

Congratulations

2010 Youth Tour Winners



From left: Becca Heeke, Spearville HS, and Shelby Durler, Spearville HS

"Government In Action" Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

Victory Electric is sponsoring four local high school juniors to participate in the cooperative Youth Tour programs.

Shelby Durler and **Becca Heeke**, both of Spearville, will attend the "Government-In-Action" Youth Tour to Washington,



From left: Vanessa Nuñez, Dodge City HS, and Kate Lock, Cimarron HS

Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado

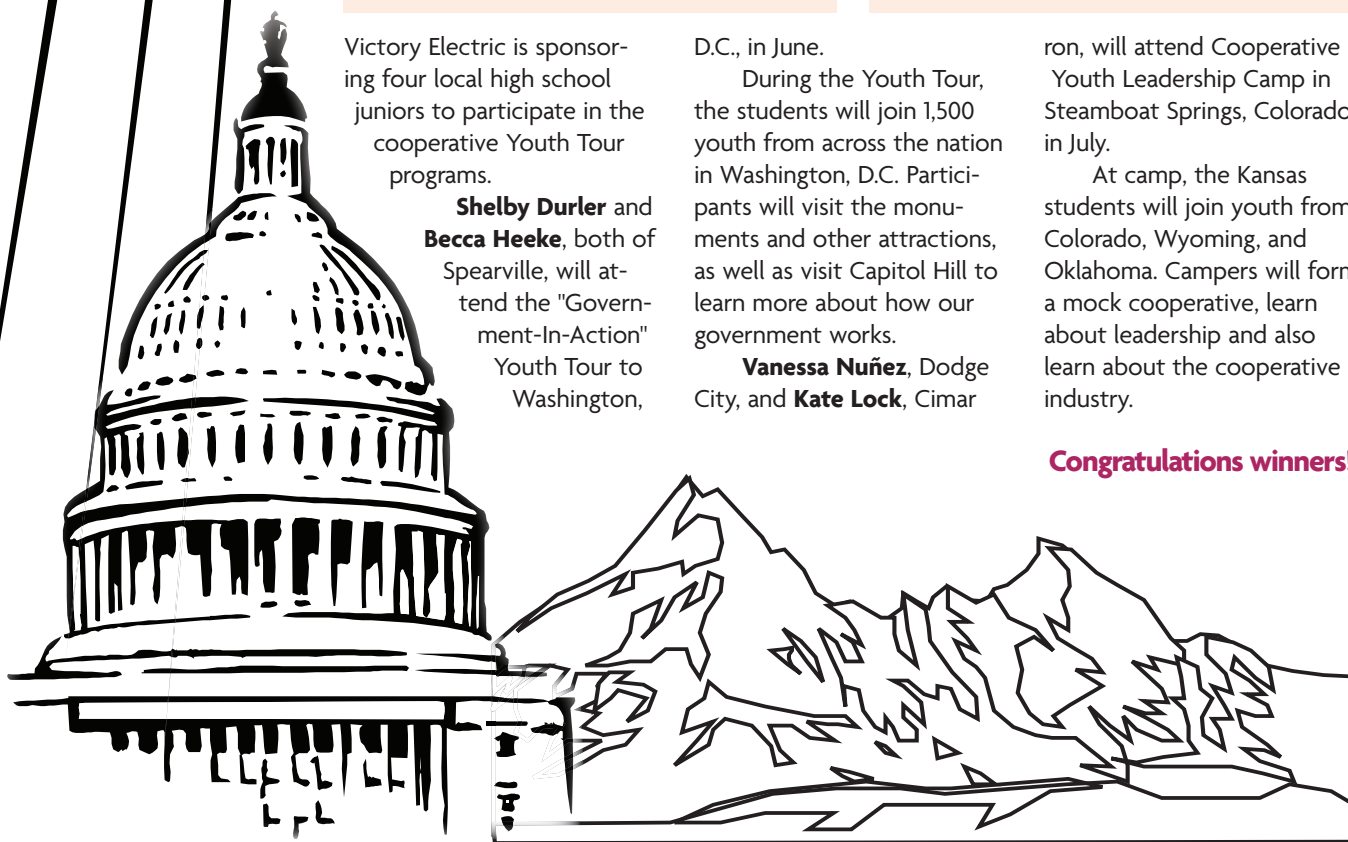
D.C., in June.

