strength, accreditation processes and tax revenue options to mention only a few. These groups are creating checklists and recommendations to insure the continued strength and success of DC3.

DC3 will be celebrating its 80th anniversary in 2015. There is a long history of providing a secondary education tailored to the needs of the community and surrounding

areas. The intent of the college is to continue this same focus for many years to come. The classes that have been the core of the Associate Degrees will continue to be offered. The Technical Center programs, that have proven to be career centered, will continue with new programs being developed with local business' input. This continued relationship with businesses is to be expanded even more with the Fort Hays proposal.

Keeping tuition and fees low has always been paramount for the college. This ideal will not change as the details of Fort Hay's proposal develops. A differentiated tuition structure for the first two years will keep the education affordable and at the same high quality as we currently offer. The senior college classes will have their own tuition structure much like you would experience at any state university. If the merger proposal does not come to fruition, you still have the comfort of knowing you have obtained an accredited certificate or associates degree.

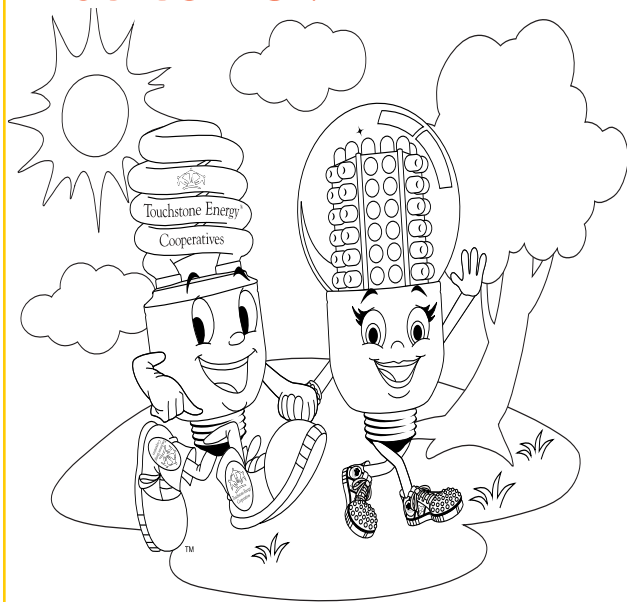
"Over the past three years we've built a new women's residence hall, remodeled student services, added a new entrance to the Student Union

and campus, built a new parking lot west of the Student Union, built the new Lewis Technology Center, and installed an artificial turf soccer/football field. A brand new men's residence hall will open for students this fall semester and the Student Union is in its second phase of renovations with a new food service court," stated Dr. Don Woodburn, president of DCCC. "And, there are many things in the planning; a lecture series, where we bring in interesting, informative speakers, and breaking ground this fall on a new Community Activities Center/Tornado Shelter."

"There are a lot of things going on at DCCC, and pursuing and negotiating a relationship with Fort Hays State University will only enhance what we already have," added Woodburn.

Contact the Dodge City Community College Student Services and Registration staff for a full listing of classes that are being offered this summer or the fall semester. Dodge City Community College looks forward to serving your educational needs for many years to come. For enrollment information call 620-225-1321.

## Kids Corner:



Appliances	Energy	Outlet	Substation
Circuit	Fire	Pole	Transformer
Cord	Fuse	Power	Utility
Danger	Light	Shock	Voltage
Electrician	Meter	Switch	Watts
			Wire

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