During the Youth Tour, the students will join 1,500 youth from across the nation in Washington, D.C. Participants will visit the monuments and other attractions, as well as visit Capitol Hill to learn more about how our government works.

Vanessa Nuñez, Dodge City, and **Kate Lock**, Cimarron, will attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, in July.

At camp, the Kansas students will join youth from Colorado, Wyoming, and Oklahoma. Campers will form a mock cooperative, learn about leadership and also learn about the cooperative industry.

Congratulations winners!



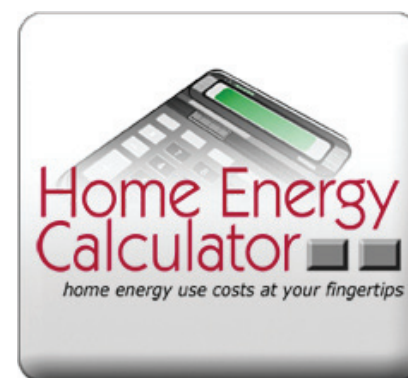
Who Says Learning about Energy has to be Dull?

Not us! Our online Kid's Korner is way cool!

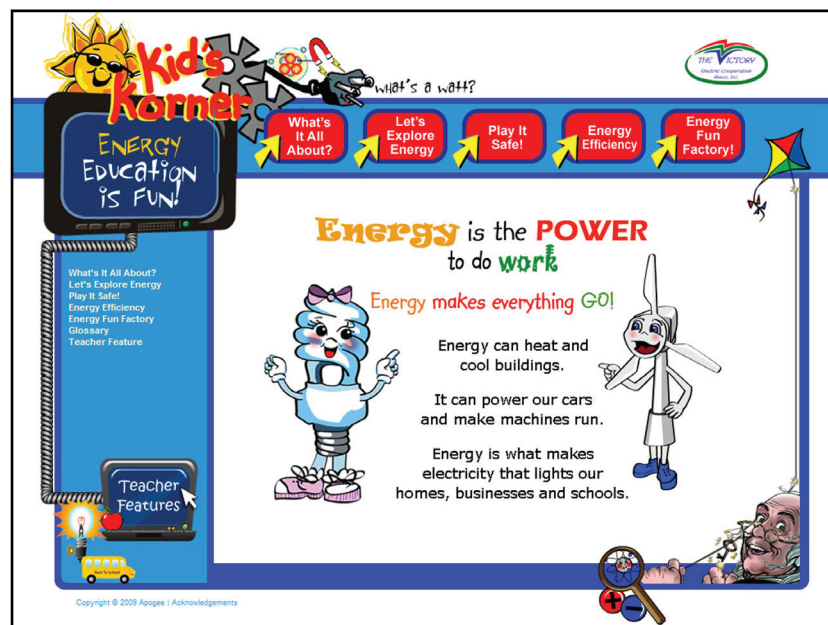
Did you know we have a Web module designed just for kids? Go to www.victoryelectric.net to find a lively tour of where energy comes from, how it's made, how we use it, and how we can save it.

Kid's Korner is geared for kids 3rd through 5th grade (though we know lots of adults who love it, too!) The site uses diagrams, games, and experiments to make energy come alive. Here's a sample of what the site includes—so kids can click, learn and have fun:

- ▶ **What's it all About?** History of energy, energy conservation, types of energy – including wood, water, solar, coal and nuclear.
- ▶ **Let's Explore Energy**, including electricity, hydro power, nuclear and alternative energies.
- ▶ **Energy Efficiency**. By saving energy you're helping conserve resources like natural gas, oil and water. You can also save on your utility bills and help the environment. Tips tell kids how they can become super savers (Hint: Close the refrigerator door!)
- ▶ **Play it Safe**. Knowing what to do



The *HomeEnergyCalculator* can help you determine where in your house you can conserve energy and the percentage breakdown of total annual energy use by appliance or system type.



The online Kid's Korner page on Victory Electric's Web site is designed especially for kids. Kids can learn about electricity and how to conserve energy on this interactive site.

in an emergency or accident could save a life and your home, business or school. Also—what to do in case of electric shock or fire and if you smell natural gas.

▶ **Energy Fun Factory**. Use our coloring books, games, even meter reading exercises! This is the place to have fun while learning about energy and our environment.

▶ **Teacher Feature**. Lots of printable activity guides and plans, fun facts and exercises for classrooms.

Kid's Korner information is up-to-date, interactive, and a great way to bring the basics of energy to life with just the click of a mouse button. To visit Kid's Korner, go to www.victory-electric.net.

For parents, there are also several energy savings calculators that can help you determine where in your house you can conserve energy. For example, the HomeEnergyCalculator is a quick, one-screen form asks about a dozen questions about your

home. Simply click to indicate your home's approximate square footage, age, number of occupants, fuel type, and several other variables. Then hit "calculate" to get an estimate of the monthly and annual energy use and costs for your house.

Once you've gotten a feel for your home's energy costs and what various changes might save, it's time to take a big-picture look at overall home energy usage. Click the "chart" button and you'll see a pie chart with the percentage break-down of total annual energy use by appliance or system type.

In addition to the HomeEnergy-Calculator, there is also a commercial energy calculator and several special purpose calculators including, irrigation, CFL, commercial lighting, space heaters, and tv's.

For more information on the energy calculators, please contact Victory Electric at 620-227-2139 or toll-free at 800-279-7915.

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THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

electronews



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FROM THE MANAGER

The Importance of Buying Locally

Back in January, I wrote an article about the importance of buying locally in our communities. I indicated we would be launching a quarterly "buy local" campaign in our newsletter to encourage residents to buy local. I am happy to say the project is off the ground, and this month we are featuring two local businesses.

By featuring a variety of local businesses, we hope our members realize what great options we have right here in Dodge City and western Kansas. This month, we have chosen the Boot Hill Bed and Breakfast and the Spearville Mercantile, two great locally owned businesses in Victory Electric's service territory.

Why buy local? There are five key benefits to buying local, those include:

- ▶ Save money and time when you shop near home.
- ▶ Keep money in our own economy.
- ▶ Build our schools and cities (assuming a local option sales tax).
- ▶ Provide property tax relief (assuming a local option sales tax).
- ▶ Keep family and friends employed in your community.

We hope these five benefits will help you see the importance of supporting and buying at local businesses.

In an effort to encourage our members and local citizens to spend locally, we will continue to feature local business in this newsletter on a quarterly basis. This will allow us to let you know what your options are here in Dodge City and Ford County. The ultimate goal is to encourage more to buy local and in the future be more competitive to receive new businesses in town.

'Til Next Time, TJ



Terry Janson

Our ultimate goal is to encourage more members to buy local.



Happy Easter!

You're Invited...Come Join the Fun

Victory Electric's annual meeting scheduled for April 6



Several hundred people attended last year's annual meeting at the Dodge City Civic Center.

65th Annual Meeting of Members

Victory Electric's Annual Meeting of Members will be held on Tuesday, April 6, 2010, at the Dodge City Civic Center (located at 2110 First Ave). The Board of Trustees, management and employees at Victory Electric invite you to come out, eat and have a good time.

We will be giving out a registration gift to the

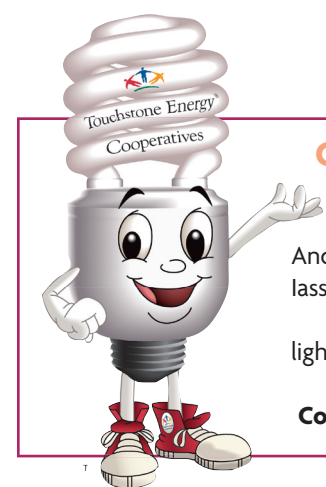
first 600 residential members who register at the annual meeting. Bring the card on the back your annual report (you will be receiving it in the mail soon) to redeem your gift. Limit one prize per residential member.



In addition to giving away great prizes, meals will be served to the first 1,200 people.

Schedule of Events

- 5:30 p.m. Registration begins
- 6 p.m. Dinner (meals served to first 1,200 people)
- 7 p.m. Business meeting
- Election of Trustees
- Proposed bylaw amendment
- Brief cooperative reports
- Adjourn the meeting



CFL Charlie Says

"Come Get Your Free CFL Bulb!"

And this month's lucky winners are... Rick Heeke, Celia Perez, Rod Perkins, Wayne Iassac, Claude Durler, Refugio Banuelos, Walter Gulick, Gloria Duarte.

Come by Victory Electric Cooperative and get your free compact florescent light bulb (CFL).

Every month Victory Electric will be giving members free CFL light bulbs.

Congratulations winners!

Service with a Smile

Spearville Mercantile still providing service after 100 years

Where these days can a person still buy meat and bolts in the same store, sign your name to a ticket, and walk out with your purchases? The Spearville Mercantile, on Main Street in Spearville, is a small town grocery store who prides itself on customer service and a wide variety of products.

"We know the families we trade with," said Steve Knoeber, fourth generation owner of the mercantile. "I've been here over 50 years and I'm proud of what we provide to our small community."

Customer service is number one at the mercantile. It employs local citizens and tries to ensure everyone has a good shopping experience.

The mercantile was founded by Henry Knoeber, Sr. and his sons, Joe, Will and Henry, Jr. It originally carried products ranging from crackers and cookies to International implements to windmill repair. Today, they no longer carry farm equipment, but have an excellent selection of meats at their meat counter. They also carry a nice selection of greeting cards, unique gifts, nuts and bolts, and a variety of grocery items. Spearville Mercantile is an Affiliated Foods store and is currently affiliated with Shurfine foods.

"We are known for our excellent meat selection," said Knoeber. "We cut and grind our meat daily to ensure freshness."

The Spearville Mercantile is celebrating their 100th anniversary this year. The mercantile opened on March 1, 1910, and on March 1, 2010, celebrated its anniversary by giving patrons t-shirts, pop and candy bars.

"On May 30, we are going to have a come-and-go reception for everyone to celebrate our anniversary with us," said Knoeber. "We are asking everybody to send us their favorite memories of the Spearville Mercantile so we can share the stories at the reception. We look forward to celebrating this milestone and thanking our loyal customers."

If you have a memory of the mercantile, it can be sent to Steve Knoeber, P.O. Box 186, Spearville, or

e-mailed to sknoeber@ucom.net.

Steve and his wife, Julie, who also works at the mercantile, like being a business in a small community like Spearville. They participate in local activities and are valued members of the community.

Next time you are passing through Spearville, stop in, say hello and see what the Spearville Mercantile has to offer.

This article is part of a series designed to educate citizens on the economic advantages of buying locally and features great local shopping options.



The Spearville Mercantile is known for its quality meat selection.



The original Spearville Mercantile opened in 1910.

No Place like Home

Boot Hill Bed & Breakfast is home away from home for its guests

Walking into the quaint house on the corner, one wouldn't expect the warmth radiating from the fireplace in the living room or the smells of fresh baked scones wafting from the kitchen, but Boot Hill Bed and Breakfast, located steps from historic Boot Hill in Dodge City, offers a unique guest experience.

"We take a different approach to the B&B business," said Kurt Scadden, owner. "When guests are here, they aren't strangers, they are our friends. We introduce our guests to everyone and make it a point to make them feel welcome and relaxed. After all, it is their home, too."

Scadden and his wife, Enid, bought Boot Hill B&B almost five years ago. They had been looking for a B&B for years and while visiting family in Ashland they came upon Boot Hill B&B for sale.

"The house was perfect for us and we fell in love with it and Dodge City," Enid said.

Boot Hill B&B has six rooms available for guests in addition to the Scadden's living quarters. They go to great lengths to keep the rooms immaculate. Even the sheets and linens are ironed.

To the delight of the guests, one unique feature of the Scadden's B&B is Enid's cooking. She loves to bake and often caters for local citizens and businesses. She is willing to make anything from scones, to pies, to cakes and cookies, appetizers and finger foods.

"Not only do I cater for delivery, but we also host events here at the B&B," said Enid. We can get dinner parties of 30 into the house and in nice weather, our backyard is gorgeous for outdoor events."

While Enid enjoys baking, Kurt indulges in gardening and keeping the yard and gardens in great shape.

"In the warm months, our backyard gardens are beautiful and we have hosted weddings, graduation par-



ties, and other receptions," said Kurt.

The Scadden's have plans in the works to open their B&B to the public for lunch. They aren't sure yet when they will begin serving lunch, but you can be sure the food will be great.

Next time you have family, friends or guests coming to town and they need a place to stay, keep in mind the Boot Hill B&B. They will feel at home with the Scadden's and be treated to some great homemade cooking.

This article is part of a series designed to educate citizens on the economic advantages of buying locally and features great local shopping options.



Top: Kurt & Enid Scadden have owned the B&B for almost five years. Left: The honeymoon suite. Right: Boot Hill B&B. Middle: